Georga Voter Identification Requirements

Frequently Asked Questions:

Registering to Vote:

1. How do I know if I am eligible to vote?

You are eligible to vote in Georgia if you are a citizen of the United States; a legal resident of Georgia; at least 18 years old; have not been found to be mentally incompetent by the court; are not serving a sentence for a felony of moral turpitude; are registered to vote; and meet all other state requirements, such as showing acceptable photo identification if you choose to vote in person or properly requesting and returning an absentee ballot if you choose to vote by mail.

2. What are the requirements for registering to vote?

To register to vote in Georgia you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States and a legal resident of Georgia.
- Be at least 17 years of age. (However, you must be 18 to vote.)
- Not be serving a sentence for a conviction of felony of moral turpitude.
- Not have been adjudicated mentally incompetent.

3. How do I register to vote?

You must complete a voter registration application. An application may be obtained:

- On-line at sos.georgia.gov/elections.
- From the Secretary of State’s Office by calling 404-655-2871 or the Secretary of State toll-free Voter Information Hotline at (888) 265-1115.
- You may also contact the Elections Division by facsimile at (404) 651-9531.
- From your county elections office. You can find the address and phone number of your county elections office on the web at sos.georgia.gov/elections or in your local phone book in the government listings under your county’s name.

Voters can also register to vote as they obtain or renew their Georgia Driver’s License.

4. Do I have to register to vote again when I move?

Yes. When you move, you must register at your new address at least 30 days before an election to be eligible to vote. To find your local elections schedules for planning purposes, please visit: http://sos.georgia.gov/elections. (link)

5. How do I know if I’m registered to vote?

You should receive a voter precinct card in the mail at least 2 to 4 weeks after submitting your application. You are not officially registered to vote until your application is approved.

If you do not receive your voter registration card or to find out if your registration is current you should:

- Check the status of your registration by visiting the Secretary of State’s voter information website at sos.georgia.gov/elections to access the poll locator. If the poll locator is unable to find your information, you should contact your county registrar’s office.
- Call your local county registrar’s office (a telephone directory can be found online at sos.georgia.gov/elections or check your local phone book) or call (404) 655-2871 or the Secretary of State toll-free Voter Information Hotline at (888) 265-1115. You may also contact the Elections Division by facsimile at (404) 651-9531.

http://www.gaphotoid.com/FAQ.html

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6. Can my registration expire?

Yes, if you change your place of residence or if you have not voted in three or more years.

Change of Residence:

Voters are required to notify the board of registrars of their county of residence whenever they move. If you move within the same county in which you are registered to vote and do not 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 your county registrar’s office, 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. If you don’t register to vote by the deadline, you cannot vote in that particular election.

Inactive Status:

If you have not voted in three or more years, it is important to confirm your registration. You can do so by:

- Checking the status of your registration online at sos.georgia.gov/elections to access the poll locator. If the poll locator is unable to find your information, you should contact your county registrar’s office.

- Calling your county registrar’s office (a telephone directory can be found online at www.sos.georgia.gov/elections or check your local phone book) or call (404) 656-2871 or the Secretary of State toll-free Voter Information Hotline at (888) 285-1115. You may also contact the Elections Division by facsimile at (404) 651-9931

Voting:

1. What are my voting options?

Voters can cast their ballots in one of three ways:

   o Absentee

As a Georgia Voter, State law allows you to cast a ballot even if you cannot go to the polls on Election Day. Citizens can vote absentee by requesting an absentee ballot application be mailed from their county registrar’s office. Absentee ballot applications can also be found online at http://sos.georgia.gov/elections.

There are two categories of absentee voting in Georgia. The first method is absentee voting by mail. Simply mail or fax the absentee ballot application to the county registrar’s office of the county where you are registered to vote. You will not be required to provide a reason why you cannot vote in person. Once the application is approved you will be mailed an absentee ballot. You are not required to include any identification when you mail your ballot.

You can also vote absentee in person. You will be required to give a reason why you need to vote absentee, such as you will be away from your precinct from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Election Day or are 75 years of age or older. If you cast a ballot in person you must present one of the six required forms of photo ID.

   o Early Voting

Advance voting allows you to cast your ballot in person at your county registrar’s office on the Monday through Friday before the Tuesday election. You are not required to give a reason why you are voting in advance of Election Day. You will need to present one of the six forms of photo ID. To find your early voting location, contact your county registrar’s office.

   o Vote on Election Day

You can vote in person on Election Day at the polling place listed on your voter precinct card. To find your voting precinct, click here: sos.georgia.gov/loc-bin/locator.asp.

Please remember to bring one of the six required forms of photo ID with you to the polls.

2. When can I vote Absentee?

You can request an absentee ballot up to 160 days before an election. The time period for you to cast an absentee ballot generally begins 45 days before a primary or election, and 21 days before a municipal election.

All absentee ballots must be received by the county registrar by the close of business on Election Day.

3. How do I contact my county registrar’s office?

You can call the Elections Division of the Secretary of State’s Office at (404) 656-2871 or go online to http://sos.georgia.gov/elections and follow the prompts.
1. What identification is required to vote?

Acceptable Identification Is:

- A Georgia driver's license, even if expired
- Any valid state or federal issued photo ID, including a free Voter ID Card issued by your county registrar's office or by the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS)
- Valid U.S. passport
- 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. military photo ID
- Valid tribal photo ID

Can I use my high school photo ID card?

If you are 16 years old and you go to a PUBLIC (government sponsored, i.e. county or city) high school you may use your high school photo ID to vote. If you attend a private school, you will have to use one of the other acceptable forms of ID. For more information, call 1-877 725-9797.

- Can I use my college/university photo ID card?

If you are currently enrolled in one of the state colleges or universities (http://www.usg.edu/inst/) or technical colleges (http://www.technicalcollegesystemofgeorgia.org/college_campuses.php) listed below you may use your school photo ID. If you attend a private college or university, you will have to use one of the other acceptable forms of ID. For more information, call 1-877 725-9797.

**Georgia Colleges and Universities**

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College  
Albany State University  
Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Atlanta Metropolitan College  
Augusta State University  
Bainbridge College  
Clayton State University  
Coastal Georgia Community College  
Columbus State University  
Dalton State College  
Darton College  
East Georgia College  
Fort Valley State University  
Gainesville State College  
Georgia College & State University  
Georgia Gwinnett College  
Georgia Highlands College  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Georgia Perimeter College  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia Southwestern State University  
Georgia State University  
Gordon College  
Kennesaw State University  
Macon State College  
Medical College of Georgia  
Middle Georgia College  
North Georgia College & State University  
Savannah State University  
Savannah Technical College  
South Georgia College  
University of Georgia  
University of West Georgia  
Valdosta State University  
Waycross College

**Georgia Technical Colleges**

Albany Technical College  
Altamaha Technical College  
Appalachian Technical College  
Athens Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Central GA Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
Columbus Technical College  
Coosa Valley Technical College  
DeKalb Technical College  
East Central Technical College  
Flint River Technical College  
Griffin Technical College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Heart of GA Technical College  
Lanier Technical College  
Middle GA Technical College  
Moultrie Technical College  
North GA Technical College  
North Metro Technical College  
Northwestern Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Okefenokee Technical College  
Sanderson Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
South GA Technical College  
Southeastern Technical College  
Southwest GA Technical College  
West Central Technical College  
Swainsboro Technical College  
West GA Technical College
4. What happens if I am at the polls on Election Day and I don’t have my photo ID?

If you show up to vote and you do not have one of the acceptable forms of photo identification, you can still vote a provisional ballot. You will have up to two days after the election to present appropriate photo identification at your county registrar’s office in order for your provisional ballot to be counted.

If you don’t have one of the six forms of photo ID you can go to your county registrar’s office or to any Department of Driver Services office and get your FREE Georgia Voter ID Card, present it to your county registrar’s office within two days after the election, and your provisional ballot will be counted.

If you simply forgot your photo ID, and time permits, you can retrieve it, return to the polling place, and vote.

OBTAINING A VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD

1. What if I don’t have acceptable Photo ID?

Voters without proper photo identification can obtain a free Voter Identification Card from their county registrar’s office or any Georgia Department of Driver Services office. To find your county registrar’s office, call (404) 655-2871 or click here: sos.georgia.gov/elections/elections/voter_information/2006_voter_info.asp and follow the prompts.

2. How much does a voter ID card cost?

A Georgia Voter ID card is FREE for anyone registered to vote in Georgia who does not have an acceptable form of photo ID.

3. What do I need to have to get a free voter ID card?

In order to receive a FREE voter ID card from your county registrar’s office, you must show the following types of documentation:

- A photo identity document, except that a nonphoto identity document is acceptable if it includes both the applicant’s full legal name and date of birth.
- Documentation showing the applicant’s date of birth
- Evidence that the applicant is registered to vote in the state of Georgia
- Documentation showing the applicant’s name and principal residence address

4. What types of documents constitute a photo identity document?

- Student identification card including public or private high school, college, university or vocational schools
- Transit card
- Pilot’s license
- Nursing Home Identification Card
- Employee Identification card
- Government Housing Authority Identification Card
- Any government issued license
- Any card accepted by local, state or federal government for the provision of benefits
- Any card accepted by local, state or federal government for access to buildings
5. What constitutes a non-photo identity document?

- An original birth certificate or certified copy of a birth certificate
- Certificate of birth registration
- Voter registration application
- Copy of records filed in a court by the applicant or on behalf of the applicant by the applicant's counsel
- Naturalization documentation
- Copy of Marriage License Application
- A copy of the applicant's State or Federal Tax Return filed for the previous calendar year
- Any other document issued by local, state, or federal government so long as the document provides a reasonably reliable confirmation of the identity of the applicant
- Paycheck or paycheck stub bearing the imprinted name of the applicant's employer
- An original of the annual social security statement received by the applicant for the current or preceding year
- An original of a Medicare or Medicaid statement received by the applicant
- Certified school record or transcript for the current or preceding year
- Hospital birth certificate
- An authenticated copy of a doctor's record of post-natal care
- A federal affidavit of birth, form DS-10

6. Can I get a free Voter ID Card even if I have one of the other six forms of ID?

No. Voter ID Cards are only available to those people lacking sufficient voter identification.

7. Do I have to get a new Voter ID Card if I move?

Yes. You can obtain a new Voter ID Card with your new information on it from your county registrar's office in your new county or any Department of Driver Services office.
Georgia Voter Identification Requirements

Georgia law (O.C.G.A § 21-2-417) requires Georgia residents to show photo identification when voting in person. This law will be implemented for the September 18, 2007 Special Election and all future elections. Contact your county registrar's office to find out if there is an election on September 18 in your county. You can also view upcoming election dates. This website is just one part of our comprehensive outreach program to assure that citizens are aware of these requirements. Electronic versions of publications and press releases pertaining to this requirement are available here, as well. If you have questions or need more information or have difficulty getting a FREE Voter Identification Card, you can contact your county registrar's office or the Secretary of State, Elections Division by:

phone (404) 656-2871,
toll free at (877) 725-6797
TTY (404) 656-1787
Fax 404-551-9531
e-mail@voterid.com

You are not required to include any identification when you vote absentee by mail.

What IDs are Acceptable?

- Any valid state or federal government issued photo ID, including 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

Need a Voter ID Card?

If you do not have one of these forms of photo identification, a Georgia Voter Identification Card is available FREE of charge at your county registrar's office or any Department of Driver Services Office.

For further details about obtaining a Voter Identification Card, please contact your county registrar's office.

Georgia's Voter 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.

Before being issued a voter identification card, the voter must provide:
- 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.

Example of a Georgia Voter Identification Card

Have Questions?

Take a look at our Frequently Asked Questions Page

If you have any further questions or need assistance please try one of the following contacts:
Toll free: 1-877-725-9797
Phone: 404-656-2871 / Fax: 404-651-9531
TTY: 404-656-1787
Automated Poll Locator: 888-265-1155
email@voterid.com
Locate your county board of registrar's office
Media outlets with questions can contact the Secretary of State's Press Office at 404-656-4269

http://www.gaphotoid.com/