

VOTING UNDER GEORGIA’S S.B. 202

Absentee Voting from Jail

Georgia’s Election Integrity Act of 2021, also known as S.B. 202, makes changes to the requesting, completing, and delivering an absentee ballot. It is important to be aware of these new requirements and restrictions before voting absentee from jail.

ANTICIPATE LONG DELAYS—TRY TO COMPLETE EACH STEP AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

➔ **STEP 1: CHECK YOUR VOTING ELIGIBILITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IF YOU ARE NOT SERVING ANY PART OF A SENTENCE FOR A FELONY CONVICTION.**

This means that—if you *are not serving any part of a sentence* for a *felony* conviction—you can still vote even if:

- You are being held as a pre-trial detainee of your sentence
- You are incarcerated on a misdemeanor conviction or are still serving part of a sentence for a misdemeanor conviction
- You have a former misdemeanor or felony conviction for which you have completed all parts of your sentence
- You have Felony First Offender & Conditional Discharge status for a felony conviction sentence that you are still serving
- Any combination of the above

Please click [here](#) for information from the Georgia Justice Project on voter eligibility for Georgians with criminal records.

➔ **STEP 2: CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE WHERE YOU LIVED PRIOR TO BEING DETAINED IN JAIL?**

Check your voter registration, register to vote, and make changes to current registration here registertovote.sos.ga.gov.

Deadline: 29 days before election.

➔ **STEP 3: DO YOU HAVE EITHER YOUR GEORGIA DRIVER’S LICENSE OR STATE ID NUMBER?**

Make sure you know your license or state ID number or find a friend or relative who can access your driver’s license or state ID number.

If you **do not** have a Georgia driver’s license or state ID card, be prepared to take a photo or make a paper photocopy of any other form of acceptable ID to request an absentee ballot:

- An expired Georgia driver’s license
- Any valid state- or federal-issued photo ID
- A valid U.S. passport
- A valid employee photo ID the U.S. government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority, or other entity of Georgia
- A valid U.S. military photo ID
- A valid tribal photo ID
- A student ID from Georgia’s public colleges and universities and technical colleges
- A current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address

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If you or your family member cannot independently access a phone, camera, scanner or photocopier to take a photo or make a copy of your other form of acceptable ID, submit a request or grievance with the jail for materials.

➔ **STEP 4: ACCESS AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION HERE [BIT.LY/3KC89EP](https://bit.ly/3KC89EP).**

If you cannot independently access an absentee ballot application:

- ➔ Have a family member bring you an absentee ballot application.
The family member must be 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 residing in your household.
- ➔ If you have a physical disability or are incarcerated in a different county in which you are registered to vote, have a family member fill out the absentee ballot application for you.
The family member must be 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 residing in your household.
- ➔ Submit a request or grievance with the jail.

Deadline: You can submit an absentee ballot application as early as 78 days before an election.

➔ **STEP 5: MAKE SURE TO FILL OUT YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION WITH THE PROPER IDENTIFICATION.**

If you have a driver's license or state ID card, you—or the authorized family member—may use your driver's license number or state ID number to complete the absentee ballot application.

If you **do not** have a Georgia driver's license or state ID card:

- ➔ You or an authorized family member can send a photo of your other form of acceptable ID to the election supervisor in the county where you are registered to vote.
 - ➔ You can find your county election supervisor's contact information here elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/countyelectionoffices.do.
- ➔ You or an authorized family member can attach a paper photocopy of your other form of acceptable ID to your absentee ballot application.

➔ **STEP 6: RETURN YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION.**

You or an authorized family member can mail, fax, email (as an attachment), or deliver the absentee ballot application in-person to your local County Board Elections & Registration.

- ➔ You can find your county election supervisor's contact information here elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/countyelectionoffices.do.

Deadline: Received by the county 11 days before the election.

➔ **STEP 7: CHECK YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION STATUS.**

Go here mvp.sos.ga.gov. Enter your name, county, and birthdate information. Click the link for *Absentee Ballot/Early Voting Status*.

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➔ **STEP 8: WHEN YOU GET YOUR BALLOT, COMPLETE YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
Sign the oath and enter your Georgia driver’s license, state ID, or last four digits of your social security number on the back of the return envelope.

➔ **STEP 9: RETURN YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL OR BY DROPBOX.**
If returning by mail, make sure to use **two stamps**.

You can also have an authorized family member return your absentee ballot for you to a dropbox. There is at least one dropbox located in every county.

Deadline: Received by the county by 7pm on election day.

➔ **STEP 10: CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOUR BALLOT WAS ACCEPTED.**
Go here mvp.sos.ga.gov. Enter your name, county, and birthdate information. Click the link for *Absentee Ballot/Early Voting Status*.

You should check every day—or as often as possible—until you see your ballot was accepted.

Need more help? Call the national, nonpartisan Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

You can also contact the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Voting Rights Practice Group at <https://www.splcenter.org/tell-us-your-voting-story>.

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Please seek additional guidance from the Secretary of State and your county’s election authority. Find your county election supervisor’s contact information [here](#).**