

# Advance Voting Dates & Notice

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- There shall be a period of advance voting that shall commence:
  - on the fourth Monday immediately prior to each primary or election; and
  - as soon as possible prior to a runoff from any other general primary or election but no later than the second Monday immediately prior to such runoff and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff.
- Voting shall be conducted:
  - Beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. on weekdays, other than observed state holidays.
  - Second and third Saturdays during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 5:00 P.M.
- If the registrar or absentee ballot clerk so chooses, the second Sunday, the third Sunday, or both the second and third Sundays prior to a primary or election during hours determined by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk, but no longer than 7:00 A.M. through 7:00 P.M.



# Absentee Ballot Outer Envelope & Instructions

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- **New Absentee Ballot Envelope**

- The envelope shall be designed so that the number of the elector's Georgia driver's license or identification card, the last four digits of the elector's social security number, and the elector's date of birth shall be hidden from view when the envelope is correctly sealed.

- **New Absentee Ballot Instructions**

- The uniform instructions shall prominently include specific instructions stating that the elector shall mark his or her ballot in private and sign the oath by writing his or her usual signature with a pen and ink under penalty of false swearing that the elector has not allowed any person to observe the marking of his or her ballot other than an authorized person lawfully assisting the elector if the elector is entitled to assistance

- **Special Absentee Runoff Ballot & Instructions (No more SWABs)**

- The election superintendent shall prepare special absentee run-off ballots for general primaries and general elections for use by qualified electors who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. Section 20301, et seq.

# Mailing Absentee Ballots

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- For all timely received applications for absentee ballots, the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall mail or issue absentee ballots, provisional absentee ballots, and notices of rejection as soon as possible upon determining their eligibility within the time periods set forth in this subsection.
- During the period for advance voting, the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall make such determinations and mail or issue absentee ballots, provisional absentee ballots, and notices of rejection of application within **three days** after receiving a timely application for an absentee ballot.
- an elector confined in a hospital may make application for an absentee ballot on the day of a primary or election or during a **ten-day** period immediately preceding the day of such primary or election.
- Such application shall immediately be processed and the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk may deliver the absentee ballot to such elector.



# Mailing Absentee Ballots

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- The board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall mail or issue official absentee ballots to all eligible applicants not more than **29** days but not less than **25** days prior to any presidential preference primary, general primary other than a municipal general primary, general election other than a municipal general election, or special primary or special election in which there is a candidate for a federal office on the ballot
- however, that official absentee ballots shall be issued to any elector of the jurisdiction who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. Section 20301, et seq., as amended, beginning **49** days prior to a **federal** primary or election, and not later than **45** days prior to a federal primary or election.



# Verifying Absentee Ballot Application Information

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- If found ineligible or if the application is not timely received, the clerk or the board of registrars shall deny the application and promptly notify the applicant in writing of the ground of ineligibility.
  - However, an absentee ballot application shall not be rejected solely due to a mismatch between the identifying information of the elector on the application and the identifying information of the elector on file with the board of registrars.
  - In such cases, the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall send the elector a provisional absentee ballot with the designation 'Provisional Ballot' on the outer oath envelope and information prepared by the Secretary of State as to the process to be followed to cure the discrepancy.
- If the registrar or clerk is unable to determine the identity of the elector from information given on the application or if the application is not complete or if the oath on the application is not signed, the registrar or clerk should promptly contact the elector in writing to request the necessary additional information and a signed copy of the oath.

# Receiving Absentee Ballot Applications

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- The registrar or absentee ballot clerk shall verify the identity of the applicant and determine if the applicant is eligible to vote in the primary or election involved.
- In order to verify the identity of the applicant, the registrar or absentee ballot clerk shall compare the information below on the application with the information on file in the registrar's office.
  - the identifying information applicant's name
  - The date of birth, and
  - The number of his or her Georgia driver's license or identification card.
- If the application does not contain the number of the applicant's Georgia driver's license or identification card, the registrar or absentee ballot clerk shall verify that the identification provided with the application identifies the applicant.



# Returning Absentee Ballot Applications

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- No person or entity other than the elector, a relative authorized to request an absentee ballot for such elector, a person signing as assisting an illiterate or physically disabled elector with his or her application, a common carrier charged with returning the ballot application, an absentee ballot clerk, a registrar, or a law enforcement officer in the course of an investigation shall handle or return an elector's completed absentee ballot application.
- Handling a completed absentee ballot application by any person or entity other than as allowed in this subsection shall be a misdemeanor.





# Absentee Ballot Applications

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

The application shall also include:

- the identity of the primary, election, or runoff in which the elector wishes to vote;
  - and the name and relationship of the person requesting the ballot if other than the elector;
  - and an oath for the elector or relative to write his or her usual signature with a **pen and ink** affirming that the elector is a qualified Georgia elector and the facts presented on the application are true.
- Secretary of State, election superintendent, board of registrars, other governmental entity, nor employee or agent thereof shall send absentee ballot applications directly to any elector except upon request of such elector or a relative authorized to request an absentee ballot for such elector. Only to individuals who have not already requested, received, or voted an absentee ballot in the primary, election, or runoff.





# Advance Voting Dates & Notice

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- The Board of registrars must publish and post the dates, times, and locations of the availability of advance voting:
  - on the homepage of the county's publicly accessible website associated with elections or registrations, if applicable, or in a newspaper of general circulation
  - and at a prominent location in the county
- The notice must be published/posted:
  - no later than 14 days prior to the beginning of the advance voting period for a general primary, special primary, general election, or special election and
  - no later than seven days prior to the beginning of the advance voting period for any run-off election.
- Any new advance voting locations added after that deadline shall be published in the same manner as soon as possible.
- The board of registrars shall not remove any advance voting location after the notice of such location is published, except in the case of an emergency or unavoidable event that renders a location unavailable for use.



# Absentee Ballot Daily Data

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- On each day of an absentee voting period, each county board of registrars or municipal absentee ballot clerk shall report for the county or municipality to the Secretary of State and post on the county or municipal website, or if the county or municipality does not maintain such a website, a place of public prominence in the county or municipality, not later than 10:00 A.M. on each business day the number of persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued, the number of persons who have returned absentee ballots, and the number of absentee ballots that have been rejected.
- Additionally, on each day of an advance voting period, each county board of registrars or municipal absentee ballot clerk shall report to the Secretary of State and post on the county or municipal website, or if the county or municipality does not maintain such a website, a place of public prominence in the county or municipality, not later than 10:00 A.M. on each business day the number of persons who have voted at the advance voting sites in the county or municipality.
- During the absentee voting period and for a period of three days following a primary, election, or runoff, each county board of registrars or municipal absentee ballot clerk shall report to the Secretary of State and post on the county or municipal website, or if the county or municipality does not maintain such a website, a place of public prominence in the county or municipality, not later than 10:00 A.M. on each business day the number of persons who have voted provisional ballots, the number of provisional ballots that have verified or cured and accepted for counting, and the number of provisional ballots that have been rejected."

# Returning an Absentee Ballot

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

In order to verify that the absentee ballot was voted by the elector who requested the ballot, the elector shall print the number of his or her Georgia driver's license number or identification card in the space provided on the outer oath envelope.

The elector shall also print his or her date of birth in the space provided in the outer oath envelope.

If the elector does not have a Georgia driver's license or state identification card, the elector must print the last four digits of his or her social security number in the space provided on the outer oath envelope.

If the elector does not have a Georgia driver's license, identification card, or a social security number, the elector must place a copy of one of the forms of identification set forth in subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-417 in the outer envelope.



# Verifying Absentee Ballots

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

The registrar or clerk will then compare the number of the elector's Georgia driver's license number or state identification card and date of birth entered on the absentee ballot envelope contained in the elector's voter registration records.

If the elector has affirmed on the envelope that he or she does not have a Georgia driver's license or state identification card, the registrar or clerk shall compare the last four digits of the elector's social security number and date of birth entered on the envelope with the same information contained in the elector's voter registration records.

The registrar or clerk shall also confirm that the elector signed the oath and the person assisting the elector, if any, signed the required oath.

If the elector has signed the elector's oath, the person assisting has signed the required oath, if applicable, and the identifying information entered on the absentee ballot envelope matches the same information contained in the elector's voter registration record, the registrar or clerk shall so certify by signing or initialing his or her name below the voter's oath.



# Verifying Absentee Ballots

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If the elector has failed to sign the oath, or if the signature identifying information entered on the absentee ballot envelope does not appear to be a valid match the same information appearing in the elector's voter registration record, or if the elector has failed to furnish required information or information so furnished does not conform with that on file in the registrar's or clerk's office, or if the elector is otherwise found disqualified to vote, the registrar or clerk shall write across the face of the envelope 'Rejected,' giving the reason therefor.

The elector may cure a failure to sign the oath, an invalid signature nonmatching identifying information, or missing information by submitting an affidavit to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk along with a copy of one of the forms of identification enumerated in subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-417.



# Early Processing/Scanning

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- Can begin at 8:00 A.M. on the third Monday prior to the day of the primary, election, or runoff.
- The election superintendent shall be authorized to open the outer oath envelope of absentee ballots that have been verified and accepted, remove the contents of such outer envelope, or to open the inner envelope marked 'Official Absentee Ballot,' and scan the absentee ballot using one or more ballot scanners.
- At least **three** persons who are registrars, deputy registrars, poll workers, or absentee ballot clerks must be present before commencing.
- **Three** persons who are registrars, deputy registrars, or absentee ballot clerks shall be present at all times while the outer absentee ballot envelopes are being opened and the absentee ballots are being scanned.





# Early Processing/Scanning

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- No person shall tally, tabulate, estimate, or attempt to tally, tabulate, or estimate or cause the ballot scanner or any other equipment to produce any tally or tabulate, partial or otherwise, of the absentee ballots cast until the time for the closing of the polls on the day of the primary, election, or runoff except as provided in this Code section.
- Prior to beginning the process set forth in this paragraph, the superintendent shall provide written notice to the Secretary of State in writing at least seven days prior to processing and scanning absentee ballots. Such notice shall contain the dates, start and end times, and location or locations where absentee ballots will be processed and scanned.
- The superintendent shall also post such notice publicly in a prominent location in the superintendent's office and on the home page of the county election superintendent's website, if the county election superintendent maintains such a website.





# Election Forum 2021 Schedule

- Tentative Schedule (subject to change)
  - May 20, 2021
  - June 24, 2021
  - July 22, 2021
  - August 24, 2021
  - September 16, 2021
  - October 6, 2021
  - November 10, 2021
  - December 8, 2021



Please know that scheduling conflicts will happen over the year for all of us. The webinars are recorded and posted to Firefly after the live event. If you cannot log in at the scheduled time, you will have access to the recorded webinar.