

POLLING PROBLEMS SOLVED

An Explainer about Provisional Voting

Every vote matters, and we want to ensure that every eligible voter has the opportunity to have their voice heard—even if there are questions about your eligibility on Election Day. Provisional voting serves as a safeguard for your voting rights, allowing you to cast a ballot that will be counted once your eligibility is confirmed. This guide is here to help you understand the provisional voting process and what you can expect.

The purpose of provisional voting: If there are issues with your registration status, identification, or if you are at the wrong polling place, you may be asked to vote provisionally. This means your ballot will be set aside until election officials can verify your eligibility.

Reasons you might be asked to vote provisionally:

- Your name does not appear on the list of registered voters at your polling place.
- You do not have acceptable identification with you.
- There are discrepancies in your registration details.
You have already requested an absentee ballot but show up to vote in person.
- You are at the wrong polling place.

Casting a provisional ballot: When you arrive at the polling place and encounter an issue, you will be directed to complete a provisional ballot form. You will receive a provisional ballot and an envelope. Fill out your ballot as you normally would. Place your completed ballot in the provided envelope and seal it, then double-check all the required information on the envelope is filled out correctly. You will receive a form with instructions on how to check the status of your provisional ballot. Keep this form for your records.

Verification: After Election Day, election officials will review your provisional ballot to determine whether it can be counted. They will do this by verifying your registration status, confirming any necessary identification, and checking for any discrepancies or issues that need to be resolved.

Follow-up: You can track the status of your provisional ballot. The receipt you receive will include information on how to do this, either through a dedicated online portal or by contacting the local elections office. Be proactive and ensure any required follow-up actions are completed promptly.

Outcome: If your eligibility is confirmed, your provisional ballot will be counted. If there are unresolved issues, you will be notified and given information on the next steps or reasons why your ballot could not be counted.

Key Tips:

- Ensure you have proper identification when you go to vote.
- Verify your registration status and polling place ahead of time using the Georgia Secretary of State's My Voter page.
If you move, update your registration information promptly to avoid issues on Election Day.

While it can be disheartening to deviate from your original voting plan, I hope this explanation of provisional voting instills greater confidence in our electoral system. In an era of growing distrust in election processes, safeguards like provisional voting are crucial for ensuring that every eligible voter can participate, that every valid vote is counted, and that our elections remain fair, reliable, accessible, and accurate. Should you have any questions or concerns, my staff and I are here to assist you.

Kerry Curry

