



**GEORGIA APPLESEED™**

*Center for Law & Justice*

# **2022 HOW TO VOTE GUIDE**

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# Plan Ahead to Vote

Voting to elect your leaders is your right as an American citizen. But voting can be complicated.

Voting successfully requires planning **BEFORE** election day.

To vote in the general election in November, you must start by **Registering or Re-registering** to vote by October 7 if you have not done so already. After that, you can choose to vote by mail or in person.

This guide will help you register or re-register and follow the steps to vote successfully:

- ▶ Check your registration status
- ▶ Register to vote or re-register after you move or change your name
- ▶ Vote early in-person
- ▶ Vote by mail (absentee ballots)
- ▶ Vote on election day
- ▶ Solve common election day issues
- ▶ Access helpful resources about other voting topics, like voting from jail or outside the country

## Important Dates For the 2022 Election



# First Steps

## 1. Check your eligibility to vote

There are 5 Requirements to Register to Vote in Georgia



U.S. Citizen



Resident of Georgia



18+ years old by election day



Not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction



No court ruling of mental incompetence

### You must prove your citizenship.

When you register, have one of the following documents: your driver's license, copy of birth certificate, passport, naturalization documents, **or** tribal card. If you didn't prove your citizenship when you got your driver's license, submit one of the other documents to your county's registrar office **now**. Bring the document with you when you vote.

Check that you're registered to vote **ASAP!**

## 2. Check that you're registered to vote

Check if you're registered [here](#).

## 3. Register (or re-register) to vote

### How do I register to vote?

Register online or check if you're registered [here](#) or register by mail with this [form](#). To register online or by mail you must have a Georgia driver's license or ID card.

Register in person at any of the following locations:

- ▶ Your county's [registrar office](#)
- ▶ [Department of Driver Services](#) while getting a driver's license, renewing a driver's license, or changing license information
- ▶ Department of Natural Resources while getting a resident hunting or fishing license
- ▶ A government office discussed in [O.C.G.A. 21-2-222](#).

### How do I re-register to vote?

Before October 7, 2022, you must either:

- ▶ Re-register at the [Department of Driver Services](#) while updating your driver's license, or
- ▶ Submit a new voter registration application at this [website](#)

You must re-register to vote if you changed your name or moved

### Where do I vote after I re-register?

Vote at your new polling location. Find that [here](#) and complete the information on the right side of the page.

You will vote at your old polling location if you (A) moved to a new county **after** October 7, 2022 or (B) moved to a location in the same county but did not re-register by October 7, 2022.

Register to vote **before October 7** for the general election in November

# 3 Ways to Vote

- Mail/absentee
- Early in person
- On election day

You may request an absentee ballot between August 22 and October 7. Absentee ballots are mailed starting around October 10, 2022. Notify [your county's registrar](#) if you don't receive an absentee ballot.

Only you, a family member, someone living in your house, or a care giver may submit your absentee ballot.

You can check on the status of your absentee ballot by logging into the Georgia Secretary of State's website, [here](#), and clicking on the 'Absentee Ballot Portal' tab.

## Vote by Mail/Absentee Ballots

**Step 1:** Fill out the absentee ballot application [online here](#).

**Step 2:** Once you receive the absentee ballot, fill it out – including the information on the **return envelope** that you must send your absentee ballot in - and mail it to your [county's registrar office](#) **as soon as possible**, or drop it off at your county's drop-off location. You must include your driver's license #, state ID #, or the last 4 digits of your social security # when submitting your absentee ballot.

If you requested an absentee ballot and decide to vote in person instead, go to your polling place (with your absentee ballot, if possible) and let them know that you want to vote in-person instead of absentee. [O.C.G.A. 21-2-388](#) gives you the right to vote in person if you didn't receive or want to cancel your absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots must be **received** by your [county election office](#) by 7pm on November 8, 2022.



## Early voting in person

**Step 1:** Make sure you are registered to vote [here](#).

**Step 2:** Find a voting location – along with early voting dates and times – at this online [link](#). Early voting may be a different location than your usual polling place.

**Step 3:** Go to your voting location with your I.D. (discussed below) between October 17, 2022 and November 4, 2022 during voting hours, which you can find using this online [link](#).

## Voting in person on Election Day

**Step 1:** Make sure you are registered to vote [here](#).

**Step 2:** Find your voting location using this online [link](#).

**Step 3:** Go to your voter location with your I.D. (discussed below) on November 8, 2022 between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

# Georgia Voter Identification Requirements

## What identification can I use to vote?

You must have one of the following forms of I.D.:

- Valid state or federal government-issued I.D. Georgia driver's license **strongly preferred**
- Student I.D. from a GA public college or university
- Valid employee photo I.D. from any branch of the U.S. or Georgia government
- Valid U.S. passport
- Valid U.S. military photo I.D.
- Valid tribal photo I.D.
- Current utility bill (must have your name and address)
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Government check
- Other government document

to Vote In Person

- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Not Required\* (see below)
- Not Required\* (see below)
- Not Required\* (see below)
- Not Required\* (see below)
- Not Required\* (see below)

to Request an Absentee Ballot

- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted
- Accepted

You must give your driver's license number or last 4 of your social security # when submitting an absentee ballot!

## What if I forgot my ID?

You may vote a special way – with a **provisional ballot**, according to [O.C.G.A. 21-2-417\(c\)](#). Your vote will only be counted if the registrar can verify your identity within the 3 days following the election. See more about provisional ballots on page 5 below.

### \* IMPORTANT

If you (1) registered to vote by mail, (2) did not provide an I.D. when you registered, and (3) have not voted in Georgia before, then you must present a recent copy of any of the forms of I.D. identified in the chart above when you go to vote or submit your absentee ballot.

# Common Election Day Issues

## Who can I contact if I encounter a problem while voting?

1. Call the following **Election Protection Hotline** if you run into problems or have questions on election day:
  - ▶ English: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-678-8683)
  - ▶ Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (1-888-839-8682)
  - ▶ Arabic: 1-844-YALLA-US (1-844-925-5287)
  - ▶ Cantonese, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, or Vietnamese: 1-888-274-8683
2. Call **Georgia Voter Protection Line** at 1-888-730-5816

## What happens if the voting location closes while I'm still in line?

Keep your place in line. You are entitled to vote using a regular ballot if you were in line by the time the voting location closes.

## What if I'm not on the registered voter list?

1. Ask the election worker to double check the list of registered voters. Sometimes names are misspelled, first and middle names are out of order, or hyphens, apostrophes, or spaces are added or missing.
2. If your name isn't on the registered voter list, ask the election worker to check the **supplemental list of voters**.
3. If your name cannot be found on either list, then ask to vote with a **provisional ballot** under [O.C.G.A. 21-2-418\(a\)-\(b\)](#). There is more information about provisional ballots below.

## What is a provisional ballot?

A provisional ballot is just like a regular ballot except that your vote will only be counted if the registrar can verify your credentials **within 3 days** after the election. The polling place should have a **notice explaining your rights** when using a provisional ballot, so ask the election worker to show you that notice.

## How do I vote using a provisional ballot?

**To make sure your provisional ballot is counted take the following steps:**

1. Submit any info that is required to your county's registrar office **immediately** (this may vary depending on the reason that you need a provisional ballot, so ask the poll worker what is missing),
2. Check your provisional ballot status using the [MVP Log In](#), and
3. Call your [county's registrar office](#) to make sure they received everything and that your ballot was counted.

## What if I go to the wrong polling place?

Vote using a provisional ballot.

Under [O.C.G.A. 21-2-418\(a\)](#), you may vote with a provisional ballot:

- (1) if you are **not** showing up as registered and you're in the correct county (regardless of precinct), or
- (2) if you **are** showing up as registered and you're in the correct county but wrong voting location: this is the same as (1) above only if it's after 5PM; otherwise you will have to go to your correct voting location to vote.

## What happens if my voting machine doesn't work?

Tell the election worker. If the problem continues, then you can vote with a paper ballot.

# Helpful Resources

To find voter registration status, polling locations, provisional ballot status, and much more:

- Secretary of State website at: <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>
- Please note: the MVP portal is sometimes inaccurate and stops updating the Sunday before an election.

If you encounter problems while voting:

- Georgia Voter Protection Line at 1-888-730-5816 or the Election Protection Hotlines identified on page 5.

To find your county's registrar office:

- <https://elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/countyregistrars.do>

For I.D. requirements:

- <https://sos.ga.gov/page/georgia-voter-identification-requirements>

If you have a criminal record or are in jail or prison:

- <https://www.schr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Voting-Rights-Fact-Sheet-Revised-1.30.2020.pdf>

If you are an overseas or uniformed services member:

- <https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/election-official-directory>

Other important information, including changes made after the 2020 election:

- <https://www.nbcnews.com/specials/plan-your-vote-2022-elections/index.html?language=english&state=GA>



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**THANK YOU** to the organizations noted above and others that strive to protect our democracy and our right to vote. Thank you also to the Georgia Appleseed pro bono volunteers who worked on this guide.