



Black Girls Voting Guide

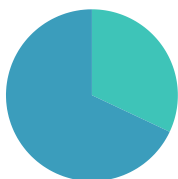
THE GEORGIA EDITION

Election 2026

WHAT IS VOTING AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Voting refers to the process of choosing officials or policies by casting a ballot. The leaders we elect make decisions that affect our daily lives. **Elections are our chance to stand up for what matters most to us** and to have an impact on the issues that affect us, our communities, our families and our future.

Black women have historically faced significant barriers to voting in the United States, and continue to face voter suppression to this day. **Despite these challenges, Black women are one of the most powerful voter blocs in this country** and are at the forefront of voter mobilization efforts.



MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF BLACK WOMEN TURNED OUT TO VOTE IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Source: CAWP/Higher Heights, 2022

**“If they don’t give you
a seat at the table,
bring a folding chair.”**

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm

First Black Woman Elected to Congress

First Black Woman to Run for President

Black Girls Vote launched on Shirley Chisholm’s birthday, November 30th, 1924.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN GEORGIA?

You can vote if you are a U.S. citizen, a Georgia resident, at least 18 years old on or before Election Day, and are registered to vote. You can pre-register starting at age 17 ½, so you're ready to vote the moment you turn 18.

If you've been convicted of a crime: Georgia restores your right to vote once you complete your full sentence, including any time on probation or parole. Once your sentence is complete, any outstanding probation fines are automatically canceled, and you're eligible to register again.

Registering to Vote

You can register online, by mail, or in person by **October 5, 2026**.

How to Vote



Early Voting

Vote early at any early voting center in your county. Early voting runs from October 13-30, but only some counties are open on Sundays.



Vote by Mail (Absentee)

Any registered voter can request an absentee ballot by October 23, 2026. Ballots must be received by the office by November 3 and can be mailed, hand-delivered, or brought to a drop box.



Vote on Election Day

This is the last day you can vote! Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Polls are open 7 a.m.–7 p.m. If you're in line by 7 p.m., you can vote!



Scan QR for
more info

Georgia requires photo ID to vote, both in person and by absentee ballot. Bring a Georgia driver's license (even if expired), a free Voter ID Card, another valid state or federal photo ID, a U.S. passport, a military ID, a tribal photo ID, or a qualifying government employee ID.



THE VOTING EXPERIENCE

However you choose to vote, knowing what to expect can help you cast your ballot with confidence.

Voting In-Person

Know where to go.

During Early Voting, you can vote at any early voting center in your county. On Election Day, vote at your assigned polling place.

Ask for help.

If you have questions or experience a problem, ask to speak with an election judge before leaving the polling place.

Stay in line.

If you're in line by 7 p.m. on Election Day, stay in line. You can still vote.

Know your rights.

Voter intimidation is illegal. If someone threatens, harasses, or attempts to interfere with your ability to vote, alert an election judge and contact Election Protection at 866-687-8683.

Voting By-Mail (Absentee)?

Request your ballot.

Submit your request ASAP by October 23 for delivery by mail.

Follow the instructions.

Read the instructions that come with your ballot carefully, include the required ID information, and complete all required steps before returning it.

Return your ballot on time.

Your completed ballot must be received by the election office by 7 p.m. on November 3. Mailing it by then isn't enough, so return it early. You can mail it back, drop it in an official ballot drop box, or hand-deliver it to your county registrar's office.

Track your ballot.

After you return your ballot, check its status to make sure it was received.

GEORGIA'S GOVERNMENT

Georgia's government has three branches with different roles and responsibilities. Knowing how they work can help you better understand the offices and candidates on your ballot.



Executive

Enforces state laws, oversees the state budget, and appoints officials. Led by the Governor, along with the Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State (who serves as Georgia's chief elections officer).



Judicial

Interprets state law. Georgia's system includes the Supreme Court of Georgia, the Georgia Court of Appeals, Superior Courts, State Courts, Probate Courts, Magistrate Courts, and Juvenile Courts.



Legislative

Makes Georgia's laws. The Georgia General Assembly is made up of the State Senate (56 seats) and the House of Representatives (180 seats).

2026 is a big election year in Georgia!

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and other statewide officials, the entire Georgia General Assembly, all 14 of Georgia's U.S. House seats, and one of Georgia's two U.S. Senate seats are on the November 3 ballot. Depending on where you live, you may also vote on local offices and ballot questions, giving Georgians a say in leadership at nearly every level of government.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON & ATLANTA

Georgians elect representatives to make laws at both the federal and state levels. Your members of Congress represent you in Washington, D.C., while your state legislators represent you in Atlanta.

U.S. Congress

In U.S. elections, voters elect members to the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together form Congress.

House of Representatives

All 14 of Georgia's U.S. House seats are up for election. Every two years, Georgia's full congressional delegation goes before voters. Georgia's current delegation is 9 Republicans and 5 Democrats.

Senate

Georgia has one U.S. Senate seat on the ballot in 2026: Senator Jon Ossoff is running for a second term. Georgia's other Senate seat, held by Raphael Warnock, is not up for reelection this cycle.

Georgia General Assembly

The General Assembly makes Georgia's state laws and is made up of two chambers:

State Senate: 56 senators

House of Delegates: 180 delegates

Every seat in both chambers is up for election in 2026. State lawmakers make decisions on issues such as education, health care, housing, transportation, public safety, and the state budget.



Look up your
representatives

VOTING FOR JUDGES IN GEORGIA

Unlike some states, Georgia directly elects almost all of its judges rather than having the governor appoint them, but most of those elections happen earlier in the year, not in November.



Supreme Court of Georgia & Court of Appeals

Justices and judges run in nonpartisan, statewide elections held on the same day as Georgia's primary in May, not on the November ballot. They serve six-year terms and must run for reelection to keep their seats.



Superior Courts

Superior Court judges (Georgia's general trial court judges) are also chosen in nonpartisan elections held at the primary, serving four-year terms.



Probate Courts

Probate judges handle wills, estates, and guardianships, and issue marriage and weapons-carry licenses. They're currently the only Georgia judgeship still elected on a partisan ballot.

Judicial decisions can shape people's rights, freedoms, families, and livelihoods. Research the judges and judicial candidates on your ballot so you can make an informed choice.



GEORGIA'S STATEWIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Georgia voters elect statewide leaders who oversee state government, manage public dollars, and enforce state laws. Here's what some of these officials do and why their roles matter.



Governor

The Governor leads Georgia's executive branch, oversees state agencies, proposes the state budget, and signs or vetoes legislation. The Governor also appoints key state officials and helps set Georgia's policy priorities.



Lieutenant Governor

Elected independently from the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor's main job is presiding over the State Senate as its President and casting tie-breaking votes there.



Attorney General

The Attorney General is Georgia's chief legal officer, representing the state in legal matters and providing legal counsel to state agencies. The office also works to protect Georgians in areas including consumer protection and civil rights.



Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is Georgia's chief elections officer, overseeing voter registration and the administration of elections statewide, in addition to maintaining business and corporate filings.

BALLOT QUESTIONS

Candidates aren't the only choices on your ballot! Georgia voters will consider three statewide constitutional amendments in 2026. Depending on where you live, your ballot may also include additional county or local questions, so be sure to review your sample ballot before you vote.

Question 1: Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund

Would allow the state Legislature to create and dedicate revenue to the Georgia Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund, which would modernize the state's 911 systems to keep up with today's technology.

A vote **FOR** allows the Legislature to create and fund the Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund.

A vote **AGAINST** would keep the current 911 systems in place.

Question 2: Conservation Use Property Tax Break

Would raise the maximum acreage of farm and timberland that a single owner can enroll in Georgia's Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA) program from 2,000 acres to 4,000 acres.

A vote **FOR** would raise the CUVA acreage cap to 4,000 acres.

A vote **AGAINST** would keep the current 2,000-acre limit in place.

Question 3: Nonpartisan Probate Judges

Would require probate judges (the last judicial office in Georgia still elected with a party label) to be elected on a nonpartisan basis, like every other judge in the state.

A vote **FOR** would make probate judge elections nonpartisan.

A vote **AGAINST** would keep probate judges elected on a partisan ballot.

MAKE A VOTING PLAN

Election Day will be here before you know it! Take a few minutes now to decide how you'll vote, research your ballot, and make a plan to get to the polls.

Research your ballot before you vote!

You can find a sample ballot with candidates and ballot measures on your state voting site.



QR for Vote 411

MY VOTING PLAN



I WILL VOTE...

☐ during early voting ☐ on Election Day ☐ by mail

VOTING IN-PERSON PLAN

I will vote on this **day**:

At this **time**:

At this **location**:

.....

VOTE BY MAIL PLAN

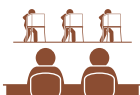
I will **request** my ballot by:

I will **return** my ballot by:



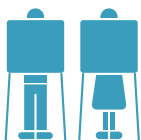
OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

There are many ways you can step up to strengthen our democracy and show up for your community in this election!



Become an Election Judge or Monitor

You can make sure we have safe, fair, and efficient elections for all voters. Step up and become a paid poll worker for the next election today at powerthepolls.org.



Vote together!

When you take someone to the polls with you, you can bring more people into our democracy and make sure your community's voices are heard. Bring a friend, family member, or even an acquaintance with you to vote!



Spread accurate information

Disinformation and misinformation are everywhere. According to Onyx Impact, over **40 million Americans** within Black online spaces may have been given disinformation about the election. Make sure to fact-check everything and spread accurate information to others.



Become a member of BGV!

Black Girls Vote membership is a direct and powerful way to change our communities and stand as a united front for our representation of our women and girls. Learn more at blackgirlsvote.org/membership.



ABOUT BLACK GIRLS VOTE

Black Girls Vote is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization designed to represent the concerns and interests of Black women.

We are not affiliated with any political party. We are invested in ensuring that Black women are empowered to advance education, economic development, quality health care, and improve outcomes.



blackgirlsvote.com



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