

Absentee voting by mail is a two-step process.

- (1) The voter or a family member must apply for a ballot, which will be mailed to the voter.
- (2) Then the voter fills out the ballot and returns it in person or by mail.

### Absentee Ballot Applications

How do I request blank absentee ballot applications for our residents?

They may be requested by phone to be mailed, downloaded from our website, or picked up in bundles of 25. Family members may also apply for absentee ballots at the main office for a disabled voter. In all cases, the ballot will be mailed to the voter.

Do I sign the application if I'm assisting a resident and I'm not a family member?

Yes. Sign next to the line where the voter makes a signature or mark.

Does the resident need to put their signature or mark on the application if he/she is being assisted by someone other than a relative?

Yes.

What if the voter's signature has changed?

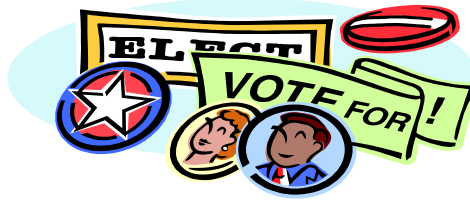
The voter's signature on the application and the ballot must match the Voter Registration record. The voter will be notified if the signature does not match and will be required to complete a new voter registration application to update the signature prior to the ballot being issued.

How and who can return an application?

The application may be mailed or faxed to this office. If the voter is disabled, an adult family member may complete an application for the disabled elector. Ballots cannot be carried out of the office.

How early can applications be received prior to the Election Day?

180 days.



When will the voter receive the ballot?

Ballots with federal candidates are available 45 days before the election, and usually 21-30 days for other elections. Once the application is received, the ballot will be mailed within approximately two days of receipt. Ballots for runoffs are printed and mailed as quickly as possible.

May a resident receive a ballot for more than one election with one application?

A disabled voter, or a voter 75 years of age or older may submit one application for the General Primary. By checking the appropriate box on the application they will automatically be mailed ballots for the General Primary Runoff, General Election and General Runoff.

Is a resident required to complete an application for the Presidential Primary also?

Yes, "all" option is not available for Pres. Primary.

Does a voter have to complete a separate application for a Special Election even though they applied for a ballot in a Primary and checked the box for "all" elections?

Yes.

Can a ballot be mailed to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Gwinnett County address, not the one at which the voter is registered?

Only if a voter is disabled.

What is the last day a voter can apply for an absentee ballot before an election?

Friday before the election is the last day to apply.

### Voting and Returning the Ballot

Is it important for a resident to make a mark on the yellow oath envelope if they are blind?

A signature/mark of the voter is required for the ballot to be counted. The voter is swearing or affirming the oath contained on the envelope.

Who can assist the voter with the ballot and sign the yellow oath envelope?

Any Gwinnett County registered voter, or adult relative. Be sure to check the box that indicates the elector requires assistance either due to physical disability or inability to read English.

How many voters may one person assist?

If there is a federal candidate on the ballot – unlimited. No federal candidate on ballot – 10.

Why are there so many envelopes?

The smallest, white envelope is the "Official Privacy Envelope" which ensures that no one knows how an individual voted when tabulation occurs. The ballot must be sealed in the white Privacy Envelope first, and then sealed in the yellow Oath Envelope.

How can we return the ballot?

If the voter is disabled, the ballot can be returned by an adult relative, individual living in the household of the disabled voter, or mailed. If the voter is not disabled, **the voter** must return the ballot in person or by mail.

My spouse isn't disabled, but I want to bring his/her ballot to your office when I return mine. Unless the voter is disabled, only **the voter** may mail or return the voter's ballot.

When is the deadline for a ballot to be returned?

Absentee ballots must be received through the mail or in person at the Elections Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Disabled voters may have a family member deliver the ballot to the Elections Office.

## 2010 Election Dates & Deadlines

General Primary  
July 20  
Last day to register - June 21

Runoff  
August 10

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General Election  
November 2  
Last day to register - October 4

Runoff  
November 30

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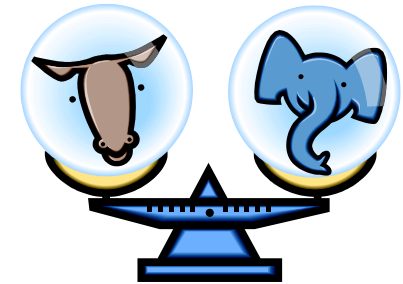
### Contact Us

Monday - Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
(678) 226-7210  
FAX (678)-226-7209  
[absentee@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:absentee@gwinnettcountry.com)

Meeting the Needs of Gwinnett County  
Voters



## Absentee Voting 2010



## Questions & Answers

Important Information for Assisted  
Living, Nursing Home Staff &  
Family Members

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