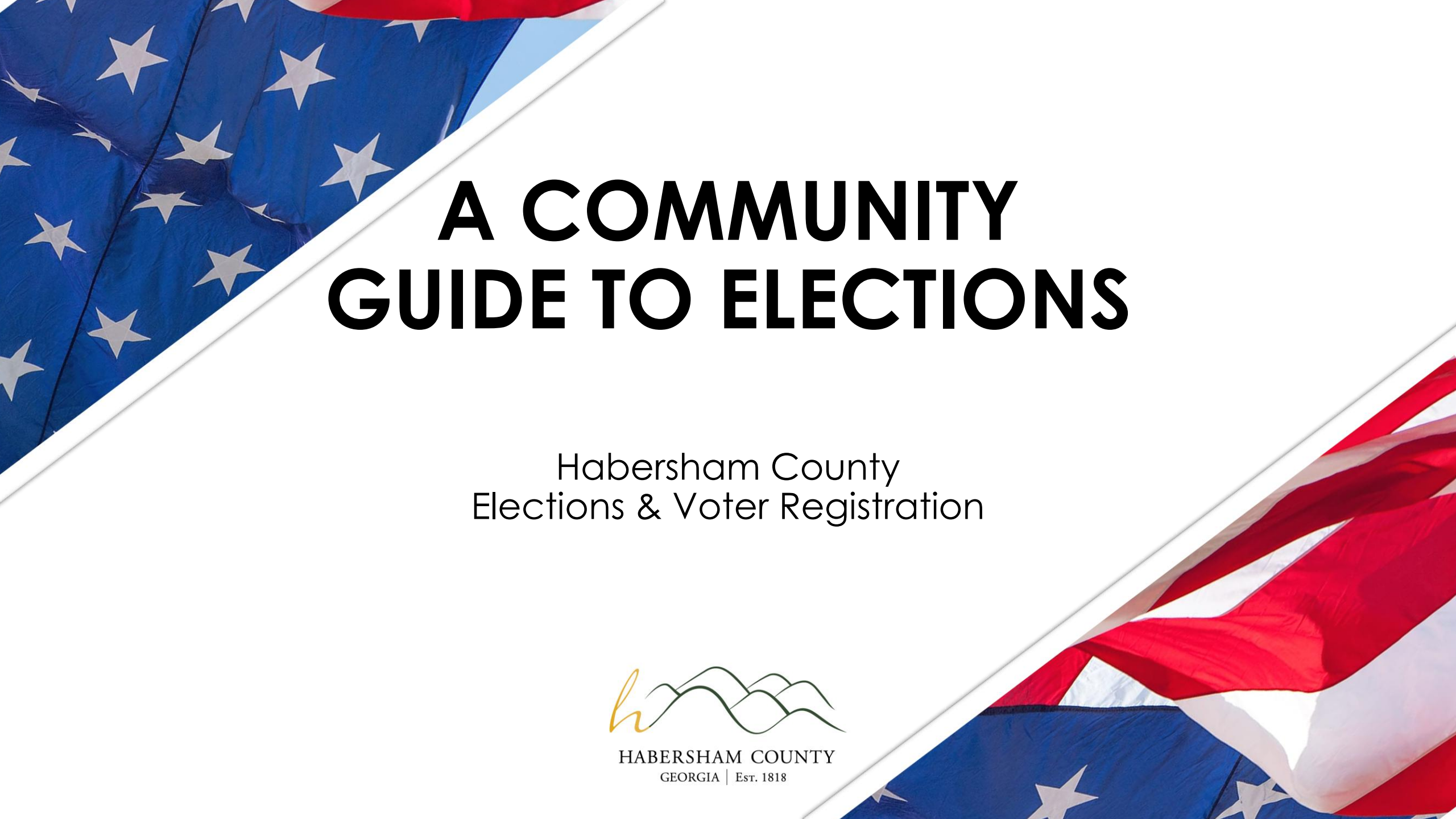


A large American flag is positioned diagonally across the background of the page, with the stars and stripes clearly visible.

A COMMUNITY GUIDE TO ELECTIONS

Habersham County
Elections & Voter Registration



HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & VOTER REGISTRATION

- ▶ Janette Byrom – Chairman (Republican Appointee)
- ▶ Robert “Bob” Parker – Vice-Chairman (Democratic Appointee)
- ▶ Paul Cordella – Board Member (Republican Appointee)
- ▶ John Renka – Board Member (Democratic Appointee)
- ▶ Scott Stilkenboom– Board Member (County Commission Appointee)
- ▶ Laurel Ellison – Elections Supervisor/Chief Registrar, Board Secretary, ex-officio

Board of Elections & Voter Registration Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 4 pm in the Elections and Voter Registration Office
403 Habersham County Shopping Center, Cornelia GA 30531



- ▶ Laurel Ellison – Elections Supervisor/Chief Registrar
- ▶ Derek LaPerriere – Deputy Election Supervisor
- ▶ Lisa Manning – Senior Deputy Registrar
- ▶ Izac Martin – Elections Coordinator

Open 8-5 Monday-Friday

Call us: 706-839-0170

Email us: elections@habershamga.com

Website: <https://habershamga.com/elections>

Facebook:



LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF ELECTIONS

▶ Constitutional Amendments

- ▶ 13th Amendment
- ▶ 14th Amendment
- ▶ 15th Amendment
- ▶ 19th Amendment
- ▶ 24th Amendment
- ▶ 26th Amendment

▶ Federal Election Legislation

- ▶ Voting Rights Act of 1965
- ▶ Uniformed & Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)
- ▶ National Voter Registration Act

▶ Georgia

- ▶ Georgia Election Code
- ▶ Vote Safe Program
- ▶ State Election Board
- ▶ Secretary of State's Office

U.S. Const. amend. XIII (1865); U.S. Const. amend. XIV (1868); U.S. Const. amend. XV (1870); U.S. Const. amend. XIX (1920); U.S. Const. amend. XXIV (1964); U.S. Const. amend. XXVI (1971); Voting Rights Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 89-110, 79 Stat. 437 (1965); Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-410, 100 Stat. 924 (1986); National Voter Registration Act of 1993, Pub. L. No. 103-31, 107 Stat. 77 (1993); Help America Vote Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-252, 116 Stat. 1666 (2002); Georgia Code, Title 21:Elections, O.C.G.A. § 21-2-1 et seq.; Vote Safe Georgia (2009), <https://sos.ga.gov/VoteSafe>; Georgia State Election Board, <https://sos.ga.gov/state-election-board>; Georgia Secretary of State, <https://sos.ga.gov/>

POLL WORKERS & POLL WATCHERS

Poll Workers

- ▶ The backbone of our elections system
- ▶ Receive mandatory training from our Elections Office, for each election
- ▶ Work during Early/Advance Voting, Election Day, and/or Risk Limiting Audits
- ▶ Conduct polling location operations in accordance with election laws, and follow defined procedures

Poll Watchers

- ▶ Observe the elections process at polling locations
- ▶ Appointed by political parties, bodies, and/or candidates
- ▶ Must receive mandatory training by their respective political affiliation/candidate
- ▶ Volunteer for Early/Advance Voting, Election Day, and/or Risk Limiting Audits

REGISTRATION BASICS

- ▶ In Georgia; voters are not registered by political party
- ▶ Registration Deadlines are provided by Secretary of State's Office based on Georgia Election Code and are approx. (30) days prior to Election Day
- ▶ The majority of all Voter Registrations come from the Department of Driver Services (DDS)
- ▶ All voter applications are verified through the Social Security Administration (SSA) to verify citizenship. If not verified, applicant must provide proof of citizenship
- ▶ Register or Change your information by:
 - ▶ Updating Driver's License
 - ▶ Mail-in Applications
 - ▶ County Office
 - ▶ Libraries
 - ▶ Colleges/High Schools
 - ▶ Secretary of State-[Online Voter Registration \(OLVR\)](#)
 - ▶ Secretary of State-[My Voter Page \(MVP\)](#) [Existing Voters only]



REGISTRATION BASICS (CONTINUED)

Qualifications of Electors

- ▶ To register to vote in Georgia, an elector must be:
 - ▶ An American citizen
 - ▶ At least 18 years of age on or before the date of the primary/election in which such person seeks to vote; (Can register to vote at 17 ½ years old)
 - ▶ A resident of the county or municipality in which he or she seeks to vote; and
 - ▶ Possessed of all other qualifications prescribed by law

Disqualifications of Electors

- ▶ An elector must not:
 - ▶ Have been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude – may not register, or remain registered, or vote except upon completion of the sentence
 - ▶ Have been judicially determined to be mentally incompetent – may not register, or remain registered, or vote unless the designation has been removed

ABSENTEE VOTING BASICS

(BY MAIL AND IN PERSON)

Absentee by Mail (ABM)

- ▶ Any Georgia voter may request an Absentee by Mail (ABM) ballot approx. (78) days prior to Election Day; if they are eligible for that election
- ▶ Application for ABM must be filed for every election, unless voter is:
 - ▶ Disabled
 - ▶ 65+ years old
 - ▶ Uniformed Service Member or other US Citizen Residing Overseas

Absentee in Person (Early/Advance Voting)

- ▶ Any Voter may vote during Absentee in Person (AIP) Voting; if they are eligible for that election
- ▶ Voters must provide a State or Federally issued photo ID
- ▶ Early/Advance Voting in Habersham:
 - ▶ Elections Office
 - ▶ Starts approx. (22) days before Election Day
 - ▶ Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center
 - ▶ Starts approx. (10) days before Election Day

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly angled view of the American flag. The blue field with white stars is prominent in the upper left and right corners, while the red and white stripes are visible in the lower left and right. The flag appears to be waving, creating a sense of movement.

ELECTIONS – DUTIES & PREPARATION

Pre/Election Day/Post

PRE-ELECTION – DUTIES & PREPARATIONS

(OFFICE STAFF)

- ▶ Creating and Proofing Ballots
- ▶ Advertising Required Legal Notices
- ▶ Ordering Election Supplies
- ▶ Logic & Accuracy Testing
- ▶ Delivering Equipment to Polling Locations – Advance Voting/Election Day
- ▶ Packing Supplies and Preparing Paperwork Binders
- ▶ Preparing Emergency Paper Backup Electors List



A stylized graphic of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes, positioned on the left side of the slide.

ELECTION DAY

(POLL WORKERS)

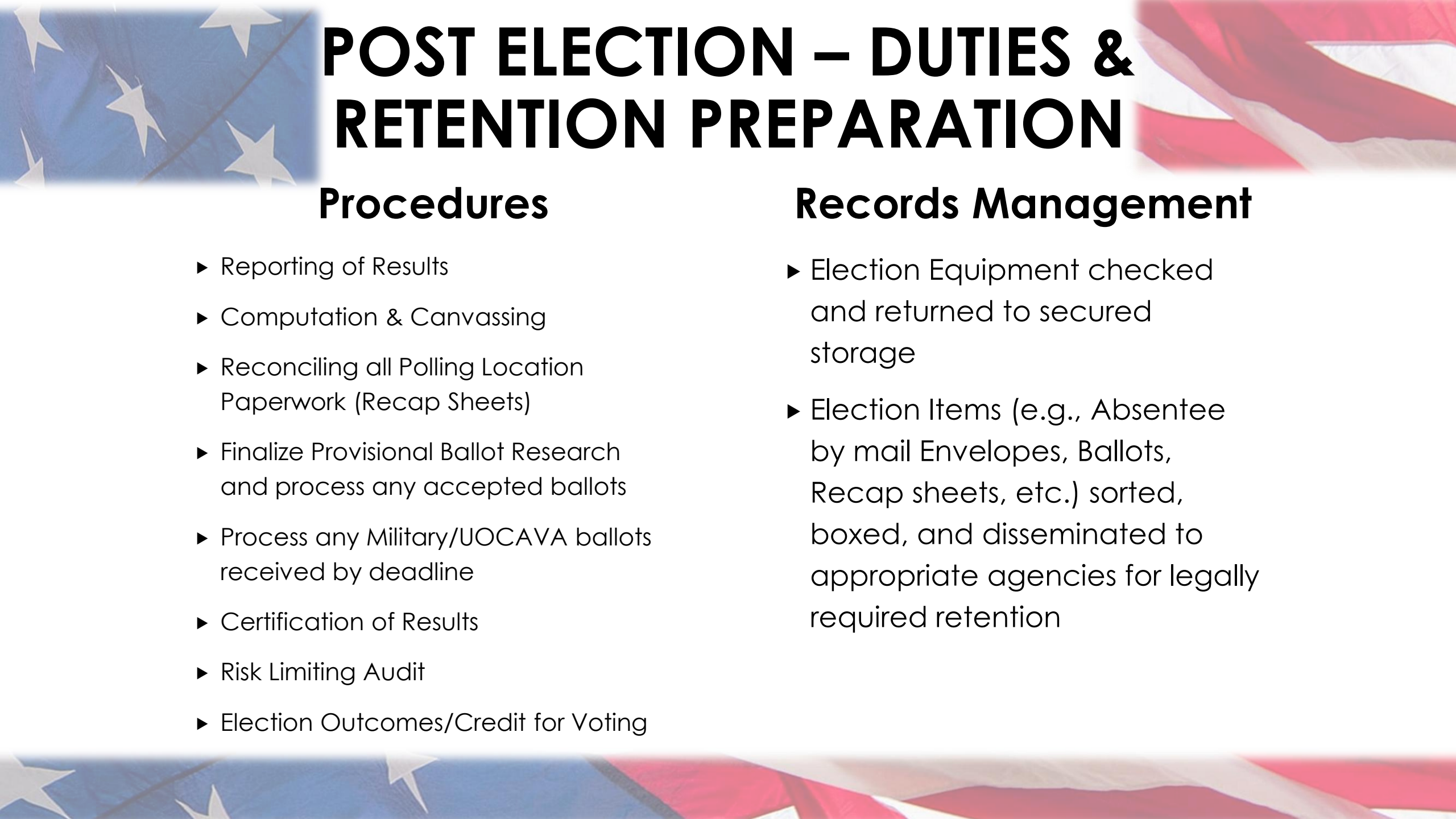
- ▶ Ensure all Equipment is functioning, and protective seals are in place
- ▶ Check voters names against the County Electors list via Poll Pad
- ▶ Provide Instructions on the use of the Ballot Marking Device (BMD) & Scanner/Tabulator (ICP)
- ▶ Remind the voter to check the accuracy of printed ballot before casting
- ▶ Ensure voter's right to ballot secrecy is provided
- ▶ Handle Provisional Balloting process with guidance from Office Staff
- ▶ Return paperwork, results, and ballots to Elections Office after polls close

ELECTION DAY

(AT THE ELECTIONS OFFICE)

- ▶ Staff members are available to assist by phone or travel to polling locations when problems arise
- ▶ Verification of any Absentee by Mail ballots (ABM) received
- ▶ Opening/Processing of Absentee by Mail ballots (ABM)
 - ▶ The Board of Election & Voter Registration opens and prepares ballots for scanning
 - ▶ The Board of Election & Voter Registration handles Duplication & Adjudication of Absentee by Mail ballots (ABM)
- ▶ Provisional ballot research begins
- ▶ Using the Election Management Server; compile results from all Polling Location Scanners and all scanned Absentee by Mail results, to produce an Election Summary Report
- ▶ Reporting and Uploading Election Night Results to the Secretary of State reporting system and disseminate the results to appropriate stakeholders





POST ELECTION – DUTIES & RETENTION PREPARATION

Procedures

- ▶ Reporting of Results
- ▶ Computation & Canvassing
- ▶ Reconciling all Polling Location Paperwork (Recap Sheets)
- ▶ Finalize Provisional Ballot Research and process any accepted ballots
- ▶ Process any Military/UOCAVA ballots received by deadline
- ▶ Certification of Results
- ▶ Risk Limiting Audit
- ▶ Election Outcomes/Credit for Voting

Records Management

- ▶ Election Equipment checked and returned to secured storage
- ▶ Election Items (e.g., Absentee by mail Envelopes, Ballots, Recap sheets, etc.) sorted, boxed, and disseminated to appropriate agencies for legally required retention

2026 CURRENT ELECTION CALENDAR

Election	ABM Application Period	ABM Mailout Start Date	Early/Advance Voting Period (Mon. – Sat.)	Registration/Record Changes Deadline	Election Day
General/Municipal Election	08/17/2026 to 10/23/2026	10/05/2026	Closed October 12 th for Columbus Day 10/13/2026 to 10/30/2026	October 5 th , 2026, 11:59pm (Submitted or Postmarked)	November 3 rd , 2026
(Possible) General Election Runoff	08/17/2026 to 11/20/2026	ASAP	Closed November 26/27 th for Thanksgiving 11/21/2026 to 11/25/2026	October 5 th , 2026, 11:59pm (Submitted or Postmarked) <u>Federal Runoff Only</u> November 2 nd , 2026, 11:59pm (Submitted or Postmarked)	December 1 st , 2026

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ▶ Does the Green Voter Card have any personal data on it?
 - ▶ **No**, the green voter card is not tied to a specific voter. It is programmed to pull up the correct ballot style for the voter based on voting districts.
- ▶ Are election processes open to the public?
 - ▶ **Yes**, all election processes are open to public viewing. Only certified Poll Watchers may observe inside a polling location while voting is taking place, however.
- ▶ How many Registered Voters are in Habersham County?
 - ▶ **34,000** +/- Active & Inactive
- ▶ What's the difference between Active, Inactive, Cancelled Voters?
 - ▶ **Active** – Eligible voter whose record has had activity in the last (5) years.
 - ▶ **Inactive** – Voter has not voted or updated registration in (5) years or had returned mail from address on file. Voter may still vote at their assigned precinct but will be required to verify their residential address.
 - ▶ **Cancelled** – Voter moved out of state, has not voted in (2) Federal General Elections, received a felony conviction, or voter requested to be removed. Voter cannot vote and must re-register.
- ▶ Can I hand deliver my Absentee by Mail ballot?
 - ▶ **Yes**, a drop box is located in our Elections and Voter Registration Office and can be accessed during Early/Saturday/Advance voting hours. It may also be received by a Deputy Registrar located at:
 - ▶ [Elections and Voter Registration Office](#)
 - ▶ [Habersham Administration Building](#) (Front Desk on Main Floor or Planning and Development Office on Bottom Floor)
- ▶ Are Election machines connected to the internet?
 - ▶ The Poll Pads (where voters check-in) are the only equipment connected to the internet. This connection allows near real time credit for voting into the Statewide Voter Database. All other election equipment is neither interconnected nor connected to the internet.

More F.A.Q's can be found on our [website](#).

