AGENDA

• Secretary of State’s Elections Division
• Voting Statistics
• Websites
• Election Terminology
• Qualification of an Elector
• Voter Registration and Voting
• Election Law Changes from 2019 Legislative Session
• Training and Certification
Elections Division of the Secretary of State of Georgia

• Some of the key responsibilities of the SOS Elections Division:
  • Organize and oversee all election activity in the state to ensure that all elections are fair, secure and accessible
  • Administer training and certification of local election officials
  • Maintain the statewide voter registration system (ElectioNet)
  • Provide election forms and materials
  • Qualify state level candidates
  • Prepare the ballots
  • Compile and certify the results of federal and state level elections
Elections Division Liaison Map

Firefly > Elections Directory > Liaison Information
Election Forms and Supplies

Rachell Simmons, Operations Supervisor

To order forms and supplies for all elections, place your order in The Store (https://georgiaelectionssupplystore.com), or by email at electionstore@sos.ga.gov or fax orders to 470-312-2621. The Municipal Order forms for Paper Ballots or DRE elections can be found on Firefly at the Download tab on the lower blue banner.

If you need a username and password for The Store, please contact Rachell at rsimmons@sos.ga.gov
Registered Voters in Georgia:

Total – 7,434,418
Active – 6,755,835
Inactive – 664,941
Pending – 13,642

Registered Voters in Cities:

Total – 2,640,062
Active – 2,440,835
Inactive – 199,227
Voter Registration Statistics

Firefly is the information portal for county and city elections information and communications
https://firefly.sos.ga.gov/

The Secretary of State’s website provides information and contacts for all agencies and services provided by the Georgia Secretary of State
https://sos.ga.gov/
Firefly
https://firefly.sos.ga.gov/

• The blue banners at the top and lower of the home page contain tabs to information, calendars, forms and communications
• The Search function can assist in locating information
• A Firefly account request can be sent to Melanie Frechette at mfrechette@sos.ga.gov or 470-312-2742. Please provide name, email address, job title and phone number.
• If you have been locked out of your account or have lost your account, please contact Melanie for assistance
• There is a Firefly User Guide at Firefly > Training > Firefly > Firefly User Guide for instructions on navigating through the site
Click Here to View April 9, 2019 Special Primary Election Results

https://sos.ga.gov/
The Georgia Secretary of State oversees many divisions that handle Corporations, Elections, Licensing, Securities and Charities.

The Elections Division of the Secretary of State’s Office organizes and oversees all election activity, including voter registration, municipal, state, county, and federal elections. They are responsible for certification of election results as well as certifying the qualification of candidates and preparation of ballots and election forms and materials. The Elections Division provides Great Seal certification for authentication of public documents for foreign use for non-Hague countries. Along with these duties, the Elections Division maintains the Statewide Voter Registration Database to ensure that voter registration lists are current statewide. They are also accountable for investigating election fraud and enforcing state election laws.
The Elections’ Division page contains many helpful resources

- **Voter Info. Dropdown:**
  - Advanced Voting Locations
  - Contact information for County Elections Supervisors and Registrars
  - Voters with Disabilities
  - Voter Registration
  - Absentee Voting
  - My Voter Page

- **Results & Stats. Dropdown:**
  - Election Results
  - Registration Statistics and Demographics
  - Order Voter Lists
  - Other Lists – Notice of Intent to Tabulate/Absentee Voters
Georgia Secretary of State Website
https://sos.ga.gov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOTER INFO.</th>
<th>RESULTS &amp; STATS</th>
<th>CANDIDATE INFO.</th>
<th>COUNTY &amp; AGENCY</th>
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- **Candidate Info. Dropdown:**
  - Qualifying Packets
  - Qualified Candidate Information
  - Information for Candidates
  - Link to Georgia Code

- **County & Agency:**
  - County Liaison Directory
  - Election Connection
    - Military Voting Assistance Officers
    - Agency Resources
    - Public Libraries
    - Deputy Registrars – Educators
    - Nursing Home Administrators
    - State Agencies – NVRA Guides
  - County Connect
    - Link to Firefly
    - County Election Tools
      - Links to MVP, Contacts for Election Officials and Registrars
My Voter Page (MVP)
https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do
My Voter Page (MVP)
https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do

Voter Information
• Registration Status
• Registration Date
• Change Voter Registration
• Sample Ballots

Absentee Ballot Request Information
Polling Place Information
• County Facility name and address
• Directions to Polling Place
• Early Voting Locations and Times
• Municipal (greyed out if not in a city)

Your Election Officials
Request to print or email a precinct card
General Assembly Website

• The Headings at the top banner will direct you to:
  • House of Representatives
    • Information on House members, pending legislation and historical information
  • State Senate
    • Information on State senators, legislation, committee meeting notices and the legislative process
  • Legislation
    • Tracking legislation through the General Assembly
  • Joint Offices
    • Provide day-to-day services for the legislative branch of government
      • Fiscal Office, Information Technology, Legislative Counsel, Reapportionment and Human Resources
Election Terminology

• Election – is a formal decision making process by which a population chooses an individual to hold public office or decide a referendum. There are four levels of Jurisdiction or Authority
  1. Federal
  2. State
  3. County
  4. Municipality

• General Election – an election recurring at stated internals fixed by law or by the respective municipal charters

• Statewide General Elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even numbered years
  • Alternate between Constitutional Offices (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, etc.) and Presidential Elections

• Municipal General Elections are almost always held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in odd numbered years
Election Terminology

• Primary Election - any election held for the purpose of electing party officers or nominating candidates for public offices to be voted for at an election.
• Special Election - an election that arises from some exigency or special need outside the usual routine.
  • The most common are to fill vacancies or to propose questions.
  • Can be held in conjunction with General and Primary Elections or by individually on the dates prescribed by law in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-540
• Nonpartisan Elections – an election in which party labels are not used
  • Many judicial offices are nonpartisan
  • All Municipal Elections are nonpartisan
  • All Special Elections are technically nonpartisan
    • However, candidates may choose to declare a party in special elections for partisan offices
  • Nonpartisan General Election for nonpartisan state and county offices is held in conjunction with the General Primary
Election Terminology

• Runoff Elections
  • No candidate shall be nominated for public office in any primary or special primary or elected to public office in any election or special election unless such candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast to fill such nomination or public office.
  • In instances where no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a run-off primary, special primary runoff, run-off election, or special election runoff between the candidates receiving the two highest numbers of votes shall be held. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-501(a)
  • No write-in candidates are allowed in runoff elections

• Plurality – the receiving by one candidate alone of the highest number of votes cast.
  • If the municipal charter or ordinances of a municipality provides that a candidate may be nominated or elected by a plurality of the votes cast to fill such nomination or public office, such provision shall prevail.
  • Otherwise, no municipal candidate shall be nominated for public office in any primary or elected to public office in any election unless such candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast to fill such nomination or public office. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-501(b)
Election Terminology

• Precinct and Polling Place are often used as synonym, but when we refer to them, they are actually two very different things
  • Precinct – a group of voters from a geographic area that vote at a common polling place
  • Polling Place – the physical location where voters cast their ballot
  • Basically,
    • Precincts are groups of people
    • Polling Places are buildings
• Vote Center – a polling place where all voters from a county can cast their ballot, regardless of what precinct they live in
  • Advanced in-person voting locations operate like vote centers
  • With the current voting equipment in Georgia, vote centers can only be utilized during advanced in-person voting, not on election day
    • Every voter must vote at their designated polling place within their precinct on election day
Qualifications of Electors

• To register to vote in Georgia:
  • A citizen of the United States
  • A legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which he or she wishes to vote
  • At least 17 ½ years of age (must be 18 on or before election day to vote)
• An individual is restricted from voting if
  • Serving a sentence imposed by the conviction of a felony
  • Judicially determined to be mentally incompetent

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-216
Voter Registration in Georgia

- Department of Driver Services – Georgia is an Automated Voter Registration state. Driver’s licenses and Georgia ID applications will ask the applicant to “Opt out” of registering to vote. Since the Fall of 2016, the number of electronic applications to register or update registration has doubled.

- OLVR – Online Voter Registration is available through the SOS website, the Georgia Votes app for anyone with a Georgia issued driver’s license or id. If the applicant does not have a Georgia issued driver’s license or id, the application can be printed, signed and mailed in.

- SOS Website – the pdf fillable form is available as well as a link through MVP

- Mail in Applications can be found at the county registrar’s office, libraries, city halls, public assistance offices, recruitment offices, schools and other government offices

- FPCA – The Federal Post Card Application is available to all military and overseas citizens to register to vote and be eligible for absentee ballots for 12 months

- The postage paid applications are sent to the SOS office in Atlanta. The applications are date stamped with the site code and forwarded to the counties for processing.
Voting in Georgia

• Absentee by Mail – no reason needed (O.C.G.A. 21-2-385)
  • Any voter can request an absentee ballot up to 180 days before an election
  • Ballots are mailed out 22 days prior to a municipal election
  • Ballots must be received by the election’s office by close of polls

• Advanced in Person – begins the fourth Monday prior to any primary, or elections, and general primary runoffs with a federal candidate on the ballot (O.C.G.A. 21-2-385)
  • At least one location is required
  • Must begin the second Monday before a Special Election runoff
  • Saturday voting on the second Saturday prior to the election is required if a federal candidate is on the ballot
  • Notice of times, dates and locations shall be provided to the electors of the jurisdiction

• Election Day
  • Polls open 7am to 7pm
The Elections bill (House Bill 316) we have all been talking about was signed into law by Governor Kemp on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. Please go to the Georgia General Assembly’s website to read the entire bill.


**HB316 – In General**

- Authorizes New Voting Equipment
- Updates Election Practices and Procedures
  - Precinct and Polling Place Changes
  - Absentee and UOCAVA
  - Election Day Voter Assistance
  - Provisional
  - Margin for Recount
  - Certification Deadlines
Election Law Updates

Sections (Too many to list) - New Voting Equipment

- New Definitions for Ballot Marking Device, Ballot Scanner, Electronic Ballot Marker, Optical Scanning Voting System and Scanning Ballot
- Clarifies that in person voting is to be conducted on Electronic Ballot Marking Devices with paper ballots scanned on Ballot Scanners
- Every vote will be on a paper ballot which will be critical for audits

Section 5 - Age Requirement to Vote – Amends O.C.G.A. 21-2-216 (a) and (c)

- As long as the Pending age voter will turn 18 on or before Election day, the pending age voter will be allowed to vote Absentee by Mail or Advanced In Person.
Election Law Updates

Section 13 - Precinct Changes – Amends O.C.G.A. 21-2-262
• Superintendent must provide thirty (30) days prior notice in legal organ of any plan for precinct division, redivision, alteration, formation, or consolidation
• A copy of notice is to be sent to the SOS-Elections Division

Section 14 - Polling Place Changes – Amends O.C.G.A. 21-2-265
• Polling place changes cannot be made within:
  • 60 days of a primary/general election or runoff
  • 30 days prior to a special election or runoff
• Exceptions
  • Emergency or event occurs rendering polling place unavailable in discretion of Superintendent
Election Law Updates

Section 27 - Absentee Ballot Applications – Amends O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381(a)(1)(D) which only allows absentee ballots to be mailed to an address within the county if the requested mailing address is on the elector’s registration record except for physically disabled voters

• Adds a new exception: Absentee ballots can be mailed to “electors in custody in a jail or other detention facility “even if that location is within the county where the elector is registered and the address is not on their registration record

Section 28 – Advance Voting Sites – Amends O.C.G.A. 21-2-382(a)

• Expands allowable Advance Voting locations to include “or a location that is used as an election day polling place, notwithstanding that such location is not a governmental building.”
Election Law Updates

Section 27 and 32 – Absentee Signatures – Cure Process

• Absentee ballot applications and ballots cannot be rejected due to a signature mismatch
  • For an application, a provisional ballot and instructions should be sent
  • If an absentee ballot is returned by the close of polls and there is a signature issue (missing or signature not a match):
    • Absentee ballot is considered a provisional ballot
    • Absentee Clerk should send an affidavit (form to be provided by SOS) with a request to provide HAVA ID
    • Elector can fix the signature issue and the ballot will be counted by providing the affidavit and the HAVA ID
    • The voter has until Friday after the election to provide this documentation

Section 30 – Simplified Absentee Oath Envelope

• Removes address and year of birth lines
• Voter signs, prints name and provides date signed
• Oath envelope must have voter’s name and registration number before mailing
• Provides that provisional ballot information can be sent in envelope
Election Law Updates

Section 30 – UOCAVA EBD
• Expands elections eligible for UOCAVA Electronic Ballot Delivery
  • Federal (already allowed)
  • State
  • County

Section 31 – Absentee Ballot Return – Amends O.C.G.A. 21-2-385(a)
• Absentee Ballot Return by Delivery or Mailing can be done by:
  • Voter Personally
  • Voter’s Family Member
  • Individual Residing in Voter’s Household
  • Employee of Jail or Detention Facility where Elector is in Custody
• Prohibits Ballot Harvesting
Election Law Updates

Section 31 – Absentee Ballot Assistance – Amends O.C.G.A. 21-2-385(b)

One Standard for Voting Assistance

• “A physically disabled or illiterate elector may receive assistance in preparing his or her ballot from” ...
  • Any person of the elector’s choice
  EXCEPT
  • Elector’s Employer or Agent of Employer
  • Officer or Agent of Elector’s Union
  • Candidate on the Ballot or Family Member of Candidate
    • Unless Disabled/Illiterate Elector is Related to Candidate
Election Law Updates

Section 33 – Absentee Ballot Cancellation – Amends O.C.G.A. 21-2-388

• An elector can request to have their absentee by mail ballot cancelled and vote in person if:
  • Voter has not received the ballot
  • Voter has not returned the ballot
  • Voter mailed the ballot, but the officials have not received it

• Elector is required to destroy the unvoted absentee by mail ballot after voting in person
Election Law Updates

Section 34 – Election Day Voter Assistance – Amends O.C.G.A. 21-2-409(b)

One Standard for Voting Assistance

• Notice of the availability of assistance shall be posted at polling place

• “A physically disabled or illiterate elector may receive assistance in preparing his or her ballot from” ...

  • Any person of the elector’s choice
  • EXCEPT
  • Elector’s Employer or Agent of Employer
  • Officer or Agent of Elector’s Union
  • Candidate on the Ballot or Family Member of Candidate

• Unless Disabled/Illiterate Elector is Related to Candidate
Election Law Updates

Section 40 – Certification Deadline – Amends O.C.G.A. 21-2-493(k)

• Superintendent certification deadline moved
  • Was 5:00pm Monday after the Election
  • Now 5:00pm of the Second Friday after the Election
    • 4 additional days to allow for audits
  • Secretary of State has authority to extend deadline further if necessary to complete audits

Section 41 – Margin for Recount – Amends O.C.G.A. 21-2-495

• Difference in voted between winner and loser is 0.5% or less
  • Previously 1% or less
• State Election Board to provide rules for recounts
Thank you for joining us today

It is our goal to provide helpful information and training to benefit each of you. We encourage feedback and questions regarding this training.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Melanie Frechette, Elections Training Ad

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