



Georgia Voter Resources

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Why should I vote?

Voting is a personal decision that only you can make for yourself. However, there are several reasons you may want to vote.

1. It's your constitutional right as an American citizen
2. You can choose local, state, and federal representatives who have your best interests in mind for issues such as education, health care, jobs, immigration policy, infrastructure, and the economy.
3. Elected officials decide how to use the taxes you pay, so by voting you play an active role in deciding how your hard-earned taxpayer money is used.
4. Voting is more than choosing a president or Senators and Congressional Representatives. Many local positions are decided during elections, and these can have strong impacts on your personal community.
5. Voting is a powerful way for immigrant communities to make their unique perspectives heard on the local, state, and national levels. Likewise, some racial minorities in the US have historically been underrepresented or had their voting rights suppressed, so it is especially impactful for them to claim their rights and use their voices.

Where do I vote?

Log into the website at the [Georgia My Voter Page](#) to see where you will vote. This is called a polling location and it is based on your home address. Polling locations are often schools, parks, and other public buildings.

What do I bring with me to vote?

Bring a valid photo ID, such as your Georgia Driver's License/Identification card. See the [DDS website for a full list of acceptable IDs](#).

How do I know who is running for office in an election?

You can see a sample ballot at the [Georgia My Voter Page](#). This ballot will be specific to the state, county, and Congressional district that you live in. There are many resources online that can help you learn more about the candidates.



What are the types of elections?

There are a few types of elections: general, primary, special, and runoff.

- **General:** These are what you think of as elections. Often general elections decide important offices such as the Presidency, Senate, and Congress, as well as local positions. These are the elections that occur in November.
- **Primary:** In a primary election, you choose one candidate from a list of several in the same political party. The winner of the primary election goes up against the winner of the primary from the opposing political party in the general election. These typically take place in the spring.
- **Midterm:** These are elections that take place halfway into a presidential term. The purpose is to elect officials to the Senate, Congress, and local offices. The results of the midterm typically show how the American people feel about the current president and recent policy. Midterm elections have both primaries and general elections.
- **Special:** Special elections occur when an elected official leaves office unexpectedly, such as for death, illness, fraud, or other reasons that mean they would not be able to finish their term.
- **Runoff:** These elections occur when the final ballot count in an election is too close to accurately call for one candidate or the other. A runoff election is like a tie-breaker. Even if you did not vote in the election that forced the runoff, you may still vote in the runoff.

When is Election Day?

Primary elections are on different days in the spring of an election year depending on the state. In Georgia, the primary elections are often in March.

Nationally, election day to vote for the president occurs on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November every four years. There will be presidential elections in 2024, 2028, and so on. Halfway between presidential elections is the midterm election.

Please check your My Voter account for county and district-specific details.

What political party should I choose?

This is a personal decision only you can choose. Start by looking at the party as a whole or the specific candidates for that party in an election. There are many resources online (see the



resources section below) that show the position of parties and candidates on issues that matter to voters.

In Georgia, you do not register to vote with a particular party. This means you may choose to vote for either party and you may change which party you vote for if you want. Some elections, such as primaries, require that you choose a ballot for one political party or the other – you are not permitted to vote in both. These elections may have “nonpartisan” ballot options, which contain only the elections for non-political races, such as judges or other local positions. Other elections have the same ballot for everyone, regardless of which party or candidate they will be voting for.

What do I do if I am not able to vote in-person on Election Day?

There are a couple of options: early voting and absentee voting.

Early Voting

- Georgia state law requires early in-person voting to be available beginning on the fourth Monday prior to an election and as soon as possible before a runoff election.
- Early voting ends on the Friday before election day.
- Early voting occurs Monday through Friday, as well as the second and third Saturdays before Election Day. Schedules typically run from 9 AM to 5 PM on weekdays and 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturdays.
- For more details, look up the early voting schedule when an election is coming up.

Absentee Voting (Voting by Mail)

- There are many reasons why someone may want to vote by mail. Physical disability, a busy schedule, or travel on election day are examples.
- First you must request to have your absentee ballot mailed to you, [which you can do at this link](#). You can request it anytime between 78 to 11 days before the election, and there is usually a deadline to request an absentee ballot listed for a given election.
- Submit your absentee ballot by mailing it or dropping it off to the appropriate location, which will be listed on the ballot



What are my rights as a voter?

1. If you're in line when polls are supposed to close, you have the right to stay in line until you are able to vote.
2. If you make a mistake on your ballot, ask for a new one.
3. If the machines are not working at your polling location, ask for a paper ballot.
4. If your citizenship, criminal record, or other qualifications are being questioned, call the Election Protection Hotline.
 - a. English: 866-OUR-VOTE / 866-687-8683
 - b. Spanish: 888-VE-Y-VOTA / 888-839-8682
 - c. Arabic: 844-YALLA-US / 844-925-5287
 - d. For Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, or Vietnamese: 888-API-VOTE/ 888-274-8683

Resources

- [Georgia Elections Calendars](#)
- [Georgia Election Registration Deadlines](#)
- [Georgia My Elections Page \(MVP Portal\)](#)
- [First Time Voter Checklist](#)
- [IDs for Voting \(DDS\)](#)
- [IDs for Voting \(MVP\)](#)
- [Vote in Person on Election Day](#)
- [Voting by Absentee Ballot](#)
- [Request an Absentee Ballot](#)
- [Voting Early in Person](#)
- [GA Election FAQs](#)
- [Why does voting matter?](#)