



Current voter ID laws present a unique obstacle to voting in local, state, and national elections for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Georgia is one of nine states that have strict photo identification laws which require voters to present a valid government issued photo identification in order to vote and have their vote counted.

Impact of Voter Identification Laws on Transgender and Gender Non –Conforming (GNC) Individuals

- A report by the Williams Institute found that in Georgia 39% of the Transgender Voting Eligible Population (VEP) have no updated identification that accurately express their gender identity, a higher percentage than any other state with strict photo identification laws.
- Voters without accurate identification, or identification which is questioned by poll workers may be required to fill out a provisional ballot until identity and voting eligibility is confirmed, something which could be denied transgender and GNC persons.
- The National Transgender Discrimination Survey found that persons of color, young people, low income individuals, students, and disabled persons were more likely to lack updated identifying documents.
- When presenting identification 41% of transgender and GNC individuals report being harassed, 15% report being asked to leave, and 3% report being assaulted.
- Nationally over 25,000 transgender and GNC persons may face significant barriers or disenfranchisement in voting in 2012.

Resources for Georgia Voters from the Secretary of State's Office

How to Register to Vote:

- Complete the Voter Registration form available on the Georgia Secretary of State website which may be sent either online or in the mail.
- If you have a valid GA Drivers License, you can register completely online at: <http://www.gavotes.org/?source=GE>

Provisional voting:

Provisional voting allows you to cast a ballot in person even if all the requirements for doing so cannot be met at the time. The provisional ballot will count **if** the problem is solved within **two days** after Election Day. The three reasons for voting a provisional ballot are:

1. You are unable to show one of the required forms of photo ID when you vote in person;
2. When you first registered to vote in Georgia, you registered by mail, did not provide any identification at that time, and are unable to present acceptable identification the first time you vote in person; or
3. Your name does not appear on the list of registered voters in the precinct.

How to Check Your Registration Status and Find Your Polling Precinct:

Visit the Georgia Secretary of State's website at <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/>

What is a valid ID?

- Any valid state or federal government issued photo ID, including a free Voter ID Card issued by your county registrar's office or the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS).
- A Georgia Driver's License, even if expired.
- Valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. Government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of this state
- Valid U.S. passport ID
- Valid U.S. military photo ID

Photo identification is not required to vote absentee if you provided ID when registering or are a non-first time voter.

How to Vote Absentee:

- Complete an Absentee Ballot Application, available on the Georgia Secretary of State website or at the County Registrar's office. Sign where indicated and mail, fax, or hand deliver the application to your County Registrar's office. Applications can be completed up to 180 days prior to the election.
- First time voters who did not provide a copy of identification when registering to vote are required to send a copy of acceptable identification with their absentee ballot application.
- Absentee Ballots will be sent to the address provided on the application, complete the ballot and send to the address listed, or return in person at the County Registrar's office.

Voting absentee provides a viable alternative for registered voters who cannot or wish to not vote in person on Election Day, including transgender and GNC individuals without updated or accurate identification.