



## **Absentee Ballot Vote-By-Mail Application FAQs**

### **Georgia 2020 Presidential, Federal, State, and Local Primary Election**

**Q: What is Georgia's vote by mail? How does it work?**

A: To vote by mail, or vote by absentee ballot (another term for the same process) a voter submits an application for an absentee ballot to their local county elections office, which will mail the voter an absentee ballot. The voter must then complete the absentee ballot and return it to the address on the ballot so that it is received before 7:00 pm on Election Day, June 9, 2020.

**Q: Do voters need a special reason to obtain permission to vote by mail?**

A: No! Any Georgia voter can choose to vote by mail. Some categories of voters, such as elderly or disabled voters, can register once to receive an absentee ballot, and will receive all ballots in that election cycle by mail.

**Q: What if I already voted in March for the Presidential Preference Primary?**

A: If you have already voted in the Presidential Preference Primary either via an absentee ballot or at an early vote location, your ballot should be accepted and processed on Election Day, June 9, 2020. You can confirm that your ballot is accepted online on the Secretary of State's "My Voter" page: <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov>. If you have questions about your ballot, call the Democratic Party of Georgia's Voter Protection Hotline at 888-730-5816

The June 9th Primary includes Presidential, federal (Senate and Congressional), state and local races on the ballot. If you return the application for an absentee ballot and have already voted in March for the Presidential Preference Primary, you will receive a ballot for these other races.

**Q: I have received a "Secure the Vote" application for an absentee ballot in the mail, can I use this to apply for an absentee ballot?**

A: Yes, you can use this form to request an absentee ballot.

**Q: What if I did not receive the "Secure the Vote" application or I lost it or threw it out?**

A: If you didn't receive the form in the mail or lost the form, you can download and print a copy of the application from the website [www.GAVBM.com](http://www.GAVBM.com) or call your local county elections office and ask them to send you an application.



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**Q: My “Secure the Vote” application says the election date is May 19, 2020. Can I still use it to get a ballot for an election that has now been postponed to June 9, 2020?**

A: Yes. The “Secure the Vote” application will be used for absentee ballots for the rescheduled General Primary, Nonpartisan and Presidential Preference Primary Elections.

**Q: What information is required to complete an application for an absentee ballot in the mail?**

A: You must confirm your permanent address, select ballot (Democratic, Republican, Non Partisan), sign, and date the application. You cannot complete the application electronically; you must sign a hard copy document. You can download a step-by-step guide on how to fill out your Absentee Ballot Application from the website [www.gavbm.com](http://www.gavbm.com).

**Q: How do I return my application for an absentee ballot?**

A: You can take a picture of your completed application and email it to your local county elections office. If you are not able to email a picture of your application, you can mail it in. To mail, remove the instructions section, then fold so that the county mailing address is on the outside, tape the mailer closed where indicated, write your return mailing address on the three lines in the upper left, and make sure to add a stamp. You can find your local county election’s office email and mailing address by calling the Democratic Party of Georgia’s Voter Protection Hotline at 888-730-5816 or online at [www.georgiademocrat.org/wheretosubmit](http://www.georgiademocrat.org/wheretosubmit).

**Q: How do I purchase postage to return my application by mail to the local county elections office?**

A: You will need one 55¢ United State Postal Service (USPS) First-Class Mail Stamp. You can purchase postage at any US Post Office location, as well as most grocery stores and pharmacies or through online retailers including USPS. Be sure to use clear tape to seal the edge of the paper and place the stamp where it reads “Affix First Class Stamp Here.” You can then place the stamped and sealed application in a USPS dropbox for pick up.

**Q: If a voter can’t get to the post office, can someone mail their application for them?**

A: Yes. Someone else can mail the application on behalf of the voter, but they must NOT mail a completed ballot on behalf of the voter. There are exceptions for disabled voters so call the Democratic Party of Georgia’s Voter Protection Hotline at 888-730-5816 if you have questions or need assistance.

**Q: When do I need to submit my application in order to receive my ballot in time?**

A: We recommend sending your ballot request as soon as possible. This is to allow time for your application to be processed and for you to receive your ballot in mail, to complete your ballot, and then mail your ballot back so that it is received by Election Day, June 9, 2020. Ballots must be received by the local county elections office by 7:00pm on Election Day, June 9, 2020 in order to count.



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**Q: Once a voter mails the application in, have they voted?**

A: No. Once the voter completes and mails the application to their local elections office, that office will mail the voter an absentee ballot. The voter must then complete the absentee ballot and return it to the address on the envelope provided with the ballot. The counties will evaluate the signature on the ballot envelope to determine whether they can accept the ballot.

**Q: After I mail in my application how can I check to be sure that it was received?**

A: You can track the status of your ballot request on the Secretary of State's "My Voter" page: <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov>

**Q: What should I do if it says application "Status: Rejected" or if it does not show that my application was received or that my ballot was mailed?**

A: If you mailed your application more than a week ago, and you do not see that it has been received when you look yourself up on the Secretary of State's "My Voter" page, please immediately call the Democratic Party of Georgia's Voter Protection Hotline at 888-730-5816.

**Q: What if I am not registered to vote in Georgia?**

A: Absentee ballots are only provided to registered voters in Georgia. You can check your registration status on the Secretary of State's "My Voter Page," <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/>. If you are not registered, there may still be time. The deadline to register before the primary election is May 11, 2020.

**Q: Who is eligible to vote by mail in Georgia?**

A: Any registered voter in Georgia is eligible to vote by mail. To register to vote in Georgia, you must be a U.S. citizen who resides in Georgia, and who will be at least 18 on Election Day, June 9, 2020. Persons who are still serving a felony sentence (including probation, parole, or an outstanding fine) or were found mentally incompetent by a judge are NOT eligible to vote.

**Q: I have questions or am confused by the absentee application form. Can I talk to someone to help me?**

A: Yes! You can call the Democratic Party of Georgia's Voter Protection Hotline at 888-730-5816 and they will be able to answer your questions.

**Q: What if I have a voting question that isn't covered here?**

A: Call the Democratic Party of Georgia's Voter Protection Hotline at 888-730-5816.

