ACLU Georgia

FAQ: VOTING-BY-MAIL IN GEORGIA

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted not only our daily and work lives, but also our elections. Originally, Georgia's presidential primary election day was scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, and the election primary day for state and municipal candidates had been schedules for May 19th. **The Secretary of State has now scheduled both primary election days to Tuesday June 9, 2020.**

Below are frequently asked questions regarding voting-by-mail in Georgia.

ELECTION DAY

Q: When is the presidential primary election day?
A: The presidential primary election is on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

Q: When is the primary election day for state and some municipal officials?
A: The state primary election is also on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Q: I already voted in the presidential primary that was originally scheduled for March 24. Can I still get a ballot for the state and municipal election?
A: YES. If you already voted in the presidential primary, you can still vote in the state and municipal primary election.

Q: How do I get a ballot to vote by mail in the state and municipal primary election?
A: Go to **acluga.org/apply** for instructions.

Q: Does the ACLU of Georgia have instructions to help me fill out this application for a vote by mail ballot?
A: YES. Go to **acluga.org/apply** for easy-to-follow instructions.

Q: I'm a registered voter. How do I get a mail-in absentee ballot application?
A: Go to **acluga.org/apply** for easy-to-follow instructions.

VOTER ID

Q: Does Georgia require Voter ID when I vote by mail?
A: If you have **voted in Georgia before**, the answer is **NO**. If this is your **FIRST TIME voting in GEORGIA**? **YES**. See instructions below.

Important Instructions for First Time Voters
If you are a first time Georgia voter who registered by mail, i.e., not online, you will need to enclose a copy of ID.

If you are submitting this form by mail and you are registering for the first time in Georgia, you are required to submit proof of residence either with this form OR when you vote for the first time.

Proof of residence includes one of the following:
- a copy of a current and valid photo ID; or
- a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address.

For a list of government-approved identifications to vote, go to **acluga.org/VoterID.** If you **need help** with this process, please contact us at **voting@acluga.org.**

Q: Does Georgia require Voter ID when I vote in person?
A: YES.

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VOTING MY POLITICAL PARTY

Q: When I vote by mail, how do make sure that I receive the political party ballot I want?

A: The mail-in absentee ballot application requires you to place a checkmark indicating the ballot you want: Democratic, Republican, OR nonpartisan.

SENDING IN YOUR APPLICATION FOR A MAIL-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Q: How do I send in my application for my mail-in absentee ballot?

A: There are TWO ways to send in your application: email and U.S. Postal Service. See instructions below. For more instructions on how to fill out your ballot application, visit **acluga.org/apply**.

To send by mail (requires a 55¢ First-Class postage stamp)

- If you received your application in the mail, cut off the top of the mailer by cutting along the dotted line.
- Fold the panels so that the address to your county elections office is visible on the outside.
- To secure the mailer and to protect your information, tab or tape shut using clear tape within 1 inch of the bottom edge. This is required for the post office to accept it.
- Place a 55¢ First-Class stamp in the upper right corner where it says "AFFIX FIRST-CLASS STAMP HERE."
- You should receive your ballot within six business days.

If you downloaded an application from the Secretary of State's website, do the following:

- Put the application in an envelope, address it, and put a First-Class stamp on it.
- Be sure to put your return address in the top left corner.
- To find the address for your local election office, go to **acluga.org/ CountyElectionOffice**
- Use the dropdown box to find your county.
- Click on the county name to view the address.

To send by email (free of charge)

- With a cell phone, take a photo of your completed and signed application. OR with a computer printer, scan your completed and signed application.
- Attach your application to a blank email to send to your county election office.
- At the top of the application you received in the mail, the email address is written under #7 instructions. OR
- Go to **acluga.org/CountyElectionOffice**.
- Use the dropdown box to find your county.
- Locate the email address on the left side of the page.
- Copy the email address and paste it into your email.
- For the subject, type "Application for Ballot for (include your legal name)."
- Click send.
- You should receive your ballot about six days or less after the absentee ballot application is received.

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FILLING OUT YOUR BALLOT

Q: Where is the inner envelope referred to in the instructions included with my ballot?

A: This is a mistake, because the Georgia Secretary of State's office only included a white sheet of paper rather than an envelope. The white piece of paper is referred to as a "privacy sleeve" and has these words on it: "OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT, BALLOT MUST BE ENCLOSED."

Here is what to do.
After you vote your ballot, take the privacy sleeve -- the white sheet of paper labeled "OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT, BALLOT MUST BE ENCLOSED" -- and fold it in half.
- Insert your ballot into the folded privacy sleeve [white sheet of paper].
- Leave the sleeve folded **WITHOUT STAPLES, TAPE, GLUE, OR OTHER ADHESIVE.**
- Take the privacy sleeve [folded white sheet of paper] with your ballot inside of it and place it into the envelope that has a yellow bar on it and has been pre-addressed to your county board of registrar.

Q: If I have already requested and received my absentee ballot, can I still vote in person?

A: Yes. If you have already requested and received your absentee ballot, as long as you do not vote your absentee ballot you may still vote in person.

Take your absentee ballot with you when you vote in person so the poll worker can "cancel" the absentee ballot and allow you to vote. If you forget to take the ballot with you, you may still be allowed to vote in person after signing an "affidavit" stating that you have not yet voted.

Q: Can a voter give their completed ballot to a volunteer?

A: No.

Q: Why does my ballot say May 19 and not June 9? Isn't this the June 9 primary?

A: The reason the date listed at the top of your ballot may be "May 19" instead of "June 9" is simply because some of the ballots were already printed before the date of the primary was changed from May 19 to June 9. Your ballot will be counted for the June 9 election.

Q: Why is the Presidential Preference Primary race not included on my ballot?

A: If you already cast a ballot in the Presidential Preference Primary, whether by early voting in person or by absentee ballot, that ballot will be counted in the June 9th election. Your current ballot should include only the General Primary races for the party you chose.

Q: How many **stamps** do I need?

A: Place two stamps on the envelope. **Use either two First Class or two Forever stamps ($0.55 each)**

Q: Can I return the ballot to a ballot dropbox or the county elections office, instead of mailing it back?

A: Yes. Three people are allowed to return your ballot: yourself, a family member, or a caretaker if you are disabled. Contact your County Elections Office for more information on options to vote your absentee ballot outside of mailing the ballot.

Q: How can I check the status of my absentee ballot, to see if it has been received yet?

A: To locate that information, go to My Voter Page, **acluga.org/MyVoterPage**. Locate the words MVP Login. Fill out the boxes with * next to it. Click submit. The status of your absentee ballot will be displayed on the left-hand side of the page.