

ABSENTEE VOTING BY MAIL

Applying for Your Absentee Ballot Paper absentee ballots will be mailed to voters only upon request. All written requests must be submitted (by mail, fax, email) or personally delivered to the registrar office in the county where you are registered to vote. Addresses and contact information can be found at: sos.ga.gov/county-board-registrars-office

Written requests for absentee ballots can be made in the following ways:

1. Absentee applications can be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website at sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Absentee_Ballot_Application_20212.pdf Instead of emailing the printed application to your county, you can instead upload a photo of it and other required documents on the Secretary of State's website at securemyabsenteeballot.sos.ga.gov/s/ The application portal allows you to verify your driver's license number on your voter registration record.
2. You must include the number from your driver's license. If you do not have one, include the number from your state-issued identification card, which you can get for free at any office of the Department of Driver Services or your county voter registration office. However, if you have neither a driver's license nor a state ID card, then provide a copy or photo of one of the following:
 - United States Passport • Georgia voter identification card
 - Other valid photo identification card issued by a branch, department, agency, or entity of the State of Georgia, any other state, or the United States authorized by law to issue personal identification
 - United States military identification card
 - Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the United States government, Georgia state government, or Georgia county, municipality, board, authority, or any other entity of the state of Georgia
 - Tribal identification card, or
 - Any of the following documents that show your name and address:
 - Current utility bill
 - Bank statement
 - Paycheck
 - Government check
 - Other government document
3. The application has a place for you to provide a phone number and email address. While it is optional, providing contact information will better ensure that your county can contact you in a timely manner if there should be a problem with your application or absentee ballot so you can correct it.
4. You may use the application to request that absentee ballots be sent to you automatically for every election remaining in the current election cycle, if you are eligible. To be eligible, you must be either:

- Over age 65
- Have a physical disability
- Live overseas
- Be an active member of the military or a spouse or child or an active service member.

No absentee ballot shall be mailed to an address other than your permanent mailing address in the voter registration record or a temporary out-of-county or out-of-municipality address, except in the case of a voter who has a physical disability or is in custody in a jail or other detention facility.

There are no restrictions on who may assist you in completing an absentee ballot application when you are personally submitting the application.

There are restrictions on who can apply for an absentee ballot on behalf of someone else and what must be contained within the application.

Ballot Application Submittal Dates

Absentee ballots may be requested any time between 78 days prior to the election and the 11th day before Election Day. Please note that you should make your request early to allow enough time for the ballot to be mailed to you, completed, returned and received back at the county registrar office before the close of polls on Election Day, which is 7 p.m.

Receiving Your Absentee Ballot

Absentee and Non-UOCAVA ballots will be mailed:	
Presidential Preference Primary	29 days prior to the election through the Friday before Election Day
General Primary	29 days prior to the election through the Friday before Election Day
General Election	29 days prior to the election through the Friday before Election Day
Special Election - Federal office	29 days prior to the election through the Friday before Election Day
Municipal General Primary	21 days prior to the election through the Friday before Election Day
Municipal General Election	21 days prior to the election through the Friday before Election Day
Special Election - Other	21 days prior to the election through the Friday before Election Day
Runoffs	As soon as possible

Voting Your Absentee Ballot

Follow the instructions that your county elections official provides with your ballot. \

You will receive all the forms and envelopes necessary for marking and returning of the ballot. Ballots for UOCAVA voters will be sent between 49 and 45 days before federal elections. There are special provisions for Georgia Military and Overseas Voters that can be found at: fvap.gov/georgia

Failure to complete your ballot correctly could cause your ballot not to be counted.

If you registered to vote by mail or online and did not submit a copy of one of the required forms of identification at that time, you will receive notification with your ballot package. Copies of any IDs must be placed in the outer envelope.

If you do not have a driver's license or state identification card and had to supply other documents to verify your identity when you applied for an absentee ballot, then you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security number in the appropriate place on the outer envelope of your absentee ballot package.

If you have any questions, please contact your county registrar.

Submitting a Voted Absentee Ballot

A ballot must be received by the county registrar no later than the close of polls on Election Day. Delivery can be either U.S. first class mail or hand delivered by the voter. If mailing, you must affix postage to the ballot envelope. Ballots received after the polls close cannot be counted. All counties must have at least one drop box location. For more information about drop boxes, please contact your registrar. \

Processing Your Voted Absentee Ballot

Once the absentee ballot is received by the county office, the registrar will compare the number on your driver's license or state identification card to the voter registration records to verify your identity. If you do not have either of these photo IDs, then the registrar will examine the copies of the other documents you were required to submit with your application. If the number is missing, does not match what is on record or your other documentation is not sufficient for any reason, your county will contact you and provide a document whereby you can provide the necessary ID to verify your ballot.
