

# GEORGIA

# PREPARED TO VOTE 2015

## IMPORTANT DATES

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015**

Registration deadline for general election

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015**

Advanced Voting for general elections begins

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2015**

Advanced Voting for general election ends

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015**

**by 7:00 PM**

Deadline for receipt of Absentee Ballots

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015**

Election Day

**Polls open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015**

Runoff (if required)

**Polls open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM**

## VERIFY YOUR VOTER INFORMATION

**How can I verify that I am registered to vote?** You should receive a voter registration card ("precinct card") a few weeks after you register to vote. You can verify your voter registration status online at <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do> or by calling the Georgia Elections Division at 404.656.2871.

**Can I register to vote if I have a felony conviction?**

If you have a felony conviction, your right to vote is automatically restored if you have served your entire sentence, including probation or parole. If so, you can register to vote. Learn how to register to vote at [http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/Elections/register\\_to\\_vote](http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/Elections/register_to_vote).



**PROBLEM VOTING?**  
**Call 1.866.OUR.VOTE**

*This card is a resource, not legal advice. It is provided for informational purposes only. Georgia may revise its laws after the publication of this card. Therefore, it is your responsibility to determine how all applicable laws concerning voting in Georgia affect you.*

## VOTING EARLY

**Can I vote before Election Day?** Yes. Any registered voter can vote before Election Day by casting an absentee ballot (by mail) or by voting in advance in person. You do not need a reason.

**What is Advanced Voting?** Advanced voting, also known as absentee voting in person, allows any registered voter to vote in person at special voting centers before Election Day. Contact your local election board for the location and hours of an advanced voting center near you.

**What is Absentee Voting by mail?** Absentee voting allows any registered voter to vote by mail. You are not required to provide photo identification when voting by mail. Your absentee ballot must be received by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.

To get an absentee ballot, you must apply for one by submitting an application to your local registrar or absentee ballot clerk by mail, email, facsimile, or by hand at least one month (ideally) before Election Day. The form is available at [http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/Elections/absentee\\_voting\\_in\\_georgia](http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/Elections/absentee_voting_in_georgia).

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## VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

**When are the polls open?** Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You have the right to vote if you are in line or inside the polling place when the polls close.

**Can I get time off of work to vote?** If your work schedule would prevent you from voting in person while the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., you have the right to take time off of work (up to two hours) to vote. You have to give your employer reasonable notice of your need to take time off, and your employer may specify which hours that you get to take.

**Where do I vote?** On Election Day, you must go to the polling place to which you are assigned, which should be listed on the voter registration card ("precinct card") that you received in the mail after you registered.

**How do I verify my polling place?** You can look up your polling place online at <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do> or by calling the Georgia Elections Division at 404.656.2871.

**Can I bring literature to the polls?** Yes. You can take written or printed election materials, including this guide, with you into the polling place as long as they are for your own use.

**Can I wear campaign clothing to the polling place?** No, you cannot wear campaign clothing, stickers, or buttons in your polling place unless you cover them up.

**What if I need help?** You can ask someone to assist you in voting if you are blind, disabled, or cannot read or write. Georgia law requires that all polling places be fully accessible and equipped with poll workers that are trained to take care of the needs of all voters.

## VOTER PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

**Do I have to show photo ID to vote in person?** Yes. Georgia law requires all voters to show some form of photo ID before receiving a ballot to vote in person.

**What are the acceptable forms of photo ID?** Acceptable forms of photo ID include:

- a Georgia driver's license (even if expired) or a Georgia voter photo ID card;
- a valid state or federal government-issued ID card, including an ID card from a public university, college, or technical school in Georgia, with photo;
- a valid employee ID card issued by any division of the federal government, the government of Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority, or other entity of the state of Georgia, with photo;
- a valid U.S. passport;
- a valid U.S. military ID card with photo; and
- a valid tribal ID card with photo.

**What if I don't have any photo ID?** If you do not have any of these forms of photo ID, Georgia will provide you with a "free" voter photo ID card. Contact your local registrar or the Department of Driver Services, <http://www.dds.ga.gov/>, for more information.

If you have photo ID, but not with you when you arrive at the polls on Election Day, go get your photo ID and return to the polls. While you can cast a provisional ballot when you lack a photo ID at the polls, that ballot will not count unless you bring photo ID to the polls after you cast your ballot.

**What is a provisional ballot?** A provisional ballot is used to record your vote when there's an unresolved question about your eligibility to vote. You should never be turned away from a polling place just because poll workers are not sure whether you are eligible to vote. Election officials are required to make every effort to provide you the opportunity to vote. A provisional ballot is a way for you to cast a ballot if your eligibility to vote on Election Day cannot be immediately verified. It is the same ballot every other voter gets. It has all the candidates and offices on it.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- **Check your voter registration** now by going to <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do> or calling the Georgia Elections Division at 404.656.2871.
- **Locate your polling place** by going to <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do> or calling the Georgia Elections Division at 404.656.2871.
- Bring at least one form of **photo ID** to the polls.
- Take your time and **ask for help** if you need it.
- **Report problems** on Election Day, such as being refused a ballot or being turned away from a polling place by calling the Georgia Elections Division at 404.656.2871.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

**GEORGIA STATE ELECTIONS DIVISION**  
404.656.2871

**NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND (LDF)**  
[vote@naacpldf.org](mailto:vote@naacpldf.org)

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
Voting Section  
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