

10 THINGS EVERY GEORGIA VOTER SHOULD KNOW

1. YOU HAVE OPTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING

- Georgians have options for voting in this year’s general election. Voting should be safe and convenient.
- In-person voting is available on Election Day (see #2 below) and throughout early voting (see #3 below).
- Voting absentee by mail is different now: you can return your ballot by mail or at a drop box.

2. YOU CAN VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022

- Polls will be open for Georgia voters from 7 AM to 7 PM on Election Day, which is Tuesday, November 8.
- You can find your polling place & confirm its hours online here: mvp.sos.ga.gov.
- Every qualified voter who is standing in line at closing time has a right to cast a ballot.
- Georgia introduced new voting machines, or “ballot marking devices” (BMDs) in 2020.
 - Think of the BMD machine as a **fancy expensive pen** that prints a paper ballot with your voting choices.
 - The ballot has a machine-readable barcode as well as words printed on it. You will drop the ballot into a scanner before leaving the polling place.
 - The **words** printed on the paper ballot, NOT the barcode, count as your vote, if they conflict.
 - Most voters **forget** to check that their printed paper ballot actually matches their selections. Make sure that your printed paper ballot reflects your voting decisions—if it doesn’t, ask a poll worker for help!

3. YOU CAN ALSO VOTE EARLY IN PERSON STARTING OCTOBER 17, 2022

- You do NOT need any excuse to vote early (called “advanced voting”). You can vote early for any reason.
- You can vote early during regular business hours starting Monday, October 17.
 - Every county must offer early voting on Saturday, October 22, and Saturday, October 29.
 - Your county may have early voting hours on Sundays, too—check with your county election office!
- Find your early voting locations and hours here: elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/advancedVotingInfo.do.

4. VOTING ABSENTEE BY MAIL IS A SAFE, SECURE, AND SIMPLE PROCESS

- You do NOT need any excuse to vote absentee. You can request to vote absentee by mail for any reason here: securemyabsenteeballot.sos.ga.gov/. Note that the absentee ballot request now requires a wet ink signature.
- Request and return your ballot early!
 - The deadline to request to vote absentee by mail is Friday, October 28.
 - To ensure that your absentee ballot is counted, the best thing you can do is mark your ballot and return your ballot on the same day you receive it.
 - Your local election officials must receive your ballot by 7pm on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8.
- You can return your voted ballot...
 - By mail to your local board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk
 - In-person to your local board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk
 - In-person at a drop box until Friday, November 4, 2022. Drop boxes close after this date.
 - Through a close family member or household member
 - People with disabilities may also return their absentee ballots through their caregivers
 - People in jails and detention facilities may return their ballots through any facility employee
- You can track your absentee ballot here: mvp.sos.ga.gov/ or georgia.ballottrax.net/voter/.
- Check your county’s elections website to confirm the location and hours for drop box locations.

5. CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY

- For Georgia’s November general election, the voter registration deadline is 5pm on Tuesday, October 11.
- Not sure if you’re registered? Check your record here: mvp.sos.ga.gov/
- If you moved to a new home since your last time voting, make sure your voter registration is updated with your new address BEFORE the October 11 deadline.
- If your voter registration status is “pending” due to a citizenship issue, you will need to provide your local election officials with proof of citizenship before you will be able to vote. A list of documents proving citizenship is available here: sos.ga.gov/page/proof-citizenship.

**ADVANCEMENT
PROJECT**

6. YOU NEED A VALID ID TO VOTE

- If you choose to vote in person, poll workers will ask you for identification. You can present any of these IDs:
 - Georgia driver's license (even if expired)
 - Valid state government-issued ID (including Georgia public college & university **student IDs!**)
 - Valid U.S. passport
 - Valid government employee ID
 - Federal or Georgia government agencies (including county/city government)
 - Valid U.S. military ID
 - Valid tribal ID
- If you don't have any of these IDs, you can still vote a provisional ballot if you affirm and swear to your identity. You will need to provide ID by Monday, November 14.
- You can get a free Georgia voter ID card at any registrar's office or Department of Driver Services office.

7. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASSISTANCE AT YOUR POLLING PLACE

- You have the right to get help with voting in person at a polling place from someone of your choice (except your employer, your union representative, a candidate for office, or that candidate's family member) if:
 - You are unable to see or mark your ballot on your own; or
 - You cannot use a voting booth without help because of a physical disability; or
 - You cannot read English.
- If you are disabled or at least 75 years old and require assistance voting, you may request to skip the line at the polling place between 9:30am and 4:30pm on Election Day, or at any time during early voting. Poll workers should allow you to vote immediately without waiting in line.

8. VOTER INTIMIDATION IS AGAINST THE LAW

- Voter intimidation is illegal. It includes using (or threatening) force and violence and attempting to influence that person's decision to:
 - Vote or not vote;
 - Vote their ballot a certain way; or
 - Register to vote, or not.
- Nobody may solicit votes, distribute or display campaign material, give gifts (not even food or drink), or set up tables within:
 - 150 feet of a building containing a polling place;
 - A polling place itself; or
 - 25 feet of any voter waiting in line to vote.
- If you witness voter intimidation at your polling place, report it!
 - Directly to a poll worker at your polling place or to your county election office.

9. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IF YOU ARE CHALLENGED

- In Georgia, any other voter can challenge your right to register, remain registered, or vote.
- The challenge must be in writing and specify the reasons for the challenge. If the challenge is to your voting, the challenge must be made before you actually vote (or if you are voting absentee, before 5pm the day before your county election office begins scanning absentee ballots).
- Your local board of registrars must notify you if they decide that the challenge has merit.
- You have the right to answer the challenge, and the right to appeal a determination about the validity of your vote.

10. VOTE A PROVISIONAL BALLOT ONLY AS A LAST RESORT

- You have a right to vote a provisional ballot if you believe that you are an eligible, registered voter in Georgia. Provide evidence of your eligibility to vote to your county election office according to the provisional ballot instructions for your vote to count.