

# State Election Board – Membership

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **Revision to Code Section 21-2-30**

- Secretary of State removed as Chairperson of the State Election Board.
- New SEB Chairperson will be elected by General Assembly.
- The Secretary of State shall be an ex officio nonvoting member of the board.
- Requirements to serve as Chairperson
- The term of office of the chairperson shall continue until a successor is elected.
- Three voting members of the board shall constitute a quorum.



# State Election Board – Performance Review

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

**21-2-2 – Definition of “Superintendent” (Revision)**

**21-2-33.1 – Suspending Election Superintendents (New Subsection)**

**21-2- 33.2 – Investigating & Replacing Superintendents (New Code Section)**

**21-2-105, 106, 107, & 108 – Performance Review (New Code Sections)**



# State Election Board – Emergency Rules

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **New Code Sections 21-2-35 & 36**

- The State Election Board may only adopt emergency rules or regulations in circumstances of imminent peril to public health, safety, or welfare. To adopt any such emergency rule or regulation
- At least five business days prior to entering into any consent agreement, settlement, or consent order that limits, alters, or interprets any provision of this chapter, shall notify the House of Representatives and Senate Committees on the Judiciary of such proposed consent agreement, settlement, or consent order."



# Attorney Generals Office – Call Center

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **Revision to Code Section 21-2-3**

- Attorney General shall have the authority to establish and maintain a telephone hotline for the use of electors of this state to file complaints and allegations of voter intimidation and illegal election activities.
- Accept anonymous tips regarding voter intimidation and election fraud.
- The Attorney General shall have the authority to review each complaint or allegation of voter intimidation or illegal election activities within three business days or as expeditiously as possible and determine if such complaint or report should be investigated or prosecuted.



# Accepting Funds, Grants, & Gifts

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **Revisions to Code Section 21-2-71**

- No superintendent shall take or accept any funding, grants, or gifts from any source other than from the governing authority of the county or municipality, the State of Georgia, or the federal government.
- The State Election Board shall study and report to the General Assembly a proposed method for accepting donations intended to facilitate the administration of elections and a method for an equitable distribution of such donations state wide by October 1, 2021.

## **Revisions to Code Section 21-2-212**

- No board of registrars shall take or accept any funding, grants, or gifts from any source other than from the governing authority of the county, the State of Georgia, or the federal government.

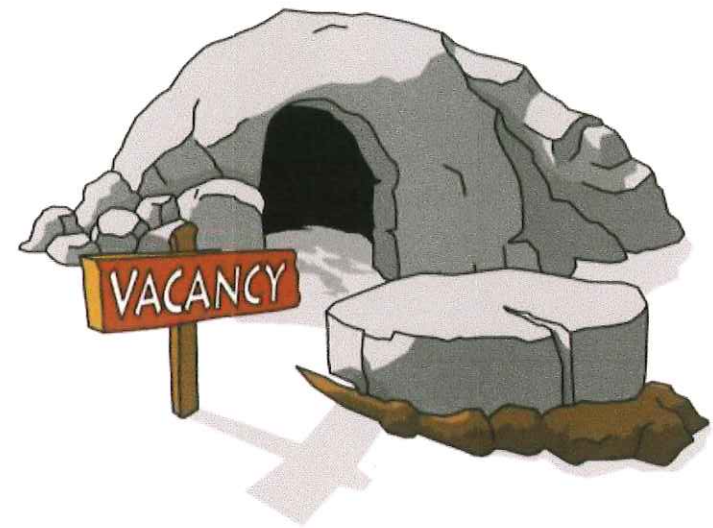


# Probate Judge Vacancy

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **New Code Sections 21-2-74.1**

- The chief judge of the superior court in the circuit to which the county is assigned shall appoint a qualified individual to serve as the acting election superintendent during such vacancy or incapacitation.
- If a county:
  - Does not have a board of elections
  - There is a vacancy in the office of judge of the probate court that has not been filled.
  - The judge of the probate court is incapacitated and unable to perform the duties of the election superintendent for a period of more than five days
- Upon the filling of a vacancy in the office of judge of the probate court, the judge of the probate court shall resume the duties of the election superintendent.



# Poll Workers

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **New Subsection to Code Section 21-2-92**

- A poll officer is allowed to serve in a county that adjoins the county in which they reside. However, it can not impair the ability to provide adequate staff to complete the election duties in the county where the poll worker resides.
- Up to the discretion of the election superintendent of the county in which the poll worker resides.
- A waiver must be completed by voter and county in which the person resides or county employed.

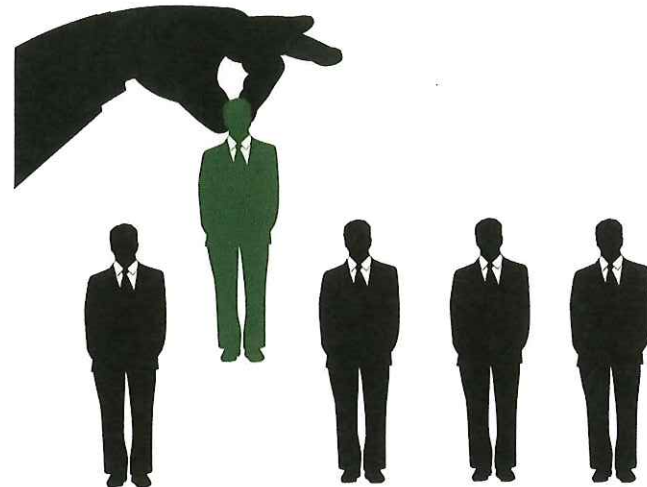


# Candidate Withdrawal

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **New Subsection to Code Section 21-2-134**

- In the event of the death of a candidate on the ballot in a nonpartisan election prior to such nonpartisan election:
  - The candidate's name shall remain on the ballot and all votes cast for such candidate shall be counted.
- If the deceased candidate receives the required number of votes to be elected, such contest shall be handled as a failure to fill the office under Code Section 21-2-504. (Call for a Special Primary or Election)
- If the deceased candidate receives enough votes to be in a run-off election, such run-off election shall be conducted. However, the candidates in the runoff shall be determined in accordance with paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 21-2-501. (Remaining two candidates with the highest numbers of votes)





# Voter Challenges

## *Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

There shall not be a limit on the number of persons whose qualifications such elector may challenge.

### **Revision to Code Section 21-2-229**

#### **(Qualifications to Register to Vote)**

- The registrars must set a hearing on the challenge within **10** business days after serving notice of the challenge.
- Notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and a copy of the challenge must be served to the voter being challenged within **10** business days following the filing of the challenge.
- Notice of the hearing must be served to the elector making the challenge as well.

### **Revision to Code Section 21-2-230**

#### **(Electors Right to Vote in an Election)**

- Challenge may be made at any time prior to the elector voting at their polling place or, if such elector cast an absentee ballot, prior to 5:00 P.M. on the day before absentee ballots are to begin to be scanned and tabulated.

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Code section by the board of registrars shall subject such board to sanctions by the State Election Board.

# Precinct Changes/Wait Times

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **Revision to Code Section 21-2-263**

If the scenario below occurred during the previous general election, there must be adjustments in the precinct:

- Precinct contained more than 2,000 electors
- On Election day, electors had to wait in line for more than one hour before checking in to vote

The superintendent must complete both or one of the tasks below to fix the issue:

- Reduce the size of such precinct so that it shall contain not more than 2,000 electors in accordance with the procedures prescribed by this chapter for the division, alteration, and consolidation of precincts no later than 60 days before the next general election.
- Provide additional voting equipment and/or poll workers before the next general election.

The chief manager of a precinct which contained more than 2,000 electors at the previous general election must submit a report to the superintendent of the reported time from entering the line to checking in to vote.

- The wait times must be recorded at least three different times throughout the day (in the morning, at midday, and prior to the close of polls)
- SOS will provide a form for recording the wait time results.

# Polling Places

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## Revision to Code Section 21-2-265 & 266

- During the **seven** days before and on the day of the first election following the polling place change, a notice of the change must be posted on the previous polling place and at **three** other places in the immediate vicinity thereof.
- Each notice posted must state:
  - the location to which the polling place has been moved
  - Must direct electors to the new location.
- At least **one** notice at the previous polling place must be a minimum of four feet by four feet in size.
- Advance Voting locations was added to the section.
- Buses and other readily movable facilities can only be used in emergencies declared by the Governor to supplement the capacity of the polling place where the emergency circumstance occurred.

# Voting Equipment Distribution

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

Revision and new subsection to Code Section 21-2-367

In each precinct in which optical scanning voting systems are **used in a state-wide general election**, the county election superintendent shall provide at least one voting booth or enclosure for each **250** electors.

For any other primary, election, or runoff, the county or municipal election superintendent may provide a greater or lesser number of voting booths or enclosures.

Things to consider:

- The type of election
- Expected turnout
- The number of electors who have already voted by advance voting or absentee ballot
- Any other relevant factors that inform the appropriate amount of equipment needed



# L&A Testing Notice

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **Revision to Code Section 21-2-379.25**

- The superintendent of each county or municipality must be publish and post an L&A notice:
  - On the homepage of their publicly accessible website associated with elections, if applicable,
  - In a newspaper of general circulation;
  - At the prominent location in the county or municipality.
- The notice must state the date, time, and place or places where preparation and testing of the voting system components for use in the primary or election will commence.
- The advertisement in the newspaper of general circulation must be:
  - Prominently displayed
  - Cannot be less than 30 square inches
  - Cannot be placed in the section of the newspaper where legal notices appear
- Also, notice must be provided to the Secretary of State. We are working on a way for this information to be entered into eNet and reflected on the SOS website.



# Drop Box Requirements

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## Revisions and new subsections to Code Section 21-2-382

A board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk must establish at least **one** drop box as a means for absentee by mail electors to deliver their ballots to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk.

A board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk may establish additional drop boxes only if the additional drop boxes totaling the lesser of either:

- One drop box for every 100,000 active registered voters in the county;
- Or the number of advance voting locations in the county.
- Any additional drop boxes must be evenly geographically distributed by population in the county.

Drop boxes may be established at the office of the board of registrars or inside locations at which advance voting is conducted. During an emergency declared by the Governor, drop boxes may be located outside the office of the board of registrars or outside of locations at which advance voting is taking place.



# Drop Box Requirements

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **Revisions and new subsections to Code Section 21-2-382**

- The drop box may be open during the hours of advance voting at the location and closed when advance voting is not being conducted at that location. All drop boxes shall be closed when the advance voting period ends.
- The drop box location must have adequate lighting and be under constant surveillance by an election official or his or her designee, law enforcement official, or licensed security guard.
- The opening slot of a drop box can not allow ballots to be tampered with or removed.
- It must be designed to minimize the ability for liquid or other substances that may damage ballots to be poured into the drop box.
- Must be labeled "OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT DROP BOX" and clearly display the signage developed by SOS.



# Drop Box Requirements

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## Revisions and new subsections to Code Section 21-2-382

- The board of registrars or absentee ballot must arrange for the collecting and return of ballots deposited at each drop box at the conclusion of **each day** where advance voting takes place.
- Collection of ballots from a drop box must be made by a team of at least **two** people. Any person collecting ballots from a drop box shall have sworn an oath in the same form as the oath for poll officers set forth in Code Section 21-2-95.
- The collection team must complete and sign a ballot transfer form upon removing the ballots from the drop box. Then immediately transfer the ballots to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk, who shall process and store the ballots in the same manner as absentee ballots returned by mail are processed and stored.





# Drop Box Requirements

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **Revisions and new subsections to Code Section 21-2-382**

- The board of registrars, absentee ballot clerk, or a designee of the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall sign the ballot transfer form upon receipt of the ballots from the collection team.
- At the beginning of voting, the manager of the advance voting location shall open the drop box and confirm its is empty.
- If the drop box is not empty, the manager shall secure the contents of the drop box and immediately inform the election superintendent or board of registrars, who must inform the Secretary of State.



P.4084

# Poll Watchers

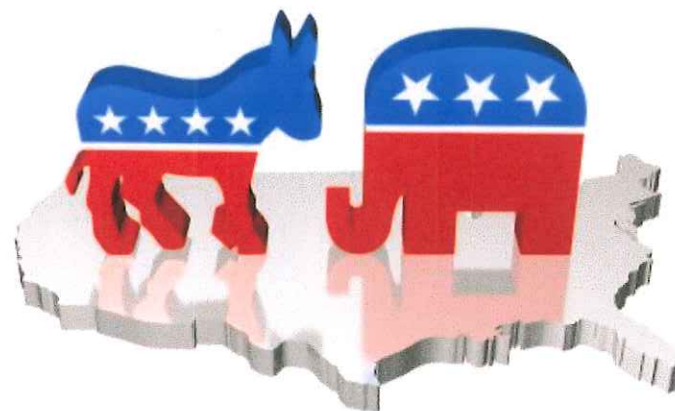
*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **Revisions to Code Section 21-2-408**

The location of the tabulation center must ensure that each poll watcher can fairly observe the procedures.

No person is eligible to serve as a poll watcher unless he or she has completed training provided by the political party, political body, or candidate designating the poll watcher. SOS will provide the training to those groups.

Each political party, political body, or candidate must certify under oath that the named poll watchers have completed the required training.



# Restrictions on Campaign Activities

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **Revisions to Code Section 21-2-414**

- Restriction on giving, offering to give, or participating in the giving of any money or gifts, including food or drink, to electors to solicit votes.
- Poll Officer is not prohibited from making available self-service water from an unattended receptacle to an elector waiting in line to vote.



# Provisional Ballots

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## Revisions to Code Section 21-2-418

- If the person presents himself or herself at a polling place in the county in which he or she is registered to vote, but not at the precinct at which he or she is registered to vote, the poll officials shall inform the person of the polling location for the precinct where such person is registered to vote.
- The poll officials shall also inform such person that any votes cast by a provisional ballot in the wrong precinct will not be counted unless it is cast after 5:00 P.M. and before the regular time for the closing of the polls on the day of the primary, election, or runoff.
- The person must execute a sworn statement stating that he or she is unable to vote at his or her correct polling place prior to the closing of the polls and giving the reason therefor.



# Provisional Ballots

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## Revisions to Code Section 21-2-419

- If person casting the provisional ballot timely registered to vote and was **eligible and entitled to vote in the precinct in which he or she voted** in such primary or election, the provisional ballot shall be counted and included in the county's or municipality's certified election results.
- If the person voting the provisional ballot timely registered and was **eligible and entitled to vote in the primary or election but voted in the wrong precinct**, only the person voted between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and the regular time for the closing of the polls on the day of the primary, election, or runoff and provided the required sworn statement will be reviewed.
  - The superintendent shall count such person's votes which were cast for candidates in those races for which the person was entitled to vote but shall not count the votes cast for candidates in those races in which such person was not entitled to vote.
- The original ballot shall be retained and the sworn statement must be transmitted to the Secretary of State with the certification documents and the statement will be reviewed by the State Election Board.

P.2082

# Data Dashboard

## *Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

### **New Code Section 21-2-420 & 421**

- New data reporting required after the polls close.
- As soon as possible but not later than 10:00 P.M. following the close of the polls on the day of a primary, election, or runoff, the election superintendent shall report to the Secretary of State and post in a prominent public place the following information:
  - The number of ballots cast at the polls on the day of the primary, election, or runoff, including provisional ballots cast;
  - The number of ballots cast at advance voting locations during the advance voting period for the primary, election, or runoff; and
  - The total number of absentee ballots returned to the board of registrars by the deadline to receive such absentee ballots on the day of the primary, election, or runoff
- The State Election Board shall promulgate rules and regulations regarding how such information shall be publicly posted to ensure transparency, accuracy, and security.



# Duplication Panel

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## Revisions to Code Section 21-2-483

- If it appears that a ballot is so torn, bent, or otherwise defective that it cannot be processed by the tabulating machine, the superintendent, in his or her discretion, may a duplication panel to prepare a true duplicate copy for processing. Separate requirements for:
  - a partisan election
  - a nonpartisan election or an election involving only the presentation of a question to the electors
  - a nonpartisan county or municipal election or an election involving only the presentation of a question to the electors
  - a municipality which is located in more than one county
- All duplicate ballots shall be clearly labeled by the word 'duplicate,' shall bear the designation of the polling place, and shall contain a **unique number** that will allow such duplicate ballot to be linked back to the original ballot. The defective ballot shall be retained."



# Tabulation and Certification

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## Revisions to Code Section 21-2-493

- The superintendent shall, after the close of the polls on the day of a primary or election publicly commence the computation and canvassing of the returns and continue until all absentee ballots received by the close of the polls and all ballots cast on the day of the primary or election have been counted and tabulated. The results of the tabulation must be released to the public from day to day until completed.
- SOS must create a pilot program for the posting of digital images of the scanned paper ballots created by the voting system.
  - Scanned ballot images created by a voting system shall be public records subject to disclosure under this article.
- Election returns must be certified no later than 5:00 P.M. on the **Monday** following the date on which the election.





# Runoffs & Special Primaries

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **Revisions to Code Section 21-2-501**

In instances where no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a run-off primary, special primary runoff, run-off election, or special election runoff between the candidates receiving the two highest numbers of votes shall be held.

Unless such date is postponed by a court order, such runoff shall be held on the twenty-eighth day after the day of holding the preceding general or special primary or general or special election.

## **Revisions to Code Section 21-2-540**

If a vacancy occurs in a partisan office to which the Governor is authorized to appoint an individual to serve until the next general election, a special primary shall precede the special election.



# Miscellaneous Offenses

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective Now*

## **New Code Section 21-2-568.1**

- Except while providing authorized assistance in voting and except for children authorized to be in the enclosed space, no person shall intentionally observe an elector while casting a ballot in a manner that would allow such person to see for whom or what the elector is voting.
- Any person who violates the provisions shall be guilty of a felony.

## **New Code Section 21-2-568.2**

- It shall be illegal for any person to use photographic or other electronic monitoring or recording devices, cameras, or cellular telephones, except as authorized by law, to:
  - Photograph or record the face of an electronic ballot marker while a ballot is being voted or while an elector's votes are displayed on such electronic ballot marker; or
  - Photograph or record a voted ballot.
- Any person who violates this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

## Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>

Sections 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, and 29 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2021. All other sections of this Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

- Section 21 – Form of the ballot (CES requirement)
- Section 23 – Security Paper
- Section 25 – Absentee Applications
- Section 27 – Absentee Ballots
- Section 28 – Voting Absentee Ballots
- Section 29 - Accepting Absentee Ballots/Early Scanning



# CES – Form of Ballots

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

Requires ballots to have printed at the top the name and designation of the precinct.

## **Effective Now**

Revision to Code Section 21-2-284, 284.1, 285, 286, 287, 379.23, 480, 482

## **Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>**

Revision to Code Section 21-2-285.1



# Security Paper

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

## **Revision to Code Section 21-2-372**

Other than ballots delivered electronically to qualified electors who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. Section 20301, et seq., the ballots shall be printed on security paper that incorporates features which can be used to authenticate the ballot as an official ballot but which do not make the ballot identifiable to a particular elector.



# Absentee Ballot Requests

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

## **Revision to Code Section 21-2-381**

- Voters can submit an absentee ballot application no earlier than **78** days or less than **11** days prior to the date of the primary or election, or runoff.
- To be timely received, an application for an absentee-by-mail ballot must be received by the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk no later than **11** days prior to the primary, election, or runoff.



# Absentee Ballot Applications

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- Any person applying for an absentee-by-mail ballot shall make application in writing on the form made available by the Secretary of State.
- In order to confirm the identity of the voter, such form shall require the elector to provide:
  - his or her name
  - date of birth
  - address as registered
  - address where the elector wishes the ballot to be mailed, and
  - the number of his or her Georgia driver's license or identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5 of Title 40.
    - If such elector does not have a Georgia driver's license or identification card, the elector must provide a copy of a form of identification listed in subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-417.



P. 192

# Absentee Ballot Applications

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

The application shall also include:

- the identity of the primary, election, or runoff in which the elector wishes to vote;
  - and the name and relationship of the person requesting the ballot if other than the elector;
  - and an oath for the elector or relative to write his or her usual signature with a **pen and ink** affirming that the elector is a qualified Georgia elector and the facts presented on the application are true.
- Secretary of State, election superintendent, board of registrars, other governmental entity, nor employee or agent thereof shall send absentee ballot applications directly to any elector except upon request of such elector or a relative authorized to request an absentee ballot for such elector. Only to individuals who have not already requested, received, or voted an absentee ballot in the primary, election, or runoff.



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# Returning Absentee Ballot Applications

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- No person or entity other than the elector, a relative authorized to request an absentee ballot for such elector, a person signing as assisting an illiterate or physically disabled elector with his or her application, a common carrier charged with returning the ballot application, an absentee ballot clerk, a registrar, or a law enforcement officer in the course of an investigation shall handle or return an elector's completed absentee ballot application.
- Handling a completed absentee ballot application by any person or entity other than as allowed in this subsection shall be a misdemeanor.



# Receiving Absentee Ballot Applications

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- The registrar or absentee ballot clerk shall verify the identity of the applicant and determine if the applicant is eligible to vote in the primary or election involved.
- In order to verify the identity of the applicant, the registrar or absentee ballot clerk shall compare the information below on the application with the information on file in the registrar's office.
  - the identifying information applicant's name
  - The date of birth, and
  - The number of his or her Georgia driver's license or identification card.
- If the application does not contain the number of the applicant's Georgia driver's license or identification card, the registrar or absentee ballot clerk shall verify that the identification provided with the application identifies the applicant.



# Verifying Absentee Ballot Application Information

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- If found ineligible or if the application is not timely received, the clerk or the board of registrars shall deny the application and promptly notify the applicant in writing of the ground of ineligibility.
  - However, an absentee ballot application shall not be rejected solely due to a mismatch between the identifying information of the elector on the application and the identifying information of the elector on file with the board of registrars.
  - In such cases, the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall send the elector a provisional absentee ballot with the designation 'Provisional Ballot' on the outer oath envelope and information prepared by the Secretary of State as to the process to be followed to cure the discrepancy.
- If the registrar or clerk is unable to determine the identity of the elector from information given on the application or if the application is not complete or if the oath on the application is not signed, the registrar or clerk should promptly contact the elector in writing to request the necessary additional information and a signed copy of the oath.

# Mailing Absentee Ballots

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- The board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall mail or issue official absentee ballots to all eligible applicants not more than **29** days but not less than **25** days prior to any presidential preference primary, general primary other than a municipal general primary, general election other than a municipal general election, or special primary or special election in which there is a candidate for a federal office on the ballot
- however, that official absentee ballots shall be issued to any elector of the jurisdiction who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. Section 20301, et seq., as amended, beginning **49** days prior to a **federal** primary or election, and not later than **45** days prior to a federal primary or election.

A graphic logo for voting. It features a large, stylized red checkmark on the left, followed by the word "Vote" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

P.192

# Mailing Absentee Ballots

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- For all timely received applications for absentee ballots, the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall mail or issue absentee ballots, provisional absentee ballots, and notices of rejection as soon as possible upon determining their eligibility within the time periods set forth in this subsection.
- During the period for advance voting, the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall make such determinations and mail or issue absentee ballots, provisional absentee ballots, and notices of rejection of application within **three** days after receiving a timely application for an absentee ballot.
- an elector confined in a hospital may make application for an absentee ballot on the day of a primary or election or during a **ten-day** period immediately preceding the day of such primary or election.
- Such application shall immediately be processed and the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk may deliver the absentee ballot to such elector.



Vote

P. 292

# Absentee Ballot Outer Envelope & Instructions

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- **New Absentee Ballot Envelope**

- The envelope shall be designed so that the number of the elector's Georgia driver's license or identification card, the last four digits of the elector's social security number, and the elector's date of birth shall be hidden from view when the envelope is correctly sealed.

- **New Absentee Ballot Instructions**

- The uniform instructions shall prominently include specific instructions stating that the elector shall mark his or her ballot in private and sign the oath by writing his or her usual signature with a pen and ink under penalty of false swearing that the elector has not allowed any person to observe the marking of his or her ballot other than an authorized person lawfully assisting the elector if the elector is entitled to assistance

- **Special Absentee Runoff Ballot & Instructions (No more SWABs)**

- The election superintendent shall prepare special absentee run-off ballots for general primaries and general elections for use by qualified electors who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. Section 20301, et seq.

# Advance Voting Dates & Notice

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- There shall be a period of advance voting that shall commence:
  - on the fourth Monday immediately prior to each primary or election; and
  - as soon as possible prior to a runoff from any other general primary or election but no later than the second Monday immediately prior to such runoff and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff.
- Voting shall be conducted:
  - Beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. on weekdays, other than observed state holidays.
  - Second and third Saturdays during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 5:00 P.M.
- If the registrar or absentee ballot clerk so chooses, the second Sunday, the third Sunday, or both the second and third Sundays prior to a primary or election during hours determined by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk, but no longer than 7:00 A.M. through 7:00 P.M.



R192

# Advance Voting Dates & Notice

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- The Board of registrars must publish and post the dates, times, and locations of the availability of advance voting:
  - on the homepage of the county's publicly accessible website associated with elections or registrations, if applicable, or in a newspaper of general circulation
  - and at a prominent location in the county
- The notice must be published/posted:
  - no later than 14 days prior to the beginning of the advance voting period for a general primary, special primary, general election, or special election and
  - no later than seven days prior to the beginning of the advance voting period for any run-off election.
- Any new advance voting locations added after that deadline shall be published in the same manner as soon as possible.
- The board of registrars shall not remove any advance voting location after the notice of such location is published, except in the case of an emergency or unavoidable event that renders a location unavailable for use.



P. 292



# Absentee Ballot Daily Data

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- On each day of an absentee voting period, each county board of registrars or municipal absentee ballot clerk shall report for the county or municipality to the Secretary of State and post on the county or municipal website, or if the county or municipality does not maintain such a website, a place of public prominence in the county or municipality, not later than 10:00 A.M. on each business day the number of persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued, the number of persons who have returned absentee ballots, and the number of absentee ballots that have been rejected.
- Additionally, on each day of an advance voting period, each county board of registrars or municipal absentee ballot clerk shall report to the Secretary of State and post on the county or municipal website, or if the county or municipality does not maintain such a website, a place of public prominence in the county or municipality, not later than 10:00 A.M. on each business day the number of persons who have voted at the advance voting sites in the county or municipality.
- During the absentee voting period and for a period of three days following a primary, election, or runoff, each county board of registrars or municipal absentee ballot clerk shall report to the Secretary of State and post on the county or municipal website, or if the county or municipality does not maintain such a website, a place of public prominence in the county or municipality, not later than 10:00 A.M. on each business day the number of persons who have voted provisional ballots, the number of provisional ballots that have verified or cured and accepted for counting, and the number of provisional ballots that have been rejected."

# Returning an Absentee Ballot

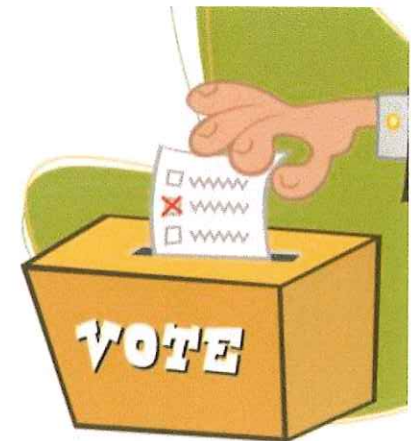
*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

In order to verify that the absentee ballot was voted by the elector who requested the ballot, the elector shall print the number of his or her Georgia driver's license number or identification card in the space provided on the outer oath envelope.

The elector shall also print his or her date of birth in the space provided in the outer oath envelope.

If the elector does not have a Georgia driver's license or state identification card, the elector must print the last four digits of his or her social security number in the space provided on the outer oath envelope.

If the elector does not have a Georgia driver's license, identification card, or a social security number, the elector must place a copy of one of the forms of identification set forth in subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-417 in the outer envelope.



# Verifying Absentee Ballots

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

The registrar or clerk will then compare the number of the elector's Georgia driver's license number or state identification card and date of birth entered on the absentee ballot envelope contained in the elector's voter registration records.

If the elector has affirmed on the envelope that he or she does not have a Georgia driver's license or state identification card, the registrar or clerk shall compare the last four digits of the elector's social security number and date of birth entered on the envelope with the same information contained in the elector's voter registration records.

The registrar or clerk shall also confirm that the elector signed the oath and the person assisting the elector, if any, signed the required oath.

If the elector has signed the elector's oath, the person assisting has signed the required oath, if applicable, and the identifying information entered on the absentee ballot envelope matches the same information contained in the elector's voter registration record, the registrar or clerk shall so certify by signing or initialing his or her name below the voter's oath.



P. 1052

# Verifying Absentee Ballots

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

If the elector has failed to sign the oath, or if the signature identifying information entered on the absentee ballot envelope does not appear to be a valid match the same information appearing in the elector's voter registration record, or if the elector has failed to furnish required information or information so furnished does not conform with that on file in the registrar's or clerk's office, or if the elector is otherwise found disqualified to vote, the registrar or clerk shall write across the face of the envelope 'Rejected,' giving the reason therefor.

The elector may cure a failure to sign the oath, an invalid signature nonmatching identifying information, or missing information by submitting an affidavit to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk along with a copy of one of the forms of identification enumerated in subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-417.



P. 20F2

# Early Processing/Scanning

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- Can begin at 8:00 A.M. on the third Monday prior to the day of the primary, election, or runoff.
- The election superintendent shall be authorized to open the outer oath envelope of absentee ballots that have been verified and accepted, remove the contents of such outer envelope, or to open the inner envelope marked 'Official Absentee Ballot,' and scan the absentee ballot using one or more ballot scanners.
- At least **three** persons who are registrars, deputy registrars, poll workers, or absentee ballot clerks must be present before commencing.
- **Three** persons who are registrars, deputy registrars, or absentee ballot clerks shall be present at all times while the outer absentee ballot envelopes are being opened and the absentee ballots are being scanned.



P-192

# Early Processing/Scanning

*Senate Bill 202 - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>*

- No person shall tally, tabulate, estimate, or attempt to tally, tabulate, or estimate or cause the ballot scanner or any other equipment to produce any tally or tabulate, partial or otherwise, of the absentee ballots cast until the time for the closing of the polls on the day of the primary, election, or runoff except as provided in this Code section.
- Prior to beginning the process set forth in this paragraph, the superintendent shall provide written notice to the Secretary of State in writing at least seven days prior to processing and scanning absentee ballots. Such notice shall contain the dates, start and end times, and location or locations where absentee ballots will be processed and scanned.
- The superintendent shall also post such notice publicly in a prominent location in the superintendent's office and on the home page of the county election superintendent's website, if the county election superintendent maintains such a website.



Pa-202