10 Things Every Georgia Poll Worker Should Know

As a poll worker, your job is to help every eligible voter make their voice heard. Below is a list of things to know before you report for your poll worker assignment.

1. Voters are required to show ID to vote

Except as noted below, all voters are required to present proper identification* to a poll worker at or prior to completion of a voter’s certificate at any polling place and before the voter is admitted to the enclosed space of the polling place.

Acceptable ID includes the following with a matching photograph of the voter:

- Georgia Driver’s License (can be expired)
- Georgia Voter ID card
- United States Passport
- United States Military ID Card
- Tribal Identification Card
- A state or federal government identification card, even from out of state
- Public Georgia College, University, or Technical School Student ID

For more information visit the Georgia Secretary of State’s voter identification requirements page.

* The addresses on these IDs do not have to match the voters current address.

2. If a voter is not in the poll book, check the supplemental list

Each polling location should include a supplemental list of voters who met the Voter Registration deadline, but did not meet the deadline for the Poll Pad upload. Anyone that is not on the Poll Pad, but is on the supplemental list, is allowed to vote on the Touchscreen unit. These voters do NOT need to vote provisionally. A voter card is manually created for these voters. For more information review page 47 of the State of Georgia’s Poll Worker Manual.

3. Provisional ballots are a last resort

Anyone who cannot vote by regular ballot has the right to vote by provisional ballot. No court order is needed. Ensure that the voter has completed the voter certificate, provisional registration form - if required - along with the ballot and envelope. Inform the voter to contact their board of elections the following day to be sure their ballot is counted, since a voter only has three days or until November 6 to fix their ballot for issues such as not providing identification to vote. The registrars shall establish a free access system (such as a toll-free number or a webpage) for voters to ascertain whether their votes were counted. This can be shared with provisional voters.

4. Report a voting machine problem immediately

If the problem cannot be resolved over the phone, provisional ballots may be used by the voters at the polling place to cast their ballots. In such an event, the ballots cast by voters whose names appear on the electors list for the polling place are not considered provisional ballots. For more information review page 74 of the State of Georgia’s Poll Worker Manual.
5. **Voters have a right to assistance in voting**

Any voter has the right to select someone to join them in the booth to help with vision, reading, or use of voting equipment. This specifically includes bringing in a translator. Voters may select anyone except their employer, agent of their union, or candidate on the ballot or family member of the candidate (unless voter requiring assistance is related to the candidate). For more information review page 38 of the State of Georgia’s Poll Worker Manual.

6. **Ensure the polling place remains free of campaign activity or materials**

No person, when within the polling place, should engage in electioneering or solicitation of votes for any political party or body or candidate or question. Poll watchers who are authorized to enter a polling location are required not to interfere with the conduct of the election and are prohibited from talking to voters, checking electors lists, or participating in any form of campaigning while they are behind the enclosed space. Importantly, it is illegal for someone to bring a firearm within 150 feet of a polling place with limited exceptions. For more information review page 40 of the State of Georgia’s Poll Worker Manual.

7. **Take all complaints of voter intimidation seriously**

Voter intimidation is illegal and voters may not be harassed or coerced by others.

8. **Keep track of your supplies**

Pay attention to how many paper and provisional ballots you have at all times. If your supplies may not be sufficient to support turnout, notify your poll manager and ask them to request more. By mid-afternoon on Election Day, take an inventory of your supplies and prepare for a surge of voters at the end of the day.

9. **Voters can cast a regular in-person ballot even if they requested an absentee ballot**

As long as the absentee ballot has not been received back at the county office, the voter can vote in person. If the voter has their absentee ballot, they can surrender the ballot and vote in-person. If the ballot has been mailed, but has not been received by the county office, the voter must complete a form canceling their absentee ballot and vote in person normally. The poll worker will remove the absentee status. If the absentee ballot has already been returned and received by the county office or if the voter claims to never have requested it, the poll worker should give the voter the name and number of the contact person at the county office to resolve the issue.

10. **All voters in line at the 7:00PM closing time must be allowed to vote**

Position a Poll Officer at the end of the line to ensure that anyone who has arrived by 7 PM is allowed to vote. Poll hours could be extended upon court order. Your County Office will notify your Poll Manager if this occurs. Those who vote during the extended hours will vote on provisional ballots. For more information review page 88 of the State of Georgia’s Poll Worker Manual.