

DeKalb County: Guide to Voting by Absentee Ballot

1. **Request your absentee ballot** online using the Secretary of State's website at <https://ballotrequest.sos.ga.gov/>

Alternatively, you can:

- a. Email your completed absentee ballot application to absenteeballot@dekalbcountyga.gov
- b. Fax it to (404) 298-4038
- c. Hand deliver or mail it to 4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 300, Decatur, GA 30032

Don't forget to sign and date the ballot request form.

2. **Track your absentee ballot** request status by logging into the Secretary of State's My Voter Page at mvp.sos.ga.gov.
 - a. When you log in to the MVP page, you'll see a "ballot issued" date. This is the date DeKalb County processed the ballot request.
 - b. Due to the volume of requests and that the ballots are mailed to voters from the state's vendor in Arizona, expect it to take 5-8 days for the ballot to be mailed out after the request has been processed.
 - c. If you haven't received your ballot after 10 days, please call or email our office at (404) 298-4020 or email voterreg@dekalbcountyga.gov to check the status of your absentee ballot request form.
3. **Complete and submit your absentee ballot** as soon as possible.
 - a. Once you receive your absentee ballot, carefully and thoroughly follow the instructions to complete and return the ballot.
 - b. Be sure to correctly fill out the oval next to the candidates of your choice for the machine to record your vote accurately.
 - c. Place your absentee ballot in the white official ballot envelope provided. Then, place that envelope in the larger envelope. Don't forget to sign and date the oath on the back of the envelope.
 - d. Here's how to return your completed absentee ballot:



DeKalb County Voter Registration and Elections Office

- i. Mail: 4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 300, Decatur, GA 30032
Due to mail delays, we urge voters to mail their ballots back no later than October 27th.
- ii. Drop box: There are 24 secure ballot drop boxes located throughout the county. Three of the boxes are located at the DeKalb County Voter Registration and Elections office.

You can find the most up-to-date list at [DeKalbVotes.com](https://www.dekalbvotes.com). Place your ballot in the drop box by 7 p.m. Nov. 3rd. Drop box locations are under 24/7 video surveillance. Voters can only use the drop box locations in the county where they are registered to vote.

Note: Only roommates, immediate family members, or caregivers can return absentee ballots that do not belong to them.

4. **Track your returned absentee ballot** via <https://georgia.ballottrax.net/voter/>

Simply follow the prompts on the screen to track your absentee ballot status and receive notifications throughout the process.

If your ballot has not shown up in the system within 10 days, immediately call the DeKalb Registration and Elections Office at (404) 298-4020 to follow-up.

5. **Voting in person.** Received your absentee ballot but you'd rather vote in person? That's perfectly fine. Just bring your absentee ballot with you to the polls, and give it to a poll worker to instead vote by machine. If you don't have your absentee ballot, you will be asked to sign an affidavit acknowledging you wish to cancel your absentee ballot and vote in person instead.

[Absentee Ballot FAQs via the Secretary of State's Office:](#)**If I lose the absentee ballot that was sent to me, can I get another one?**

Yes; however, you must sign an affidavit affirming that you lost, destroyed, or did not receive the first absentee ballot. In this instance, another ballot will be issued. A new request is not required.

If I request an absentee ballot, can I change my mind and still vote at my regular polling place?

If the ballot has been voted and returned to and received by the board of registrars, then the absentee ballot shall be deemed to have been voted. No other ballot shall be issued.

If you still have the absentee ballot and give it to the poll manager of the precinct (in which your name appears on the electors list) or the advance voting site manager, then the elector may vote a regular ballot.

If you have not received an absentee ballot, or if you have returned the absentee ballot, but the registrars have not received the ballot, you may cancel the absentee ballot by making a written request to have the ballot marked "canceled." The manager of your precinct or advanced voting site shall permit you to vote in person at that precinct.

Canceled absentee ballots are handled in the same manner as those returned too late to be cast.

Can a third-party request an absentee ballot on my behalf?

A family member may request an absentee ballot on your behalf if you are residing temporarily out of the county or municipality or if you are a physically disabled voter residing within the county or municipality. The application for your absentee ballot may, upon satisfactory proof of relationship, be made by your mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, spouse, son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law of the age of 18 or over. Relatives applying for absentee ballots for you must also sign an oath stating that facts in the application are true.

The absentee ballot will be mailed directly to you at the permanent mailing address on record at the registrar's office or to a temporary out-of-county or out-of-municipality address. A voter with a physical disability or a voter that is in custody in a jail or a detention facility may have the ballot mailed to a different address within the county. The application must be in writing and must contain the name and relationship of the person requesting the ballot, if other than yourself.

Can I give my voted absentee ballot to someone else to return for me? It depends on how the ballot is returned.

A voted absentee ballot can be returned, by mail or in-person, by a family member as designated on O.C.G.A. 21-2-385(a) or by a person living in the same house as the absentee voter.

If the absentee voter is physically disabled, their voted absentee ballot may be returned by a family member or housemate (as described above) OR by the voter's caregiver, regardless of whether the caregiver resides with the voter.

If the absentee voter is in custody in a jail or other detention facility the absentee ballot may be mailed or delivered by any employee of the jail or facility.

Can I vote by absentee ballot if I am confined to the hospital?

In some counties, a voter who is confined to a hospital on a primary or election day can vote an absentee ballot that is delivered by a registrar or deputy registrar. The ballot must be voted then and there, sealed properly, and returned to the deliverer. If the voter registered to vote for the first time in Georgia by mail and has not previously provided proper identification, the voter will be allowed to vote by provisional ballot if he or she fails to provide proper identification. Once the identification and registration of the voter have been verified, the vote will be officially recorded. Please contact your county elections official to inquire about absentee ballot delivery, if you are in the hospital.

Do I have to apply for an absentee ballot for each election if I have a physical disability or I am 65 or over?

If a physically disabled voter or voters 65 years or older makes a written request to receive an absentee ballot for the primary, primary runoff, election, and election runoff

he or she will receive ballots without having to ask again by specifically stating such on the written request or absentee application. Physically disabled voters 65 years or older must submit separate absentee applications for all Special Elections.

Can I receive assistance with my absentee ballot application?

Yes, but the person providing the assistance must sign the application for the absentee ballot.

May an absentee application that is pre-printed or filled out in advance by a third party be accepted if signed by the elector?

There is no prohibition against a third party assisting in the completion of the application provided that the voter personally signs the application, affirming that the information is true and correct.

May absentee applications be accepted in bundle?

Yes. They can be returned by fax, by mail, or in person. There are no restrictions on who may take possession of and transmit or deliver an application for an absentee ballot, or how those applications are transmitted or delivered.

Some of the important points of which you need to be aware, if you distribute applications for absentee ballots include:

- The voter must personally affix his or her signature to the application.
- Voters who use an absentee ballot application provided by an individual or organization must attest to the truth and correctness of the content of the application and sign the application.

May any organization provide campaign materials along with an absentee application?

There are no restrictions against campaign materials being distributed along with the absentee applications.

May I create my own absentee ballot application for others to use?



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Any person or entity, except an election superintendent or registrar, that creates an application for an absentee ballot form for an elector, other than the elector themselves, shall ensure that the absentee ballot form is substantially in the same form as the application for the absentee ballot form made available by the Secretary of State. Such person or entity shall also clearly disclose on the face of the application for an absentee ballot form that they created the application for an absentee ballot form. Any nonconforming application for an absentee ballot shall still be processed if it meets the legal requirements of O.C.G.A. 21-2-381(a).

**Last update to the guide: 10/09/20 at 8 p.m.*