

**EASIER TO VOTE....HARDER TO CHEAT:**

**COMMON SENSE ELECTION REFORMS IN GEORGIA IN 2021**

**EASIER TO VOTE**

- Expands early voting to 22 days from former 15 days
- Requires two Saturday early voting days in each county
- Optional Sunday voting (no change from current law)
- Allows local registrars to extend early voting hours
- Allows election officials to direct voters to their correct precinct prior to 5 pm on Election Day; provisional ballots after 5 pm
- Counties with more than 2,000 population must create additional precincts or add resources to reduce wait times on election day
- New hotline in GA attorney general's office to report voting issues
- Reduces from 180 days to 78 days the time before an election for requesting an absentee ballot
- Eligible electors in jail or detention provided process for voting
- Counties must establish ballot drop boxes (number based on population) for depositing absentee ballots during early voting
- Establishes procedures for voters to cure deficiencies in applications for absentee ballots to enable them to vote
- Expands types of identification that can be used for verifying voter identity to include bank statement or utility bill with name and voter address, in addition to government issued photo ID
- Hospitalized eligible voters may apply for absentee ballots after the deadline and have ballots delivered to the hospital
- An absentee voter whose identifying information doesn't match is notified and has opportunity to cure
- Self service water may be provided by the election officials to voters waiting in line to vote

## HARDER TO CHEAT

- Voter Identification is required for all voting, not just in-person voting, but with additional types of ID allowed (bank statement, utility bill, not just government photo ID)
- Drop boxes must be supervised at all times by government officials
- Ballots collected daily from drop boxes, documenting chain of custody
- Prohibits ballot trafficking by third parties, protecting vulnerable and disadvantaged voters
- No private money (a la Zuckerbucks) can be accepted by election offices
- Regular list maintenance required, specifically to remove voters who have died, moved to another state or have otherwise become ineligible to vote in Georgia
- Ballots printed on secure paper to prevent illegal copying of ballots
- Notice to public of equipment testing prior to election
- No pre-filled absentee ballot applications by third parties OR election officials – all third party absentee ballot applications must clearly state that it is NOT an official application or absentee ballot
- Shortens the time for sending absentee ballots to eligible applicants to no more than 25 days before the election (rather than 49 days) and no sooner than 22 days (from 45 days) (except for Overseas and Military ballots)
- Absentee voters must sign witnessed affidavit that affirms the voter was able to cast secret ballot, without observation or interference by third parties
- Procedures for opening absentee ballot envelopes are strengthened and monitors must be allowed to witness
- Requires continuation of tabulating of votes once started, until completed
- Authorizes an audit of absentee ballot applications and ballots for 24 months following an election
- Observers required to undergo poll watcher training and meaningful observation must be allowed by election officials
- Third parties, other than election officials, cannot provide any thing of value to voters waiting to vote or in exchange for their votes
- Election officials must post by 10 pm on Election Night the number of ballots issued in each category (in person, absentee, provisional, overseas,

etc.) and any discrepancies between numbers of ballots issued and number of votes tabulated must be investigated

- Ballots damaged or illegible may be duplicated but only by bipartisan teams of witnesses, and must be assigned a number corresponding to original damaged ballot
- Establishes pilot project for digital imaging of scanned paper ballots
- Establishes criminal penalties for election officials who accept ballots in a manner contrary to law
- Scanned ballot images are defined as public records, subject to Open Records law