

OFF PAPER? YOU CAN VOTE!!



1/3 of Georgians have a record. Know your rights!

YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE AND VOTE IN GEORGIA IF:



- You are not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction.
- You are “off paper”— you completed incarceration, parole, and probation.
- You are serving a felony First Offender or Conditional Discharge sentence and the status has not been revoked.
- Your sentence is complete — your right to vote is automatically restored. You just need to re- register in order to vote.
- You have been charged with a misdemeanor or felony crime but your case is awaiting trial or if plead No Contest, which means you accept a conviction without pleading guilty.
- You are serving probation on misdemeanor charges or you are currently in jail for a misdemeanor offense.

FAST FACTS

Can I vote if I have monetary obligations?

YES: Monetary fines and fees or restitution do NOT keep someone from voting if your sentence is complete. The Secretary of State website says that a person's sentence is considered complete even if they have unpaid restitution, fees, costs, or surcharges. It also says that fines that are imposed "as a condition of probation" are automatically canceled upon completion of probation. In practice in Georgia, any fine that is imposed when someone is convicted of a felony is tracked and collected by the Dept. of Community Supervision and is a condition of probation. Therefore, if DCS says a person's sentence is complete, any outstanding fines have been cancelled, and they can vote. If a person isn't sure if their sentence is complete, they can request a DCS Certificate of Sentence Completion.

Can I vote on probation?

YES: If you are on probation for a misdemeanor, you can vote. If you are serving a felony First Offender or Conditional Discharge sentence, and the status hasn't been revoked, you can vote while still serving the sentence.

NO: If you were convicted of a felony or had your felony First Offender or Conditional Discharge revoked and are still on probation, you are not eligible to vote until you complete your sentence, including any time on non-report status.

Note: If you have served more than three years on probation, you may qualify for early termination. Talk with your probation officer about early termination.

How do I know if my sentence is complete?

Your right to vote is automatically restored when your sentence is complete. If you are not sure if your sentence is complete, you can request a Certificate of Sentence Completion from the Department of Community Supervision (DCS). To obtain a Certificate, contact your original DCS probation office or your local probation office.

Can I vote if I pled no contest to a felony offense?

YES: If you pled "No Contest," or "Nolo Contendere" you can vote, even while serving your sentence. These pleas are rare for felonies.

Do I need a pardon or other documentation to register to vote?

NO: Your right to vote is automatically restored upon completion of your sentence—you do not need your record expunged or pardoned. You are not required to provide documentation about your criminal history to register.

I'm off paper, but they still tell me I can't register. What can I do?

YOU CAN VOTE: To resolve this for yourself, present to the Voter Registration Office one of the following: a Certificate of Sentence Completion from DCS, a termination letter from DCS, a court order terminating your probation, a signed letter from your probation officer, or an email sent directly to the Voter Registrar from DCS/probation officer.

I am still serving a sentence for a felony conviction, should I just try to register to vote anyway?

NO. It is against the law to register to vote when you are not eligible.