



# Georgia

- **Chief election official:** Secretary of State
- **Who runs elections locally:** Board of Elections and Registration, Probate Judge, Board of Registrars, Election Supervisor and Registrar
- **Number of jurisdictions:** 159
- **State website:** <https://sos.ga.gov/elections-division-georgia-secretary-states-office>

| ELECTION POLICY  | STATUS  | NATIONAL COMPARISON  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>VOTER REGISTRATION</b>  |   |  |
| Online voter registration  | OVR permitted   | 42 states and D.C. have online voter registration  |
| Automatic/automated voter registration                               | AVR permitted   | 24 states and D.C. have automatic voter registration   |
| Type of state voter registration database                            | Top-down  | 36 states and D.C. use top-down; six states use bottom-up; eight states use a hybrid system                      |
| Pre-registration   | 17.5-year-olds may preregister  | 22 states and D.C. permit pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds  |
| Election Day/same-day registration                                   | Not provided  | 24 states and D.C. have same-day registration  |
| Registration deadline  | 29 days before Election Day   | National average is 19 days before Election Day  |
| <b>VOTING</b>  |   |  |
| Voter ID for in-person voting  | ID required   | 36 states require ID to vote in person   |
| Early in-person voting   | Begins on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday before Election Day                                      | 47 states and D.C. allow early in-person voting; national average is 22 days                                     |
| Vote centers for Election Day voting                                 | Not used  | 19 states and D.C. allow vote centers for Election Day voting  |
| No-excuse absentee voting  | Permitted   | 36 states permit no-excuse absentee voting   |
| Mails ballots to all registered voters (aka “mostly mail elections”) | Ballots are not mailed to all registered voters   | Eight states and D.C. mail ballots to all registered voters  |
| Deadline for absentee/mail ballot return                             | Close of polls on Election Day  | 32 states require ballots returned by Election Day*  |
| Laws governing who can return a voted ballot                         | Family members, household members or caregivers   | 38 states have laws governing ballot collection  |
| Ballot drop boxes  | Permitted   | 12 states prohibit; 28 states permit; other states are silent  |
| Ballot cure process  | Ballot cure process offered statewide   | 33 states and D.C. have a ballot cure process  |
| When absentee/mail ballot processing begins                          | Signature verification upon receipt, all other processing on third Monday before Election Day | 43 states and D.C. begin processing before Election Day  |
| Electronic ballot return   | Not permitted   | 31 states and D.C. allow for military and overseas voters; 13 states and D.C. allow for voters with disabilities |
| <b>OTHER</b>   |   |  |
| Automatic recount threshold  | Automatic recount threshold not used  | 24 states and D.C. have automatic recount thresholds   |
| Post-election tabulation audits                                      | Uses post-election audits   | 49 states and D.C. require post-election audits  |
| State primary type   | Open  | Primaries range from fully open to fully closed  |

\*Other states accept ballots postmarked by Election Day.

**Note:** Neither NCSL nor the U.S. Election Assistance Commission advocate for or against any election policies.

**For more information, contact NCSL at [elections-info@ncsl.org](mailto:elections-info@ncsl.org) or 303-364-7700. For information on federal grants see [www.eac.gov/grants](http://www.eac.gov/grants).**



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