



# Student Voting Guide for Georgia

## 2014 Registration Deadlines and Election Dates

- General Election Registration Deadline: The 5<sup>th</sup> Monday before Election Day—October 6
- Early Voting Period: The 4th Monday before Election Day through the day before Election Day—October 13-3
- General Election: November 4

Voter registration forms, polling place locations, and more information can be found at <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/>

## Register at School or Home?

Students have a choice about where to register to vote:

### School residence:

- Students attending college in Georgia may register to vote at their school address if they presently intend to make it their fixed home and to return there after any temporary absence like summer vacation. They do not have to plan to reside at that address permanently or after graduation.

### Home residence:

- Some students may choose to register or remain registered at their home (prior) address in Georgia or outside the state if they intend to return there after college. In this case, a student may need to vote by absentee ballot.
- Georgia residents who move away for college can keep their Georgia voting residency so long as they still consider Georgia the location of their primary residence and do not register or declare residency elsewhere. These students may also request an absentee ballot.

For other state's registration information visit: [www.campusvoteproject.org/studentguides](http://www.campusvoteproject.org/studentguides)

## What Type of ID Do I Need to Register?

To register online you need a Georgia driver's license number or Georgia ID number. You can register to vote online at <https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR>

Georgia requires newly registered voters to provide proof of citizenship **and** proof of identity. Some of these documents overlap. Acceptable proof of citizenship includes:

- A Georgia driver's license or ID card number (provided you have previously already given satisfactory proof of citizenship to the Department of Driver Services).
- A legible photocopy of an out-of-state driver's license or ID card that indicates citizenship status.
- A legible photocopy of a government agency ID that indicates citizenship status.
- A legible photocopy of the applicant's birth certificate that verifies citizenship.
- A legible photocopy of your US passport identifying you and your passport number
- Presenting your passport in person to the registrar
- Presenting your naturalization documents or your alien registration number in person
- A Bureau of Indian Affairs card number, tribal treaty card number, or tribal enrollment number

[www.campusvoteproject.org](http://www.campusvoteproject.org)

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## What Type of ID Do I Need to Register? (continued)

Georgia also requires newly registered voter to provide photo ID. Acceptable IDs include:

- A Georgia driver's license.
- A valid Georgia voter photo ID card or other valid photo ID issued by any branch/division of local, state, or federal government authorized to give photo ID cards.
- A valid United States passport.
- A valid employee photo ID card issued by any branch/division of local, state, or federal

## What Type of ID Do I Need to Vote?

All voters in Georgia must show ID at the polls prior to voting:

Acceptable Identification is:

- A Georgia driver's license, even if expired
- Any valid state or federal issued photo ID, including a free Voter ID Card issued by your county registrar's office or by the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS)
- Valid U.S. passport
- Valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U. S. Government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of this state
- Valid U.S. military photo ID
- Valid tribal photo ID
- Student ID cards: Georgia accepts student ID cards from certain public and technical institutions. Students at private universities must show one of the other acceptable forms of photo ID to vote. You can see if your school's student ID is accepted [here](#)

## Where Do I Vote?

- Once registered, Georgia residents may find their polling place online at <http://mvp.sos.state.ga.us/> through the Georgia "My Voter Page" lookup.
- Voters must cast their ballots in the correct precinct. Sometimes there are multiple precincts in one polling place, so confirm your precinct ahead of time and get in the correct line!

## How Can I Vote?

### Absentee By Mail

- You do not need an excuse to vote by mail in Georgia, but you must include proof of photo ID and (if you didn't do so when registering) proof of citizenship.
- The absentee ballot application is available here [http://sos.ga.gov/admin/uploads/absentee\\_ballot\\_app\\_20143.pdf](http://sos.ga.gov/admin/uploads/absentee_ballot_app_20143.pdf)

### Early In Person

- You can deliver your absentee ballot in person between the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday before Election Day and the day before Election Day.

### On Election Day

- The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (8 p.m. in cities with over 300,000 people).

***The Higher Education Act requires most colleges and universities to make a good faith effort to distribute voter registration forms to every student.***

***Does yours?***

*This Guide was prepared by FELN staff who are not licensed to practice law in Georgia and FELN intends that the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Georgia legal professional.*

Last updated June 20, 2014

## Common Questions

### Will voting in Georgia affect my federal financial aid?

Where you register to vote will not affect federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and Perkins or Stafford loans or your dependency status regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

### Will I lose my scholarship if I register to vote in Georgia?

Generally, no. If you receive scholarship money from a state, county, town, or a private entity (i.e., an entity other than the federal government) you should confirm that residency in a particular place is not a requirement of the scholarship and/or that voter registration in Georgia will not affect your eligibility.

### Will registering to vote in Georgia affect my driver's license or car registration?

No, but drivers are required to get a Georgia driver's license within 30 days of establishing residency. For more information, you may wish to contact the [Georgia Department of Driver Services](#).

### Will registering to vote in Georgia prevent my parents from claiming me as a dependent on their taxes?

No. Students are often told that registering to vote in a different state from their parents will make them lose their dependency status. This is not true. Where you register to vote will have no effect on your parent's tax status.

### Does being an in-state or out-of-state student for tuition purposes affect my right to vote?

No. You may choose to vote in your college community or back home regardless of your tuition status.

**According to the U.S. Supreme Court, students have the right to register and vote in their college towns if they meet the same requirements as everyone else. Misinformation, such as claims that registering to vote at school may jeopardize eligibility for financial aid or insurance, are sometimes used to discourage students from voting locally.**