



HABERSHAM COUNTY
GEORGIA | Est. 1818

Habersham County Elections & Voter Registration

Frequently Asked Questions

Contact Us:

Phone: (706) 839-0170

Email: elections@habershamga.com

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



HABERSHAM COUNTY

GEORGIA | Est. 1818

Elections & Voter Registration FAQ's

Table of Contents

Voter Registration Information.....	3
Voter Registration List	4
Election Information.....	5
Absentee Voting by Mail	5
Early/Advance Voting	6
Polling Locations.....	7
Provisional Voting	8
Election Results	9
Military & Overseas Voting (UOCAVA)	10
Candidate Information & Forms.....	11
Board of Elections & Voter Registration FAQ'S.....	12

Voter Registration Information

1) *How old do I have to be to register to vote?*

- a) You may register to vote at (17 ½) but may only vote if you will be (18) by Election Day.

2) *How can I register to vote?*

- a) [Register Online](#), download and submit a [paper application](#), or fill out an application at one of our locations(link).

3) *I need to update/change my voter registration; how can I do that?*

- a) Changes to an existing Georgia voter registration can be made on [My Voter Page](#), download and submit a [paper application](#), or fill out an application with your updated information at one of our [locations](#).

4) *Do I need to register before every election?*

- i) **No.** You would only need to register again if you were removed from the Electors List. Some reasons for this may include but are not limited to inactivity, a felony conviction, or moved out of state.

5) *What would cause my voter registration to become inactive/cancelled?*

i) *Inactive*

Returned mail and inactivity may cause your voter record to become inactive. Inactive voters are still eligible voters but will be asked to confirm their information the next time they vote.

ii) *Cancelled*

Voters who have not voted for (2) Federal General Elections, received a felony conviction, moved out of state, or requested to be removed will be cancelled and are no longer eligible to vote until they provide a new registration that has been verified.

6) *Do I need to be a United States Citizen to register to vote?*

- a) **Yes**, you must be a **Born or Naturalized** citizen. Documentation must be provided when you register to vote, which is then verified with the Social Security Administration. A list of acceptable documents may be found [here](#).

Voter Registration List

1) *Where can I go to get a comprehensive voter registration list?*

- a) The [Secretary of State's website](#) allows the purchase of voter registration lists. The customer is responsible for submitting orders with sufficient time for orders to be filled.

2) *Do I have to pay for a voter registration list?*

- a) **Yes**, pricing is set by the Secretary of State. The current price for a statewide voter list is \$485.

Election Information

Absentee Voting by Mail

1) *How do I get an absentee by mail ballot?*

- a) Request, complete, and submit to our office, an absentee by mail ballot application. Applications may be requested via the absentee by mail [request portal](#), contacting our office, visiting a Deputy Registrar at either the Elections Office or the Habersham County Administration Building or downloading it [here](#). Submit the completed application to our office via the absentee portal, email, fax, or drop it off at the above locations.

2) *How long does it take to receive my absentee by mail ballot?*

- a) The ballot will be mailed using the United States Postal Service. Please allow (1) week from the ballot mail out date or the date you submitted your application whichever is closer to Election Day before contacting our office. You may also use the [MVP](#) to sign up for notifications to track your ballot's progress.

3) *I made a mistake on my ballot; can I get a new one?*

- a) **Yes.** Contact our office for guidance, and if necessary, we will cancel that ballot and issue a new one.

4) *I never received my absentee by mail ballot; who should I contact?*

- a) If you haven't received your ballot in a timely manner, please contact the Elections & Voter Registration Office. We can promptly issue a new ballot if it is within the deadlines required by state law.

5) *Can I cancel my absentee by mail ballot and vote in person instead?*

- a) **Yes**, only if you have not mailed or otherwise submitted your ballot to the Elections Office. You will be required to surrender the absentee by mail ballot, if you've received it, to a poll worker and sign an affidavit before you can vote in person. **Important Note:** If you opted in to receive an absentee by mail ballot for the rest of the election year (Elderly or Disabled), voting in person will cancel the rollover and you will need to reapply for an absentee by mail ballot in the next election.

6) *Can I request an absentee by mail ballot for someone else?*

- a) **Yes**, but only if the requirements of Section 11 of the absentee ballot application are met.

Early/Advance Voting

1) *Where can I vote?*

- a) Habersham County opens two locations prior to every election for Early/Advance voting. [Please click here for details.](#)

2) *Are there laws on what I can wear to the polls?*

- a) **Yes.** (O.C.G.A § 21-2-414 (a)), to paraphrase, no person shall distribute or display any campaign material within (150) feet of a polling place. [This includes but is not limited to items worn/carried on your person or displayed on a vehicle that depicts a name or slogan of someone on the ballot].

3) *Do I need my precinct card to vote?*

- a) **No.** While it has useful information on it, like your Election Day polling location, it is for your records only.

4) *Do I need to show my photo ID when I vote and what types are acceptable?*

- a) **Yes.** A physical copy of your photo ID is required to vote (cannot be electronic copy). Voters who are unable to present a photo ID may vote provisionally but must present a photo ID to the Elections Office within (72) hours or their ballot will be rejected. For a list of acceptable photo ID's click [here](#).

5) *If I'm elderly/disabled, can I move to the front of the line?*

- a) **Yes,** voters 75 years or older or disabled, upon request to a poll worker, will be moved to the front of the line between the hours of 9:30am-4:30pm.

6) *Can my child go into the voting booth with me?*

- a) **Yes.** Children under the age of 18 may accompany you inside the voting booth but **may not** touch any of the voting equipment.

7) *Can I bring my service animal to the voting booth with me?*

- a) **Yes,** service animals are allowed to go to the voting booth with you, as long as they are not being disruptive to other active voters. O.C.G.A 21-2-413(f)

8) *What are the questions on the ballot?*

- a) Any proposed amendments/referendums on the ballot are put on the ballot by Legislators. The Secretary of State provides a list of any proposed amendments in their entirety and also summaries of any proposals.
- b) Any local referendum questions are placed on the ballot by either the County or a Municipality within the county. Information for these questions should be located on the appropriate government website.
- c) Party questions, during a Primary, are put there by the major political parties (Republican & Democrat) to poll voter interest and are not binding.

9) Who are the candidates on the ballot?

- a) Candidates must qualify with their respective party or the Elections Office to be placed on the ballot. Candidate policy positions may be researched via news, town hall meetings, their social media, or through their respective party.

10) Can I take a picture of my ballot or get a receipt?

- a) **No.** (O.C.G.A § 21-2-568.2) Prohibits photographing of a ballot. Also due to the requirement for anonymous ballots, there is no functionality to provide a receipt of your ballot or how you voted.

11) Will my ballot count if I don't vote for all races?

- a) **Yes.** You are not required to vote for everything on the ballot. Items you choose to vote for will be counted and items you choose not to vote for will not be.

12) How do I know if my ballot will count?

- a) After every Federal/Statewide election, all counties will audit the election by hand counting a portion of all the ballots cast, for a specific race, to ensure they match with results produced by the tabulators.
- b) You can also call the elections office at any time to make sure your ballot has been accepted, or you can go to [MVP](#) to see if your ballot was accepted.

Polling Locations

1) Where do I vote?

- a) Your Election Day polling location can be found on your precinct card, on [MVP](#), or by contacting our office. A list of voting locations in Habersham County can be found [here](#).

2) Can I vote anywhere during advance voting?

- a) **Yes.** Any eligible registered voter who lives in Habersham County may vote at either of our advance voting locations. More information, including dates and times, that these sites are open can be found [here](#).

3) Can I vote anywhere on Election Day?

- a) **No.** On Election Day you must vote at your specified precinct. Your Election Day polling location can be found on your precinct card, on [MVP](#), or by contacting our office. A list of Election Day voting locations in Habersham County can be found [here](#).

4) Do I have to vote in the county I'm registered in?

- a) **Yes**, you should be registered to vote in the county where you live. If you are unable to vote in person during Early/Advance voting or Election Day, you may request an absentee by mail ballot as many as (78) days prior to Election Day.

Provisional Voting

1) *Why did I have to vote provisionally?*

- a) Provisional ballots are sometimes a necessary part of the voting process. They provide a voter the opportunity to cast a provisional vote when records show that our office requires more verification prior to their ballot being accepted and added into the totals. While not an exhaustive list, some of the more common examples are as follows:
- i) Not listed on the electors list but believe you registered by the deadline date
 - ii) Failure to provide Photo ID when checking-in to vote
 - iii) Citizenship Verification
 - iv) Questions about felon status
 - v) Recently moved & residence address is in a different precinct/district

2) *Will my vote still count if I vote provisionally?*

- a) If you were registered timely and any other missing documentation has been provided to the Elections Office (by 5pm on the Friday following the election), the Board of Elections & Voter Registration will vote on the validity of your ballot during certification, accept it, add your vote to the totals. A notice will be mailed to you to let you know if it is accepted or rejected.

3) *How can I check that my provisional ballot counted?*

- a) You may call our office on Monday following the election, plus you will receive a letter from the Elections and Voter Registration office letting you know if it was either accepted or rejected.

Election Results

1) *When will votes be counted?*

- a) Votes start to be tabulated at the close of voting on Election Day. These are Unofficial and Incomplete results. Should any Military/Overseas ballots be received by our office or Provisional Ballots be accepted by the Board of Elections & Voter Registration by 5pm the Friday following Election Day, the totals may change when Official and Complete results are posted after board certification.

2) *When can someone request a recount?*

- a) A candidate can request a recount if the margin is less than or equal to 0.5%. That request must be made within two business days of the results being certified.

3) *How do the election results get to the Secretary of State?*

- a) All available results (Absentee by Mail, Early/Advance voting, and Election Day) will be compiled and tabulated on the secure Election Management Server election night starting at 7pm. Unofficial and Incomplete results are uploaded to the Secretary of State's Election Night Reporting tool as soon as possible but by 11:59pm. All results from the certification process, which include any accepted UOCAVA/Military/Provisional Ballots, will be uploaded to the Secretary of State's Reporting tool directly after the Board of Elections & Voter Registration certify the election.

4) *Where can I view the election results?*

- a) Election results will be posted on the [Secretary of State's website](#) and on our [website](#).

5) *I voted provisionally, and provided the required documentation, when will that vote be counted?*

- a) Provisional Ballots will be accepted/rejected by the Board of Elections and Voter Registration on the Friday following the election. If your ballot is accepted, it will be added to the election totals during the certification process.

Military & Overseas Voting (UOCAVA)

1) *I'm an overseas citizen; how can I get a ballot?*

- a) The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) has a comprehensive step by step system on their [website](#) that allows voters covered by UOCAVA to apply for an absentee ballot.

2) *Who is covered under UOCAVA?*

- i)* Active members of a uniformed service
- ii)* Active members of the U.S. Merchant Marines
- iii)* Spouse or dependent of the above-listed U.S. citizens
- iv)* U.S. citizens residing outside the United States permanently or temporarily

3) *If I'm not an active-duty member, can I still get a UOCAVA ballot if I'm overseas?*

- a) **Yes.** Family members of an active-duty military member or citizens residing outside of the United States are covered by UOCAVA.

4) *How long does it take to receive and return my ballot if I am overseas?*

- a) UOCAVA ballots are available to be mailed/emailed (45) days prior to an election or within (3) days of the Election Office receiving your application. Opting into an Electronic Ballot Delivery (your absentee ballot is emailed to you but is **ONLY** optional when a Federal Election is on the ballot). This is the fastest way to receive your ballot when it is available, but you still have to return the ballot via mail service. We recommend returning your ballot as soon as is feasible for you.

5) *Is my vote still secure if I vote UOCAVA?*

- a) **Yes.**

Candidate Information & Forms

1) *I want to run for an open seat within the county, where can I go to find the required paperwork?*

- a)** Many of the forms can be found on our [website](#). They may also be found on the [State Ethics Commission website](#).
- b)** You can pick up a qualifying packet from the Elections and Voter Registration office for a county/municipal open seat during the designated qualifying period.

2) *Where do I file my candidate paperwork?*

- a)** You will file any candidate paperwork for county/municipal seats with either the local Republican/Democratic parties or the Elections & Voter Registration office, depending on the type of election.

3) *Is there a limit on the amount I may spend on my campaign?*

- a)** There is no limit on how much you spend but there are thresholds that would require extra paperwork.

4) *When may I announce my candidacy and become an official candidate?*

- a)** You can announce your candidacy at any time, but you will need to file a DOI (Declaration of Intent) with the Elections office prior to putting out campaign signs and collecting any campaign contributions. Once the qualifying period begins, you will file the remaining paperwork & pay the appropriate qualifying fee with the Elections office. A breakdown of the filing schedule can be found [here](#).

Board of Elections & Voter Registration FAQ'S

1) *Who are the members of the Habersham County Board of Elections & Voter Registration?*

Chairman, Janette Byrom (Republican appointee)
Vice-Chairman, Robert Parker (Democrat appointee)
Board Member, Paul Cordella (Republican appointee)
Board Member, John Renka (Democrat appointee)
Board Member, Scott Stilkenboom (Board of Commissioners appointee)
Ex-officio Board Member & Board Secretary, Laurel Ellison (Election Supervisor/Chief Registrar)

2) *How are the members of the Habersham County Board of Elections & voter Registration chosen?*

a) Two members are appointed by the Democratic Party, two members are appointed by the Republican Party and one member is appointed by the Habersham County Board of Commissioners. The Election Supervisor is a non-voting member of the Board.

3) *What are the roles/duties of the Board of Elections& Voter Registration?*

a) The Board of Elections & Voter Registration is an advisory board that assists department-related decision-making on elections, events, and other important items regarding elections and registration. The Board is the superintendent of elections and conducts primaries and elections per state law. The Board performs services and functions necessary to support the election process.

4) *Are the Board of Elections members restricted by term limits?*

a) **No.** Their appointments are for (4) year terms but there are no restrictions on how many times they may be appointed.