

2004 GEORGIA Voter Empowerment Card

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- If anyone challenges your eligibility to vote even though you are on the list of registered voters, the registrars will hold a hearing at the polling place to rule on the challenge. If they rule in your favor, or if they cannot make a ruling during voting hours, you must be allowed to vote a challenged ballot. (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-230)
- If you need help in the voting booth because of a physical disability or because you can't read the ballot, tell a poll worker. You have the right to have anyone you choose help you in the voting booth, including a poll worker, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union. (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-409)

HOW CAN I MINIMIZE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS ON ELECTION DAY?

- Vote early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush.
- Bring some form of identification even though it's not required.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Take your time in the voting booth. There is no time limit. (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-413)

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

- Georgia State Elections Division: (404) 656-2871
- U.S. Department of Justice: (800) 253-3931
- ACLU Voting Rights Project: (877) 523-2792
- ACLU of Georgia: (404) 523-5398

Produced by the American Civil Liberties Union.

- The deadline for registering to vote in the November election is Monday, October 4, 2004.

WHEN DO I VOTE?

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2004.
- Polling places will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You have the right to vote if you are in line at 7:00 p.m. when the polls close. (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-413)
- You also have the right to vote early at your county registration office for any reason. The early voting period begins Monday, October 25, and ends Friday, October 29, 2004, and takes place during regular office hours.
- You may also be eligible to vote by absentee ballot if you won't be able to vote at the polls on Election Day. Contact your county registration office for application and deadline information. Absentee ballot applications are also available online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec>.

WHERE DO I VOTE?

- Your polling place is printed on the precinct card that you receive from your county registration office when you register. You can also call your county registration office for polling place information. You can find the phone number in the government pages of your phone book or online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec>.
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IS IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED IN ORDER TO VOTE?

- No. Poll workers are required to ask for it, but you have the right to vote even if you don't have identification with you at the polls. You will have to sign a form affirming your identity if you don't have identification. If you don't have identification and you are a first-time voter who registered by mail, you may have to vote on a provisional ballot and

WHO CAN VOTE?

- You must be registered in order to vote.
- You can register if you meet all of the following qualifications: (1) you are a citizen of the United States; (2) you reside in the county or district in which you want to vote; (3) you will be at least 18 years old on Election Day; (4) you are not in prison or on probation or parole for a felony conviction; and (5) you have not been declared by a court to be mentally incompetent and unable to vote.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

- You must submit a voter registration application in order to register.
- You can get an application from your county registration office (such as your county Board of Registrars or Board of Elections) and at many public libraries, high schools, military recruitment offices and offices of county and municipal clerks. You can also register when you apply for services at the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety and state agencies that provide public assistance (such as Medicaid, WIC, and food stamps) and services to people with disabilities. Applications are also available online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec>.
- You should re-register every time your name or address changes.

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TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY.  www.aclu.org

You may also have to provide identification to your county voter registrar within 2 days after the election in order for your vote to be counted.

- Accepted forms of identification include a valid Georgia driver's license, a valid state or federal ID card, a valid U.S. passport, a valid U.S. military ID card, a valid employee ID card (with photo), a valid student ID card (with photo) from an institution of higher education located in Georgia, a valid social security card, a certified naturalization document, and a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, pay check, or any other government document that shows your name and address. (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-417)

HOW DO I HANDLE THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS ON ELECTION DAY?

- If your work schedule would prevent you from voting while the polls are open, ask your employer for time off to vote. You have the right to up to two hours off if you would not otherwise be able to vote and you notify your employer in advance. (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-404)
- If a poll worker tells you that you can't vote because you are a first-time voter and don't have proper identification, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to vote on a provisional ballot even if you are a first-time voter without identification, but you will have to provide identification to your county voter registrar within 2 days after the election in order for your vote to be counted. (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-417)
- If a poll worker tells you that you can't vote because you don't have proper identification (but you are not a first-time voter), ask for the form for voters without identification. You have the right to vote without identification if you sign this form. (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-417)
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