

Georgia Voter Guide 2026

General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2026 · In-person early (advance) voting: through Friday, October 30 · Runoff, if needed: Tuesday, December 1

My rule is simple: every fact comes with its source, so you can check it and decide for yourselves. Bracketed numbers [S#] match the source list at the end. This guide does not endorse any candidate or position.

This is **one statewide guide**. It covers dates, ID, absentee voting, early voting, the runoff rule, the statewide races and the 3 constitutional amendments. For Congress, the General Assembly and local questions, check your own sample ballot on My Voter Page [S6].

Note on sources: the main sources are the Georgia Secretary of State's elections pages [S1][S3][S4][S5], georgia.gov [S2], and the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.), Title 21 [S7]–[S14]. Candidates and the amendment text come from Gwinnett County's official English/Spanish consolidated sample ballot [S15], checked against Fulton County's [S16]. All times are Eastern.

1. Key dates

What	Date	Source
Voter registration deadline	Monday, Oct. 5, 2026 (passed)	[S1]
In-person early (advance) voting	Tuesday, Oct. 13 – Friday, Oct. 30	[S1][S2][S9]
Saturday early voting (every county)	Sat. Oct. 17 (passed) and Sat. Oct. 24	[S2][S9]
Sunday early voting (only where the county offers it)	Sun. Oct. 18 (passed) and Sun. Oct. 25	[S2][S9]
Absentee ballot application must be received by your county	Friday, Oct. 23, 2026 (11 days before)	[S1][S2][S7]
All absentee ballot drop boxes close (end of early voting)	Friday, Oct. 30	[S8]
Election Day	Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	[S1][S2]
Absentee ballot must be received by the county	by 7:00 p.m. Nov. 3	[S2][S10]
Provisional ballots: show ID, proof of citizenship, or fix an absentee ballot problem	within 3 days after the election (by Friday, Nov. 6)	[S4][S5][S10][S12][S13]
Military and overseas (UOCAVA) ballots postmarked by Election Day	count if received within 3 days	[S10]

What	Date	Source
Runoff (if no candidate gets a majority)	Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026 (28 days after)	[S14]

2. ID to vote in person

Georgia requires photo ID to vote, in person and absentee [S3]. Accepted IDs in person [S3]:

- any valid state or federal government-issued photo ID, including a **free voter ID card** from your county registrar's office or the Department of Driver Services (DDS);
- a Georgia driver's license, **even if expired**;
- a student ID from a Georgia public college or university;
- a photo employee ID from any branch of the U.S. government, Georgia, or a Georgia county, city, board or authority;
- a valid U.S. passport;
- a valid U.S. military photo ID;
- a valid tribal photo ID.

No ID? You can vote a provisional ballot. To have it counted, show acceptable ID to your county registrars within 3 days after the election (by Friday, Nov. 6) [S12][S13].

3. Absentee voting (by mail)

Any registered voter may vote absentee; no reason is needed [S4][S18].

1. **Apply.** Your application must be **received** by your county elections office **by Friday, Oct. 23** [S1][S7]. Include your Georgia driver's license or state ID number. If you have neither, include a copy of another acceptable photo ID, or of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document showing your name and address [S3]. There is an official Spanish application, *Solicitud de Boleta de Voto Ausente Oficial en Georgia* [S19].
2. **Allow time for the mail.** Ballots are mailed starting 29 days before the election. The U.S. Postal Service recommends allowing 7–10 days for delivery [S5].
3. **Return it so it is received by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3.** A ballot received after the polls close is not counted [S10]. You can return it by mail or deliver it in person to your county registrar's office [S2][S17].
4. **Drop boxes.** By law, drop boxes are located at the county registrar's office or inside advance voting sites. They are open only during advance voting hours at that site, and **all drop boxes close when early voting ends (Friday, Oct. 30)** [S8]. Gwinnett County, for example, says ballots may be taken to its advance voting locations "during advance voting days and hours" [S17].
5. **Changed your mind?** If you haven't returned your absentee ballot, you can cancel it and vote in person. Bringing the ballot with you saves time. Once the county has received it, it can't be canceled [S5].

6. **Track it and fix problems.** Check your ballot status on My Voter Page [S6]. If the county tells you there is a problem with your ballot, you can cure it with an affidavit and a copy of your ID by the end of the provisional-ballot period (Friday, Nov. 6) [S10][S13].

Note: georgia.gov's 2026 page says a completed absentee ballot can go "to a drop box or your County Board of Registrar's Office by the time polls close at 7 p.m." [S2]. The statute in force says drop boxes close when advance voting ends [S8]. This guide follows the statute. After Oct. 30, hand-deliver the ballot to the county registrar's office, or mail it early enough to arrive by 7 p.m. Nov. 3.

4. Early voting, Election Day and help in Spanish

- **Early (advance) voting:** Oct. 13–30. Weekday hours are at least 9 a.m.–5 p.m., and counties may extend them to 7 a.m.–7 p.m. Saturdays are Oct. 17 and 24; Sundays Oct. 18 and 25 only where the county offers them [S2][S9]. You can vote at **any** advance voting site in your county [S4][S17]. In Gwinnett, early voting runs every day, including Saturdays and Sundays, 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m., at 13 sites [S17].
- **Election Day:** Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 a.m.–7 p.m., at your assigned polling place. If you are in line at 7 p.m., you can vote [S2][S4]. Find your polling place and sample ballot on My Voter Page [S6].
- **Provisional ballot:** if your name isn't on the list but you believe you are registered in that county, you have the right to vote a provisional ballot. It counts if your eligibility is confirmed within 3 days after the election [S4][S13].
- **Help voting:** a voter who can't read English, or who has a disability that prevents marking the ballot, may bring **any person of their choice** to help inside the booth. The exceptions are the voter's employer (or the employer's agent) and an officer or agent of the voter's union. The helper must identify themselves to a poll worker [S11].
- **Spanish:** Gwinnett County is covered by Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act. It offers Spanish language assistance and Spanish materials, including ballots at early voting and Election Day polling places and for absentee voting [S18].
- **Registration "pending" because of citizenship data:** if your citizenship information didn't match DDS records and you are a U.S. citizen, show proof of citizenship (for example, a U.S. birth certificate, passport or naturalization papers) at your county registrar's office or at your polling place. Without it, you can vote a provisional ballot and present the document to your county elections office within 3 days after Election Day [S5].
- **At the polls:** no photos of your ballot, and no campaigning within 150 feet of a polling place [S5]. To report problems: Secretary of State, 404-656-2871 or 877-725-9797 [S2].

5. The runoff rule

In Georgia, a candidate must receive a **majority** (more than half) of the votes cast to win. If no one does, the top two candidates go to a **runoff on the 28th day after the election: Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026** [S14]. The official Spanish absentee application calls a runoff *desempate* [S19].

6. Statewide races on the ballot

Candidate names and party labels are taken from the official sample ballot [S15][S16]. (I) = incumbent.

Office	Republican	Democrat
U.S. Senate	Mike Collins	Jon Ossoff (I)
Governor	Rick Jackson	Keisha Lance Bottoms
Lieutenant Governor	Greg Dolezal	Josh McLaurin
Secretary of State	Tim Fleming	Penny Brown Reynolds
Attorney General	Brian Strickland	Tanya Miller
Commissioner of Agriculture	Tyler Harper (I)	Katherine E. Juhan-Arnold
Commissioner of Insurance	John King (I)	Keisha Sean Waites
State School Superintendent	Richard Woods (I)	Lydia Powell
Commissioner of Labor	Bárbara Rivera Holmes (I)	Nikki Porcher
Public Service Commissioner, District 3	Fitz Johnson	Peter Hubbard (I)
Public Service Commissioner, District 5	Josh Tolbert	Shelia Edwards

Every race also has a write-in line [S15]. Every voter in the state elects all five Public Service Commissioners, who serve staggered six-year terms. The commission regulates the rates of most investor-owned electric, natural gas and telephone utilities in Georgia, such as Georgia Power. It does not set rates for city-owned utilities or electric membership corporations (EMCs) [S28]. Your ballot also includes U.S. House, General Assembly and local races and questions; see My Voter Page [S6].

7. Governor (open seat): proposals in the candidates' own words

Both summaries come from the candidates' own campaign websites, listed in alphabetical order by last name.

Keisha Lance Bottoms (DEM). Her campaign bio says she was sworn in as mayor of Atlanta on Jan. 2, 2018, and later served as Senior Advisor to President Joe Biden. It also says she previously served as a judge and a city councilmember [S20]. Her issues page proposes: - expanding Medicaid, ending the Georgia Pathways program and "replacing it with real coverage"; - giving cities and counties the option to eliminate or temporarily suspend local sales taxes on groceries and essentials; - a "Georgia Housing Fast Track" for permitting, more down-payment and renter assistance, and an affordable housing trust fund; - that Georgia "slow down and reassess the rapid expansion of data centers so families are not left with higher utility bills"; - eliminating the state income tax for teachers, and creating a path to free technical and community college [S20].

Rick Jackson (REP). His campaign site describes him as a "Georgia businessman, philanthropist, and conservative outsider" whose businesses "help provide care for more than 20 million patients each year" [S21]. His Action Plan proposes: - freezing property taxes immediately; - cutting the

state income tax in half within 4 years; - freezing tuition, room and board at public colleges and technical schools; - tying public assistance to work or job training for able-bodied adults; - raising teacher pay; - making Georgia "number one in the nation for deporting all CRIMINAL illegal immigrants" [S21].

8. U.S. Senate: official votes

Jon Ossoff (DEM) is the incumbent senator [S15][S27]. **Mike Collins (REP)** is the U.S. representative for Georgia's 10th District [S26].

Vote	Collins (House)	Ossoff (Senate)
H.R. 1 (2025 tax and spending law). House final vote, July 3, 2025, passed 218-214. Senate passage, July 1, 2025, 50-50 with the vice president breaking the tie in favor	Aye [S22]	Nay [S24]
Laken Riley Act (requires detention of immigrants without legal status who are charged with certain crimes). House H.R. 29, Jan. 7, 2025, 264-159. Senate S. 5, Jan. 20, 2025, 64-35	Yea [S23]	Yea [S25]

9. Constitutional amendments

Official ballot text [S15][S16]. On each one you vote **Yes** or **No**.

Amendment 1: *Increases the maximum qualifying acreage for assessment and taxation as bona fide conservation use property.* (House Resolution 32; Ga. L. 2025, p. 1081) "Shall the Constitution of Georgia, for the purpose of protecting family farmland, be amended so as to increase the maximum acreage to qualify for assessment and taxation as a bona fide conservation use property from 2,000 acres to 4,000 acres?"

Amendment 2: *Provides for the nonpartisan election of all probate court judges.* (House Resolution 251; Ga. L. 2026, p. 1110) "Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to require that all probate court judges be elected in nonpartisan elections?"

Amendment 3: *Authorizes creation of Georgia Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund for 9-1-1 systems expansion, maintenance, and operation.* (House Resolution 1243; Ga. L. 2026, p. 1109) "Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize the General Assembly to dedicate certain existing revenues, including revenues reallocated by law, to a nonlapsing fund to be used exclusively for the expansion, maintenance, and operation of emergency 9-1-1 systems in this state?"

Many ballots also carry local questions, such as homestead exemptions or sales taxes, which vary by county and city [S15][S16]. Check yours on My Voter Page [S6].

10. Cost of living: official figures

Indicator	Georgia	U.S.	Source
Consumer prices (CPI-U, all items), Aug. 2025 → Aug. 2026	Atlanta area: +2.9%	+3.4%	[S29]
Residential electricity, July 2026 (cents per kWh)	16.27 (July 2025: 15.56, +4.6%)	18.31	[S30]
Median gross rent, 2020–2024	\$1,393	\$1,413	[S31]
Median value of owner-occupied home, 2020–2024	\$303,300	\$332,700	[S31]
Median household income (2024 dollars), 2020–2024	\$77,353	\$80,734	[S31]
Persons in poverty	12.6%	10.2%	[S31]
Under 65 without health insurance	14.0%	9.6%	[S31]

The governor candidates' proposals on taxes and costs are in section 7. The Public Service Commission seats in section 6 set the rates of Georgia Power and other investor-owned utilities [S28].

11. Georgia's Latino communities: numbers and rights

- 12.1% of Georgia's population is Hispanic or Latino. 11.2% of residents were born abroad, and 15.5% of people age 5 and older speak a language other than English at home [S31].
- The voting-assistance right, Spanish-language materials in Gwinnett, and the "pending citizenship" process are covered in section 4 [S5][S11][S18].

Check the facts and decide for yourselves.

Sources

- [S1] Georgia Secretary of State, "November 3, 2026 General Election": <https://sos.ga.gov/november-3-2026-general-election>
- [S2] georgia.gov, "Georgia General Election 2026": <https://georgia.gov/georgia-general-election-2026>
- [S3] Georgia Secretary of State, "Georgia Voter Identification Requirements": <https://sos.ga.gov/page/georgia-voter-identification-requirements>
- [S4] Georgia Secretary of State, "How-to Guide: Voting": <https://sos.ga.gov/how-to-guide/how-guide-voting>
- [S5] Georgia Secretary of State, "Elections FAQ": <https://sos.ga.gov/page/elections-faq>
- [S6] Georgia Secretary of State, My Voter Page: <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov>
- [S7] O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381 (absentee applications): <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-21/chapter-2/article-10/section-21-2-381/>
- [S8] O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382 (drop boxes): <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-21/chapter-2/article-10/section-21-2-382/>
- [S9] O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385 (advance voting): <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-21/chapter-2/article-10/section-21-2-385/>

- [S10] O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386 (receipt and cure of absentee ballots): <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-21/chapter-2/article-10/section-21-2-386/>
- [S11] O.C.G.A. § 21-2-409 (assistance for voters who cannot read English or have disabilities): <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-21/chapter-2/article-11/part-1/section-21-2-409/>
- [S12] O.C.G.A. § 21-2-417 (ID; provisional ballot without ID): <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-21/chapter-2/article-11/part-1/section-21-2-417/>
- [S13] O.C.G.A. § 21-2-419 (validation of provisional ballots within 3 days): <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-21/chapter-2/article-11/part-1/section-21-2-419/>
- [S14] O.C.G.A. § 21-2-501 (majority and runoffs): <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-21/chapter-2/article-12/section-21-2-501/>
- [S15] Gwinnett County, Consolidated Sample Ballot (English/Spanish), Nov. 3, 2026 General and Special Election: <https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/documents/d/gwinnett-county/nov-3-general-election-special-election-consolidated-sample-ballot-english-spanish>
- [S16] Fulton County, Consolidated Sample Ballot, Nov. 3, 2026 General and Special Election: <https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/-/media/2026-Election/November-3-Election/Sample-Ballot--Consolidated--Nov-32026-General--Special-Election--1082026.pdf>
- [S17] Gwinnett County, "Advance voting for November 3 Election begins October 13" (Oct. 6, 2026): <https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/-/news-events/stories/story-details/advance-voting-for-november-3-election-begins-october-13> · Absentee voting: <https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/government/departments/elections/voting/absentee>
- [S18] Gwinnett County Voter Registrations and Elections, FAQs: <https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/government/departments/elections/faqs>
- [S19] Georgia Secretary of State, *Solicitud de Boleta de Voto Ausente Oficial en Georgia* (official Spanish absentee application, posted by Gwinnett County): <https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/documents/d/gwinnett-county/absentee-ballot-application-spanish-pdf-2>
- [S20] Keisha Lance Bottoms campaign, Issues and About: <https://www.keishaforgovernor.com/issues> · <https://www.keishaforgovernor.com/bio>
- [S21] Rick Jackson campaign, Action Plan and About: <https://rickjackson.com/action-plan/> · <https://rickjackson.com/about/>
- [S22] Office of the Clerk, U.S. House, Roll Call 190 (H.R. 1), July 3, 2025: <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2025190>
- [S23] Office of the Clerk, U.S. House, Roll Call 6 (H.R. 29, Laken Riley Act), Jan. 7, 2025: <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/20256>
- [S24] U.S. Senate, Roll Call Vote 372, 119th Congress (H.R. 1), July 1, 2025: https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_votes/vote1191/vote_119_1_00372.htm
- [S25] U.S. Senate, Roll Call Vote 7, 119th Congress (S. 5, Laken Riley Act), Jan. 20, 2025: https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_votes/vote1191/vote_119_1_00007.htm
- [S26] Office of the Clerk, U.S. House, member page, Mike Collins (GA-10): <https://clerk.house.gov/members/C001129>
- [S27] U.S. Senate, Georgia senators: <https://www.senate.gov/states/GA/intro.htm>
- [S28] Georgia Public Service Commission, "About the PSC": <https://psc.ga.gov/about-the-psc/>
- [S29] BLS, CPI-U, all items, Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell (CUURS35CSA0): <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CUURS35CSA0> · U.S. city average (CUUR0000SA0): <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CUUR0000SA0>

- [S30] EIA, Electric Power Monthly, Table 5.6.A (July 2026): https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_06_a
- [S31] U.S. Census Bureau, QuickFacts, Georgia and United States: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/GA,US/HSG495224>