



# THE LONG AND WINDING JOURNEY OF AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN GEORGIA

## Step 1: REQUEST



YOU REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT,  
EITHER:



**A.**  
Online through the absentee ballot portal.  
(No signature is required, but you need a valid driver's license and other voter-specific information.)

**B.**  
On a paper application form that includes your signature, which you mail to your county elections office.

## Step 2: VERIFICATION!

Are you actually registered to vote?  
Have you lived here long enough to be eligible to vote?  
If you sent in a paper application form, does your signature match what's in the voter registration records?

**YES.**  
APPLICATION ACCEPTED!  
Proceed to Step 3.

**NO.**  
APPLICATION REJECTED

## Step 3: MAIL



ELECTION OFFICIALS MAIL YOUR BALLOT TO YOU.

## Step 4: MARK AND RETURN



YOU FILL OUT YOUR BALLOT, PLACE IT IN A SECRECY ENVELOPE THAT GOES INSIDE AN OUTER ENVELOPE, SIGN THAT OUTER ENVELOPE, AND RETURN IT.

## Step 5: SIGNATURE CHECK

ELECTION OFFICIALS REVIEW THE INFORMATION ON THE OUTER ENVELOPE AND COMPARE YOUR SIGNATURE TO THOSE IN VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS.\*

DOES THE SIGNATURE MATCH?

**YES.**  
BALLOT ACCEPTED!  
Proceed to Step 6.

**UNCLEAR.**

Election official consults with two colleagues. Do the majority agree there is a match?

**NO.**  
Ballot set aside for curing.

Ballot set aside for curing.  
a. You are notified that you must cure your ballot, meaning fix any problems with it and confirm it was really you who sent it.  
b. Did you cure it in time?

**YES.**  
Ballot accepted!  
Proceed to Step 6.

**YES.**  
Ballot accepted!  
Proceed to Step 6.

**NO.**  
Ballot Rejected.

## Step 6: PROCESSING

YOUR BALLOT IS PROCESSED.\*\*

- a. Officials remove the secrecy envelope from the outer envelope and put it with other voters' secrecy envelopes, preserving your legal right to cast a secret ballot. They keep the outer envelope for their records.
- b. Officials remove your ballot from the secrecy envelope and record your choices.

CONGRATS!!!



YOU'VE EXERCISED YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

\* Party monitors can observe the process of signature verification to make sure it takes place according to procedure. They can get close enough to understand the process, but not so close that your private information is at risk.

\*\* Party monitors can observe the processing of absentee ballots to make sure it takes place according to procedure.