

Your Voice – Your Vote

VSU Office of Student Life

**The on-campus headquarters for information about Voter Registration
Located on the third floor of the Student Union, the Student Life Office is
open Monday through Thursday 8:00am to 5:30pm and on Friday 8:00am to
3:00pm. We can also be reached at 229.333.5674.**

Q&A GUIDE TO VOTER REGISTRATION

Why does Valdosta State University get involved in voter registration?

The 1998 reauthorization of the federal Higher Education Act includes a requirement that higher education institutions make a “good faith effort” to make voter registration forms available to all enrolled students. Additional information regarding voting and voter registration in the State of Georgia is available on the Secretary of State’s website at <http://www.sos.ga.gov/elections>. Federal and state legislation supports Valdosta State University’s long-standing goals of engendering leadership and citizenship among the student body, faculty and staff.

Where can I go to register to vote?

Voter Registration forms are available in the Office of Student Life – third floor of the Student Union. The Student Life Office is open 8:00am-5:30pm Monday through Thursday, and 8:00am-3:00pm on Fridays. Don’t have time to drop by? We’re also happy to answer your questions when you call – 229.333.5674. See below for information regarding online voter registration procedures.

Do I have to bring an ID to register to vote?

Yes - identification is required in order to register to vote. Your identification must show your name and residence address. If you are registering for the first time in Georgia, you are required to provide identification. Acceptable forms of identification are:

- Valid Valdosta State University Student ID
- Valid Georgia driver's license
- Valid photo ID card issued by any entity of the State of Georgia, any other state, or the United States
- Valid U.S. passport
- A government employee photo ID
- Valid U.S. military ID card with photo
- Valid Tribal ID with photo
- Current utility bill showing name and address*
- Valid government check or paycheck showing name and address*
- Valid government document showing name and address*
- Current bank statement showing name and address**

Please Note: the above identification marked with an asterisk () may only be used one time by the first time registered voter. Voting in person after that requires photo identification.

*Those who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot, under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act are exempt from this requirement.

**Bank statements are kept private and are not available for public inspection

If you are registering to vote by mail, you are required to provide ID by one of the following ways:

- 1) Mail a copy of the identification with your voter registration application
- 2) Provide a copy of the identification to the registrar before or at the time you cast a ballot

Am I eligible to register to vote in the State of Georgia?

These are the qualifications for individuals registering to vote in the State of Georgia:

- * Must be a citizen of the United States.
- * A legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which you wish to vote.
- * Must reside at the address shown on the voter registration application.
- * Must be at least 17 1/2 years of age to register and 18 years of age to vote.

You may not register to vote if you are currently:

- *Serving any sentence imposed by the conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude.
- *Judicially determined to be mentally incompetent.

Residents of other states are eligible to register in their home state. Please see the section below on information on registering to vote, absentee ballots, and out of state election information.

As a college student living away from home, where can I register?

What about online voter registration?

Voter registration forms are available at the Office of Student Life on the 3rd floor of the Student Union or you may download one from <http://sos.georgia.gov/ivote/> . The Student Life Office is open Monday –Thursday, 8:00am to 5:30pm and on Friday 8:00am to 3:00pm. Be sure to bring a valid photo ID (see above). Have questions? Call us at 229.333.5674.

Should I use my college address or my parents' address as my "domicile" (place of residence for voter registration purposes)?

University students who are Georgia residents may register to vote either at your VSU address or at your permanent (parents') address if you established residency there before you enrolled at Valdosta State. Choose whichever is most convenient or the one you personally prefer and consider your home. If your voting precinct is elsewhere, you must remember to request an absentee ballot from your County Board of Electors at least 30 days before the election, then complete and mail your ballot back on time. You could also go back home on election day to vote in person. Look up the mailing address for your county's Election Office here <http://sos.georgia.gov/cgi-bin/countyelectionofficesindex.asp> to look up the mailing address for your county's Election Office.

I want to vote in the next election. When do I need to register?

In order to vote, you must register to vote by the close of business on the fifth Monday before Election Day. This means that if the election is on a Tuesday, registration is due 29 days before the election. If you mail in your voter registration, it must be postmarked on or before that day.

When will elections be held this year?

The Georgia Elections and Voter Registration Calendar is at http://www.sos.ga.gov/elections/elections_events.htm. You'll find the types of elections, such as special elections or general primary, the dates of this year's elections (including when any run-off elections may be held), and the deadline to register to vote in each scheduled election.

I live in on-campus housing and have a box number. What is the correct way to complete the voter registration form?

Most of the form is straight forward, but the difference between “residence address” and “mailing address” may not be readily apparent. If you live on campus: on Line 1, enter your name. On Line 2, for Residence Address, enter the name of your Hall and your room number (for example, Hopper Hall #3122-B). Line 3 is for your mailing address – your VSU Box number, Valdosta GA 31698. Be sure you fill out items 1-7. Item 8 is reserved for people who have changed their name (i.e., when a bride takes her husband’s last name). Be sure to use black or dark blue ink.

If I move, how do I change my voter registration to my new address?

Your voter registration address can be updated by completing a voter registration application and filling out the Change of Address section of the form. Registration forms are available at the Office of Student Life, 3rd floor of the Student Union. Student Life is open 8am-5:30pm Monday—Thursday and 8am-3pm on Fridays. You can also mail address changes to your new county elections office. Go here <http://sos.georgia.gov/cgi-bin/countyelectionofficesindex.asp> to look up the mailing address for your county’s Election Office.

I moved to a new room in my residence hall—do I have to change my voter registration?

Yes, you need to re-register. Moving residence halls or rooms within a residence hall is considered a change of address. Fill out a new registration form just as you would do if you moved off campus or to another town. Always remember to enter your residence hall and room number on line 2. Your VSU Box number is your mailing address—and it goes on line 3. Be sure you use an ink pen with black or dark blue ink to complete your form.

Where can I vote—I live on campus?

The Polling Location for VSU Students who live on campus is the First Christian Church at 1905 N. Patterson Street. It’s the white church with red doors at the corner of Patterson and Alden Streets, about 4 blocks north of the main VSU campus.

I live off campus –where do I vote?

Your Precinct Card (which was mailed to you when you registered to vote or submitted a change of address to your County Elections Office) will show the name and location of your polling place—where you go to vote. If you didn’t get a Precinct Card or have misplaced it, you can look up your polling place here: <http://www.sos.georgia.gov/MVP/Login.aspx> .

What resources are available for voters with disabilities?

The Georgia Secretary of State’s Office is dedicated to making elections accessible to everyone, regardless of disability. This site http://www.sos.ga.gov/Elections/disability_voting.htm has been constructed to help ensure that information technology is accessible to people with disabilities, including access via screen reader.

For additional information please contact the Office of Student Life at 229.333.5674 or the Secretary of State’s office at 404-656-2871, (V/TTY) 656-1787, or by email at kgkalisa@sos.georgia.gov.

Do I need to bring anything with me in order to vote?

Yes—Georgia law (O.C.G.A § 21-2-417) requires Georgia residents to show photo identification when voting in person. The following IDs are acceptable:

*Valid Valdosta State University photo ID

- *Any valid state or federal government issued photo ID, including a FREE Voter ID Card issued by your [county registrar's office](#) or the [Georgia Department of Driver Services](#) (DDS)
- *A Georgia Driver's License, even if expired
- *Valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. Government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of this state
- *Valid U.S. passport ID
- *Valid U.S. military photo ID
- *Valid tribal photo ID

I am in college, and I am registered to vote back home. How will I be able to vote?

If you are registered to vote back home (your parents' address) and want to vote while attending VSU, you have three choices: 1) go back home to vote on election day or 2) remember to request an absentee ballot at least 30 days before the election in which you wish to vote or 3) move your registration to your college address. To move your voter registration to your college address, complete a new Voter Registration Form. Forms are available in the Office of Student Life (3rd floor of the Student Union) or at the Lowndes County Board of Electors at 2808 N Oak Street. You can also download and print the form from the iVote website, then fill it out and mail it. Absentee voting: Georgia law allows you to vote by absentee ballot without providing a reason. Visit <http://sos.georgia.gov/ivote/> and click on Absentee Voting to download an absentee ballot application. While you're on the website, look up the mailing address for your County Board of Electors – that's where you'll need to mail your completed ballot. You'll find registration deadlines and election dates on the iVote website, too: <http://www.sos.ga.gov/elections/#> .

If your established residence (domicile) is outside the State of Georgia, you must contact your local board of elections regarding absentee ballots or to change your mailing address. Links to local boards of elections can be found at these non-partisan voter registration websites:

- Youth Vote Coalition www.youthvote.org
- Your Vote, Your Choice www.yourvoteyourchoice.org
- Rock the Vote www.rockthevote.org
- The League of Women Voters www.lwv.org
- Project Vote Smart www.smartvoter.org
- Vote411-League of Women Voters <http://www.vote411.org>

I live in another state – how can I register to vote there?

If you live in a state other than Georgia, click here to download the National Voter Registration Form from the Federal Election Commission: <http://www.eac.gov/> . Information can also be found at the voter registration websites listed above.

Will I get a Voter Registration ID Card?

First time registrants or change of address registrants will receive a mailer card confirming their registration, address and voting place. Getting the mailer also indicates that you are actually enrolled to vote at the voting place for that precinct. If you don't get a confirmation ID mailer card within 14 days of registration, you should call your county Voter Registration Office and request action on your registration form. You'll find links to Georgia's county Board of Electors at <http://sos.georgia.gov/ivote/> .

VSU is located in Lowndes County; the mailing address for the Lowndes County Election Supervisor (Board of Electors) is Post Office Box 1349, Valdosta GA 31602. Their office is located at 2808 N. Oak Street and their phone number is 229.671.2850. Their email address is elections@lowndescounty.com .

Not sure if you are registered to vote? Not sure where you are registered?

If you have registered in Georgia before but forgotten where you said you reside, you can check online at the poll locator (<http://www.sos.georgia.gov/MVP/Login.aspx>) to confirm your registration status or call (404) 656-2871.

Do I need my voter registration (precinct) card or an ID to vote?

You don't need to bring your precinct card – but a valid photo ID is required in order to vote.

These forms of Identification are acceptable:

Valid Valdosta State University photo ID

Any valid state or federal government issued photo ID, including a free Voter ID Card issued by your county registrar's office or the Georgia Department of Driver Services.

A Georgia Driver's License (even if it's expired)

Valid U.S. passport ID

Valid U.S. military photo ID

Valid tribal photo ID

Voting Day

Vote at the correct voting place: Vote at the precinct where you are registered.

Bring a valid photo ID with you.

Consider not wearing political apparel, including political buttons, hats, t-shirts, etc. to the voting place or bring a jacket you could put on if necessary. Wearing visible political apparel could be considered passive electioneering, and might result in problems at some polling locations. Election laws and regulations typically prohibit the practice of electioneering within or near polling places, but the term is ambiguous, and its meaning varies. Georgia law states "No person shall solicit votes in any manner or by any means or method, nor shall any person distribute any campaign literature, newspaper, booklet, pamphlet, card, sign, or any other written or printed matter of any kind, nor shall any person conduct any exit poll or public opinion poll with voters on any primary or election day: (1) Within 150 feet of the outer edge of any building within which a polling place is established; (2) Within any polling place; or (3) Within 25 feet of any voter standing in line to vote at any polling place." GA Code Ann. § 21-2-414(a) (2005).

My student organization wants to hold a voter registration drive. Where can I get information?

The Office of Student Life will be happy to provide information and answer questions about holding an on-campus voter registration drive. To find out more, just come by the Student Life Office. We're on the third floor of the Student Union and are open Monday—Thursday 8:00am-5:30pm and on Friday 8:00am-3:00pm. Or phone us at 229.333.5674.

Other information sources: Lowndes County Board of Electors – 229.671.2850 and the Georgia Secretary of State website—<http://sos.georgia.gov/ivote/> .

More Questions? The website for the Elections Division of the Office of the Georgia Secretary of State can provide everything you ever wanted to know about registering to vote in Georgia and the election process. Visit their webpage at <http://www.sos.ga.gov/Elections/> . **For answers closer to home, please visit the Office of Student Life, located in Suite 3118 on the third floor of the Student Union.** We're open Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 5:30pm and on Fridays 8:00am to 3:00pm. You can also reach the Student Life Office at 229.333.5674.