



THE LONG AND WINDING JOURNEY OF AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN GEORGIA

Step 1: REQUEST



YOU REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT,

On a paper application form that includes your signature, which you mail to your county elections office. Your County Elections Office must receive your paper application no later than 11 days prior to Election Day in order for it to be accepted.

Step 2: VERIFICATION!

Are you actually registered to vote?
Does your information match what's in the voter registration records?

YES.
APPLICATION
ACCEPTED!
Proceed to Step 3.

NO.
APPLICATION
REJECTED



Step 3: MAIL

ELECTION OFFICIALS
MAIL YOUR BALLOT TO YOU.

Step 4: MARK AND RETURN



YOU FILL OUT YOUR BALLOT, PLACE IT IN A SECRECY ENVELOPE THAT GOES INSIDE AN OUTER ENVELOPE, COMPLETE AND SIGN, THEN SEAL THAT OUTER ENVELOPE, AND RETURN IT.

Step 5: INFORMATION CHECK

ELECTION OFFICIALS REVIEW THE INFORMATION ON THE OUTER ENVELOPE AND COMPARE THE INFORMATION TO YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS.

DOES THE INFORMATION MATCH?

YES.
BALLOT ACCEPTED!
Proceed to Step 6.

UNCLEAR.

Election official consults with two colleagues. Do the majority agree there is a match?

YES.
Ballot accepted!
Proceed to Step 6.

NO.
Ballot set aside for curing.

Ballot set aside for curing.
a. You are notified that you must cure your ballot, meaning fix any problems with it and confirm it was really you who sent it.
b. Did you cure it in time?

YES.
Ballot accepted!
Proceed to Step 6.

NO.
Ballot Rejected.

Step 6: PROCESSING

YOUR BALLOT IS PROCESSED.**

- Officials remove the secrecy envelope from the outer envelope and put it with other voters' secrecy envelopes, preserving your legal right to cast a secret ballot. They keep the outer envelope for their records.
- Officials remove your ballot from the secrecy envelope and record your choices.

CONGRATS!!!



**YOU'VE EXERCISED
YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!**

* Party monitors can observe the process of information verification to make sure it takes place according to procedure. They can get close enough to understand the process, but not so close that your private information is at risk.

** Party monitors can observe the processing of absentee ballots to make sure it takes place according to procedure.