

Provisional Ballot FAQ's

What is a provisional ballot?

A provisional ballot is used to record a vote if a voter's eligibility is in question and the voter would otherwise not be permitted to vote at his or her polling place. The content of a provisional ballot is no different from a regular ballot, but it is cast "provisionally" until the voter's eligibility is determined

Why might I have to vote a provisional ballot?

- Your name could not be found on the list of voters where you went to vote. This usually happens because you are not registered to vote or you moved and did not update your address for voting.

You are not eligible to vote on a voting unit because either:

1. You moved, did not update your address for voting, and tried to vote at the polling place for your new address.
 2. Official records show that you received an absentee ballot for this election or voted advance in person, in this election; however, if this is an error and poll officials can't reach the Elections Office you would still be required to vote the provisional ballot.
- You did not provide ID when asked. You need to show ID because you are voting for the first time in Georgia and did not previously meet the ID requirements. For your ballot to count, provide ID as directed. Acceptable forms of ID are provided to you at the time you cast a provisional ballot.
 - If you cast a provisional ballot because your right to vote was challenged at the polling place the election officials either determined that you were ineligible to vote or were unable to determine your eligibility, you must provide any identification or other documentation required to resolve the challenge.
 - A court ordered polling places to stay open late, and you voted during this time. When a court issues an order like this, all voters who vote during the extra hours must vote by provisional ballot. As long as the court order is upheld, your provisional ballot will count.

How do I vote by provisional ballot?

Provisional ballots are cast using optical scan ballots. These ballots require you to bubble in the oval for the candidates or issues. You will be provided instructions on how to cast the ballot and how to determine if your ballot was counted.

Can someone help me vote my provisional ballot?

Yes. The person helping you can complete the application, if one is needed, but you must sign or make a mark. The helper must also sign where indicated that they assisted you with completing the application. If you cannot sign the voter certificate, one will be prepared for you. Your helper cannot try to influence your votes and must sign an Oath of Assisted Elector to accompany you into the voting booth.

Will my votes be secret?

Yes. Your ballot will stay in the envelope until it's determined if the ballot should count wholly or partially. If your ballot should be counted, it will be removed and immediately separated from your paperwork so that your votes will be kept secret.

If I am registered to vote in another county, will my provisional ballot count?

No. Under Georgia law, you must be registered to vote in the county where you are attempting to vote. While you will be permitted to vote a provisional ballot in any polling place that you go to, your ballot will not count unless you are properly registered to vote in that county. If you vote at the wrong county polling place for your residence address your ballot would only be partially counted. State and local races would probably not count.

Can I find out if my ballot was counted?

Yes. You can use the [Provisional Voter](#) link to find out if your provisional ballot was counted and, if not, the reason why it was not counted. You will be notified by first class mail of the disposition of your ballot.