

## Voter Advocate Guide - Georgia

### What You Need

#### **Basics:**

In order to vote in Georgia, you will need to bring any ONE (1) of the following documents to your polling place:

- Any valid state or federal government issued photo ID
- A FREE Voter ID Card issued by your County Registrar's office or the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS)
- A Georgia Driver's License, even if expired
- Valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. Government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of this state
- Valid U.S. passport ID
- Valid U.S. military photo ID
- Valid tribal photo ID

#### **Exemptions:**

There are no exemptions in the state of Georgia. However, a voter without one of the acceptable forms of photo identification can vote on a provisional ballot. He or she will have up to three (3) days after the election to present appropriate photo identification at the County Registrars' office in order for the provisional ballot to be counted.

#### **Address Matching:**

**Q: Does the address on the photo ID have to match the address on the voter registration?**

**A: YES,** Voters are required to notify the Board of Registrars of their county of residence whenever they move.

Note a recent article: Online voter registration comes to Georgia (<http://www.macon.com/2014/04/03/3028457/online-voter-registration-comes.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>).

If you move **within the same county** in which you are registered to vote and don't notify the registrar at least **30 days** prior to an election, you may vote in your old polling place for that election. You must file a notice of your new address. This can be done by writing to your County Board of Registrars' office (<http://sos.ga.gov/cgi-bin/countyregistrarsindex.asp>), or by submitting a new voter registration application.

If you move **outside the county** in which you are registered to vote **within 30 days of an election**, you may vote in your old precinct for that election.

If you move **outside the county** in which you are registered to vote **in excess of 30 days prior to an election**, you have lost your eligibility to vote in the county of your old residence. You must register to vote in your new county of residence. You will be assigned a new voting precinct and polling location. Remember, if you don't register to vote by the deadline, you cannot vote in that particular election.

## "Cure" Period:

### **Q: What is the "cure period"?**

**A:** All voters who come to the polls without proper photo ID will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and then go to the County Registrars' office within 3 days of Election Day (aka the "cure period") and present a valid ID so that their ballot will be counted.

### **Q: Is the County Registrars office required to be open during all 3 calendar days of the cure period?**

**A:** A County Registrars office is only required to be open during regular business hours. Check the voter's specific County Registrars' office to confirm exact time of closure.

## Voting By Mail:

Any voter can request a mail-in ballot. Simply fill out the application at: <http://sos.ga.gov/admin/files/absentee.pdf> to request an official mail-in ballot. Then, mail or drop off the application to your County Registrars' office.

You are not required to provide identification when you vote absentee by mail. Your ballot will be counted if your signature on your absentee ballot matches your signature on your voter registration record.

We urge you to request your mail-in ballot and get it back to your County Registrars' office as soon as possible. Mail-in ballots **must be received** by your County Registrar **no later than close of the polls on Election Day**.

A voter who has a disability or cannot read and write may get help when filling out the mail-in ballot application and the official absentee/advance ballot. No matter how the ballot arrives, a voter with a physical disability may get help marking his or her ballot. The person helping the voter must sign an oath that is either printed on the mail-in ballot envelope or on the application for mail-in ballot, whichever is applicable.

## **Federal Law**

Federal law, the Help America Vote Act, requires ID for first-time voters (defined as: registering to vote by mail; did not vote in a previous Federal election, or never voted in your county of residence in a Federal election). Visit the VoteRiders website for more detailed identification requirements:

[http://www.voteriders.org/sites/default/files/VoteRiders-site-HAVA-1st-Time-Voters-03-2014\\_0.pdf](http://www.voteriders.org/sites/default/files/VoteRiders-site-HAVA-1st-Time-Voters-03-2014_0.pdf)

## **How To Get It:**

### **- Renew a US passport**

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/renew/renew\\_833.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/renew/renew_833.html)

### **- Get a replacement Citizenship Certificate**

<http://www.uscis.gov/n-565>

### **- Free Election Identification Card**

\*\* If you do not have one of the six acceptable forms of photo ID, the State of Georgia offers a FREE Voter Identification Card.\*\*

**An identification card can be issued at any County Registrar's office or Department of Driver Services Office free of charge.**

To receive a voter identification card, the voter must provide all of the following:

- A photo identity document or approved non-photo identity document that includes full legal name and date of birth
- Documentation showing the voter's date of birth
- Evidence that the applicant is a registered voter
- Documentation showing the applicant's name and residential address

## **Voter Registration:**

You can register to vote online in Georgia if you have a valid driver's license or identification card issued by GA Department of Driver Services (DDS) with signature on file with DDS: <https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR>. If you do not have a GA driver's license or identification card, you can complete the form online then mail it to your County's Board of Elections office.

To register to vote you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a legal resident of the county
- Be at least 17 1/2 years of age to register and 18 years of age to vote
- Not be serving a sentence for conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude
- Have not been found mentally incompetent by a judge

## **Early and Advance Voting:**

Georgia gives you the chance to vote in person before Election Day without having to provide a reason. Early/Advance voting is easy and convenient. It allows you to vote on a day and time that is convenient for you.

Contact your County Elections office at: <http://sos.ga.gov/cgi-bin/countyelectionofficesindex.asp> for early/advance voting site locations and hours. Some counties have multiple early/advance voting sites. You may contact the Secretary of State's office at 404-656-2871 or (V/TTY) 656-1787 for additional assistance.

## **Voting Day:**

Georgia law requires all polling places to be fully accessible and equipped with poll workers who are trained to take care of the needs of all voters.

On Election Day, polling places in Georgia are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

If you are 75 years of age or older or have a disability and you show up at the polling place between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., you will not be required to wait in line. Such voters should tell a poll officer if he or she wants to move to the front of the line.

For information on the accessibility of your polling place, please contact your County Elections office. You may contact the Secretary of State's office at 404-656-2871 or (V/TTY) 656-1787 for additional assistance.

## **Didn't find what you were looking for?**

### **Try these Websites:**

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[http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/georgia\\_voter\\_identification\\_requirements2](http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/georgia_voter_identification_requirements2)

- <http://mvp.sos.state.ga.us/>

### **OR call:**

- **Georgia Election Board: (404) 656-2871**

- **Secretary of State Brian Kemp's office: (404) 656-2881**