

# Instructions for marking and returning an official absentee ballot

## What's in your ballot package?

Your voting materials in this package include:

- your official ballot
- these instructions
- your yellow return envelope
- a white envelope labeled Official Absentee Ballot

## Before you begin

You must mark your ballot in private.

No one can observe you marking your ballot except for

- an authorized person lawfully assisting you in marking your ballot if you are entitled to assistance, or
- your child if under 18 years old, or
- any child under 12 years old.

## How to mark, seal, sign and return your ballot by Election Day

### 1. Mark your ballot

- Use a black or blue pen.
- If you are physically disabled or illiterate, you may have assistance marking your ballot. See the rules for who can receive assistance on the other side of the page.



- **Completely fill in the oval** next to the name of the candidate you want to vote for or the response to a ballot question.
- **Do not vote for more candidates than allowed.** If you do, your vote may not count in that contest.
- You do not have to vote in every contest for your ballot to count.
- **To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot,** follow the directions on the ballot for casting a write-in vote. Write-in votes are not allowed in primary elections.
- **If you make a mistake,** contact your elections office for a replacement ballot. No replacement ballot can be mailed on the day prior to an election.

### 2. Seal your ballot in the white ballot secrecy envelope



- **Be sure the ink is dry** before folding your ballot.
- Put the ballot into the white ballot secrecy envelope labeled "**Official Absentee Ballot**" and seal the envelope.

### 3. Put your ballot in the yellow return envelope



- Put the white ballot secrecy envelope into the **yellow Ballot Return Envelope**.

### 4. Complete the form and sign the return envelope

#### Read the oath carefully.

You are signing under penalty of false swearing that you voted your own ballot, have not allowed any unauthorized person to observe you marking your ballot and that you will not permit any unauthorized person to mail, deliver, or return your completed ballot.



- Use an ink pen.
- **Sign the oath** in your usual signature in the box next to the "X".
- Print your name.
- Enter your date of birth.

**You must provide identification.** You can:

- Enter the 9-digit number of your Georgia Driver's License or State Identification Card Number.

OR

- Enter the last 4-digits of your **Social Security Number**.

OR

**If you do not have** a Georgia Driver's License or ID or a Social Security Number, **place a copy of an acceptable form of identification in the yellow envelope.** See the list of acceptable forms of identification on the other side of these instructions. Only mail **copies** of acceptable forms of identification. **Do not mail original identification cards.**

### 5. Seal the return envelope

- **Seal both of the two glue strips** on the **yellow** return envelope.

### 6. Return your ballot

- **Your ballot can only be mailed or delivered** to the elections office by yourself or your mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or an individual living in your same household.

## Acceptable forms of identification if you do not have a Georgia Driver's License or State Identification Card Number

### An identification with your photograph:

- United States military identification card
- Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U. S. government, Georgia state government, or Georgia county, municipality, board, authority, or any other entity of the state of Georgia
- Georgia voter identification card
- United States Passport
- Tribal identification card containing your photograph

### Or, a document that shows your name and address:

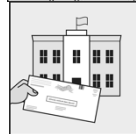
- Current utility bill
- Government check
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Other government document that shows your name and address

## How to return your ballot



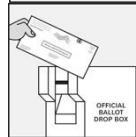
### Mail it

Mail your ballot so that it is received by 7:00 pm on Election Day.



### Deliver it

You can deliver your ballot in person to your elections office.



### Drop it off

Drop off your ballot at an authorized drop box.

### Track your ballot

To check the status of your returned absentee ballot, visit [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov)



## Help prevent election fraud

If any unauthorized person asks to observe you voting your ballot, asks to view your completed ballot, or offers to deliver or return your voted ballot to the elections office, contact the Georgia Secretary of State's Office Voter Fraud Hotline at 877-725-9797 or email [reportfraud@sos.ga.gov](mailto:reportfraud@sos.ga.gov).

## Who may be assisted while voting?

**O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(b):** A physically disabled or illiterate elector may receive assistance in preparing his or her ballot from any person of the elector's choice other than such elector's employer or the agent of such employer or an officer or agent of such elector's union; provided, however, that no person whose name appears on the ballot as a candidate at a particular primary, election, or runoff nor the mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, spouse, son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law of such candidate shall offer assistance during such primary, election, or runoff under the provisions of this Code section to any elector who is not related to such candidate. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "related to such candidate" shall mean such candidate's mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, spouse, son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law. The person rendering assistance to the elector in preparing the ballot shall sign the oath printed on the same envelope as the oath to be signed by the elector. Any person who willfully violates this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one nor more than ten years or to pay a fine not to exceed \$100,000.00, or both, for each such violation.

## When must an absentee ballot be received?

**AN ABSENTEE BALLOT MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE ELECTIONS OFFICE BY 7:00 P.M. (CLOSE OF THE POLLS) ON THE PRIMARY OR ELECTION DAY IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED.**

**A REGISTRAR MAY DELIVER, ON THE DAY OF THE PRIMARY OR ELECTION, AN ABSENTEE BALLOT TO AN ELECTOR CONFINED IN A HOSPITAL, AND SUCH ELECTOR MAY THEN AND THERE VOTE THE ABSENTEE BALLOT.**