



Oconee County Voter Information Guide

Letter from the Oconee County Board of Elections

Dear Oconee County Voter,

The Oconee County Board of Elections is pleased to present this comprehensive Voter Information Guide, developed to empower you with open, nonpartisan, and unbiased information about exercising your right to vote.

Within this guide, you will find readily accessible details on:

- ★ **Registering to Vote:** Understand the simple steps and eligibility requirements for joining the electorate.
- ★ **Casting Your Vote:** Explore convenient options like voting by mail, advance/early in-person voting, and Election Day voting to fit your schedule.
- ★ **Acceptable Forms of Identification:** Ensure you have the necessary documentation to cast your ballot seamlessly.
- ★ **Election Information and Resources:** Stay informed about upcoming elections, deadlines, and key resources to enhance your understanding of the electoral process.
- ★ **Polling Place Locations:** Locate your designated polling place effortlessly for a smooth voting experience.

We believe an informed voter is an empowered voter. This guide serves as your tool to *Plan, Prepare, and Engage* in the democratic process. Our aim is to equip you with the knowledge and resources to make informed decisions and actively participate in every election, from local to federal levels.

The Oconee County Board of Elections and its dedicated staff are here to support you through every step of your voting journey. We strive to make your experience informative, efficient, and ultimately, a source of pride and civic engagement.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require further assistance. We are here to serve you and ensure your voice is heard in every election.

Sincerely,
Sharon Gregg
Director
Oconee County Board of Elections



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What are the Different Election Types?

During an election cycle there are several types of elections conducted within the State of Georgia.

Presidential Preference Primary

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-191 states:

“Such primary shall be held in each year which a presidential election is to be conducted on a date selected by the Secretary of State which shall not be later than the second Tuesday in June in such year. The Secretary of State shall select such date no later than December 1 of the year immediately preceding such primary.”

The PPP is conducted to nominate a presidential candidate to be on the November General Election ballot.

During a Primary Election, you are required to select a ballot style, Democratic, Republican, or Nonpartisan.

Primary Elections

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-150 states:

“Whenever any political party holds a primary to nominate candidates for public offices to be filled in the ensuing November election, such primary shall be held on the Tuesday of the twenty-fourth week prior to the November General Election in each even-numbered year.”

Primary Elections are conducted to nominate candidates to be on the November General Election ballot.

During a Primary Election, you are required to select a ballot style, Democratic, Republican, or Nonpartisan.

General Elections

General Elections are conducted on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November. In a General Election, you will see the candidates that were nominated in the Primary Election. The General Election is the election that elects the candidate into office.

Special Elections

Special Elections take place under special circumstances. A Special Election may occur to fill a vacancy due to death, or resignation of an elected official, or can be for a special referendum, or question. Most Special Elections are held in conjunction with a Primary Election or General Election. However, there are dates set aside in the law of when Special Elections can be conducted when not in conjunction with a Primary or General Election.



O.C.G.A. § 21 - 2 -540 states:

In odd-numbered years, any such special election shall only be held on:

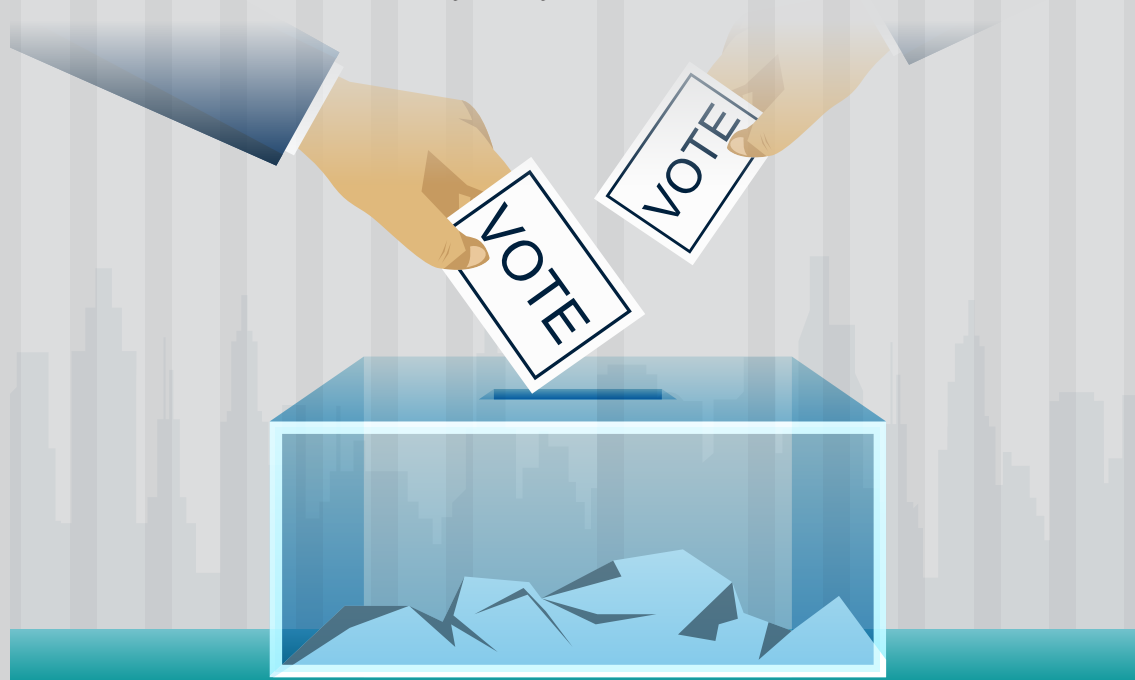
The third Tuesday in March; The third Tuesday in June; The third Tuesday in September; or the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In even-numbered years, any such special election shall only be held on:

The third Tuesday in March; provided, however, that in the event that a Special Election is to be held under this provision in a year in which a Presidential Preference Primary is to be held, then any such Special Election shall be held on the date of and in conjunction with the Presidential Preference Primary; The date of the General Primary; or the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

IMPORTANT:

- ★ Georgia is a non-declaring State. You are not registered within any political parties. The ballot style that you choose does not register you with a party. It only provides you with a ballot style that will contain that party's candidates.
- ★ In a General Election, you do not have to choose a ballot style. All candidates and parties are on one ballot.
- ★ Runoff Elections are held 28 days after the regular election date.
- ★ In a Primary Election, it is important for voters to know that you must vote the same ballot style in the Runoff Election as you did in the Primary Election. If you voted a Nonpartisan ballot in the Primary Election, you may choose a ballot style of your choice.
- ★ If you did not vote in the Primary Election, you ARE eligible to vote in the Runoff Election and choose the ballot style of your choice.



VOTER REGISTRATION

Ways to register:

Online:

You can register to vote online through the Secretary of State website www.mvp.sos.ga.gov. To register online you must have a valid Georgia Driver's License. Once you submit your registration, it will electronically be sent to our County Election Dashboard for processing. Registration applications will not be updated 30 days prior to an election.

Paper:

Paper applications are available at the Oconee County Board of Elections office. You may also download a paper application on the county website at: <https://www.oconeecounty.com/Elections>

IMPORTANT

Voter registration card (precinct card)

After you are registered to vote by the Elections Office Staff, you will receive a voter registration/precinct card in the mail. It takes 15-20 business days for your card to arrive from the Secretary of State's Office. Voters should verify the information on the card and alert the Elections Office staff if there are any issues. Your voter registration card will inform you of your polling location and political districts. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO HAVE THIS CARD WITH YOU TO VOTE.**

Keep Your Registration Up to Date

If you move or change your name, you must update your voter registration. If you move to another county or state, you must register to vote in that county or state and cancel your voter registration at your previous residence.

Your Voter Registration Does Not Follow You

You may only register to vote in one state. You cannot have multiple registrations. Voting twice is an offense punishable by law.



WAYS TO VOTE:

Advance Early Voting:

Advance voting for primaries and elections will be available beginning the fourth Monday prior to the date of the primary or election. Saturday voting for primaries and elections will be available on the second and third Saturdays prior to the date of the election.

The Oconee County Administrative Building located at 7635 Macon Hwy. Watkinsville, GA is the ONE location for Advance Early Voting. Hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Election Day:

Within Oconee County there are 8 separate polling locations open from 7am to 7pm on Election Day.

If you are unsure of your polling location, please visit www.mvp.sos.ga.gov to find your polling location.

Voters with disabilities:

Under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) polling locations are required to have accessible (and set up for use) voting equipment for all voters. Additional assistance is available for voters with disabilities, such as disability kits attached to voting equipment, large print ballots on the ballot marking devices and audio aids. Voters can contact the Elections Office for more information.

For any voter unable to read or write the English language or are physically disabled may also receive assistance. The person assisting must sign the Oath of Person Assisting waiver.

UOCAVA:

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) extends federal absentee voting rights to service members, their eligible family members, and overseas citizens.

UOCAVA covers U.S. citizens who are 18 or older AND active-duty members of the Uniformed Services, Merchant Marine, or commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; their eligible family members; and U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.

Please see www.fvap.gov/Georgia for more information on UOCAVA eligibility and resources.



What ID should I bring to the polls?

All voters are required to present identification prior to casting their ballot.

There are six different valid forms of identification which can be presented:

1. A Georgia driver's license, even if expired
2. A valid state or federal government issued photo ID
3. A 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
4. A valid U.S. passport ID
5. A valid U.S. military photo ID
6. A valid tribal photo ID

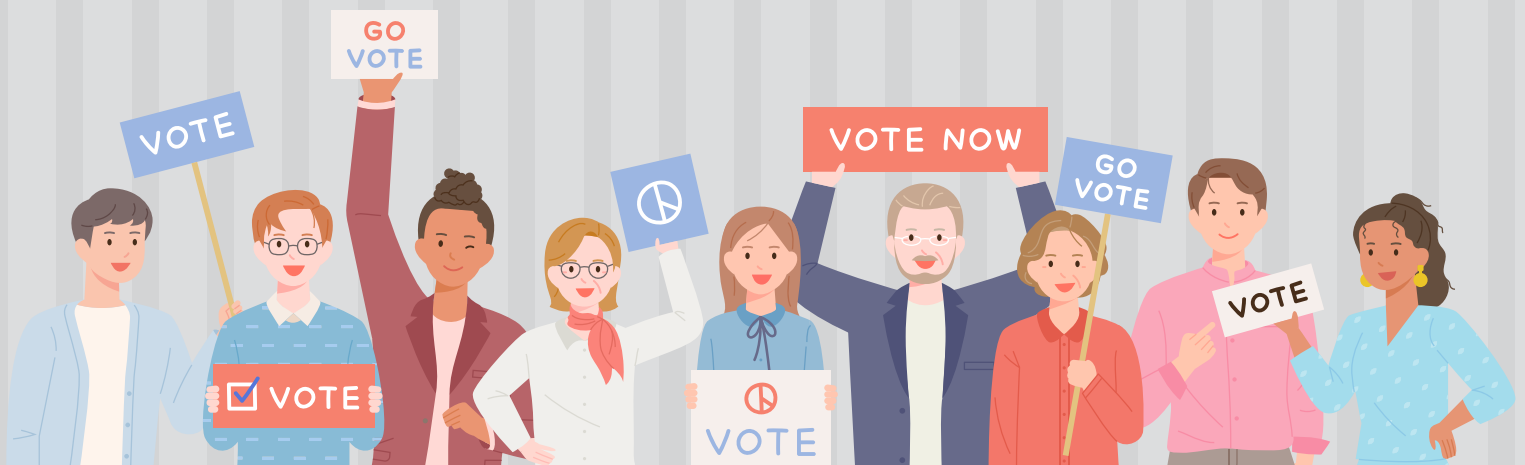
PLEASE NOTE: THE "PRECINCT CARD" YOU RECEIVE TO CONFIRM YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING LOCATION IS **NOT AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF IDENTIFICATION, AND WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT IDENTIFICATION TO VOTE.**

IMPORTANT:

If you do not have any of the above mentioned forms of identification, and are a registered voter in the State of Georgia, a FREE Voter ID Card can be issued by the Board of Elections office or the Georgia Department of Drivers Services. The Voter ID Card is for voting purposes ONLY.

To receive a voter identification card, the voter must provide:

- ★ A photo identity document or approved non-photo identity document that includes full legal name and date of birth
- ★ Documentation showing the voter's date of birth
- ★ Evidence that the applicant is a registered voter in the State of Georgia
- ★ Documentation showing the applicant's name and residential address



ABSENTEE VOTING

REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL

To receive an absentee ballot through the mail, a voter must complete and submit an application. The Georgia application for an absentee ballot may be requested any time between 78 days prior to the election, and the 11th day before the election. Requested ballots can begin to be mailed out 29 days prior to the election date. UOCAVA absentee ballots are required to be sent out at least 45 days prior to the election date.

- ★ If you qualify as elderly or disabled you may opt in to receive a ballot for the entire election cycle. **MUST REAPPLY ANNUALLY AND FOR SPECIAL ELECTIONS.**

WHERE CAN I RECEIVE AN APPLICATION

Absentee applications can be downloaded from the Oconee County Board of Elections website, from the Secretary of State's website, or you can apply for a ballot through the Absentee Ballot Online Portal. You can also apply for a ballot in person at the Oconee County Board of Elections Office. The application for UOCAVA citizens is available through the Federal Voting Assistance Program website.

HOW CAN I RETURN MY BALLOT

There are three different ways to return your absentee ballot.

1. Mail your ballot through the United States Post Office or any other mailing service
2. Hand deliver to the Elections Office
3. Designated Drop Ballot Box located inside of the Oconee County Administrative Building.

ALL VOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 7PM ON THE DAY OF THE ELECTION IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR ABSENTEE VOTING:

- ★ If mailing, you must affix postage to the ballot envelope
- ★ Ballots received after the polls close on the Election Day cannot be counted
- ★ If you are voting in a household with multiple voters, DO NOT place more than one ballot in the oath envelope. Ballots are issued individually.
- ★ Do not sign your name on the actual ballot

VERIFY THAT THE CORRECT BALLOT HAS BEEN ISSUED TO YOU

If you believe you have received the incorrect ballot, please call the Oconee County Board of Elections Office at 706-769-3958.

SPOILED BALLOTS

If you spoil your ballot, DO NOT write spoiled on the ballot, and mail it back. Call the Oconee County Board of Elections office at 706-769-3958, and they will assist you.



ELECTION DAY POLL WORKERS

Working at the polls is a rewarding way to serve your neighbors and be involved in your community. If you are interested in serving as a poll worker, you can fill out an application and return it to the Oconee County Board of Elections Office, fax 706-310-3486 or by email to sgregg@oconee.ga.us.

As a poll worker, you will be required to attend a mandatory training session, provide your own transportation, and report to your assigned polling location on Election Day.

If you would like to more information regarding what is required to be a poll worker, please call the Oconee County Board of Elections Office at 706-769.3958.

VOTESAFE

Georgia state law requires the public availability of voter lists including names and addresses of registered voters. In 2009, the Georgia Legislature enacted the VoteSafe program to provide for the confidentiality of residence addresses of certain registered voters who have been, or may be, subject to acts of family violence or stalking or currently reside in a family violence shelter.

For more information, to see if you're eligible and how to apply, please visit www.sos.ga.gov/page/votesafe

SAMPLE BALLOTS

Sample ballots will be available online through the Georgia My Voter Page website at least 30 days prior to an election date.

PLEASE NOTE: SAMPLE BALLOTS CANNOT BE USED AS AN OFFICIAL BALLOT, AND SHOULD NOT BE RETURNED TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE.

BALLOT INFORMATION

The Oconee County Board of Elections Staff and Poll Workers are prohibited from giving candidate information, referendum information, or question information that is contained on the ballot. If you would like to receive additional information please use the suggested references below:

- ★ Research candidates and ballot questions by using the internet search engines Go to
- ★ local meetings, and speeches given by running candidates
- ★ Reach out to the local political parties:
Oconee County Democratic Party – sagamore62@gmail.com
Oconee County Republican Party – oconeegopchair@gmail.com



ADVANCE EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

General Primary and Nonpartisan Election

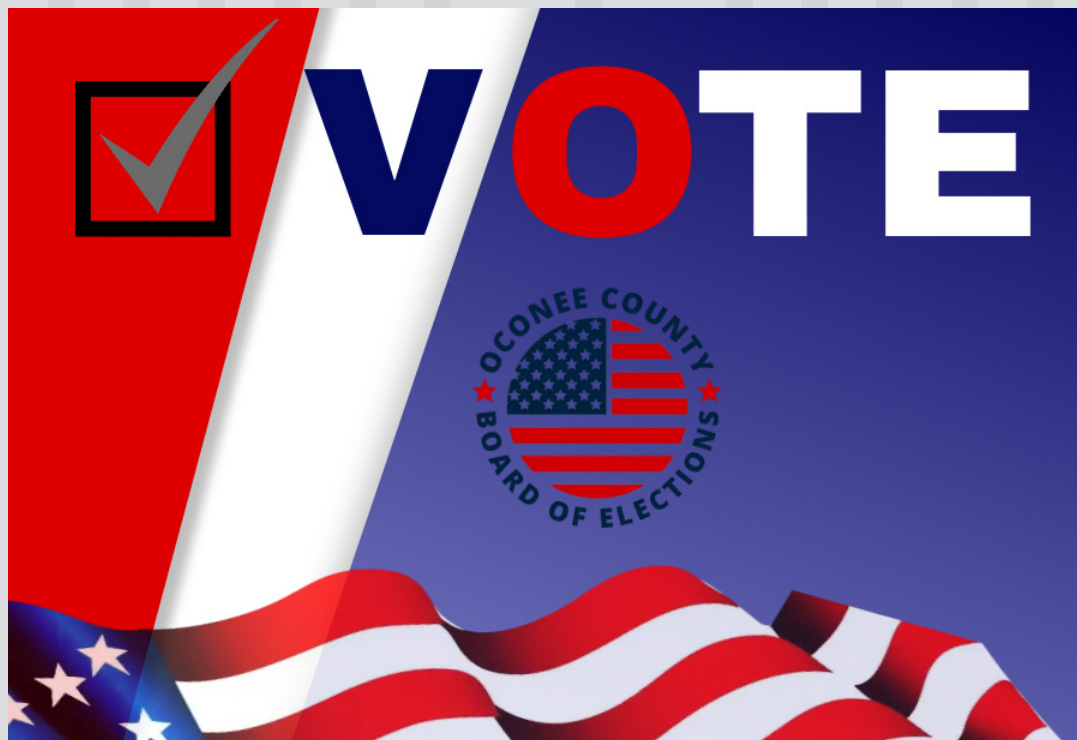
April 29th – May 17th (Mon-Fri) 8:00 – 5:00
May 4th – 11th 9:00 – 5:00

General Election

October 15th – November 1st (Mon-Fri) 8:00 – 5:00
October 19th – October 26th 9:00 – 5:00

THE ONLY SITE FOR ADVANCE EARLY VOTING IS:

Oconee County Administrative Building
7365 Macon Hwy. Watkinsville, GA 30677



KEY ELECTION DATES FOR 2024*

April 5, 2024

UOCAVA ballots start to be mailed for May 21, 2024 General Primary and Nonpartisan Election

April 22, 2024

Voter registration deadline for the May 21, 2024, General Primary and Nonpartisan Election and absentee ballots start to be mailed

April 29, 2024 - May 17, 2024 Advance Voting for the General Primary

May 21, 2024

General Primary and Nonpartisan Election - Election Day

June 10, 2024 - June 14, 2024 Advance Voting for General Primary and Nonpartisan Election Runoff

June 18, 2024

General Primary and Nonpartisan Election Runoff

August 19, 2024 - October 25, 2024 Applications for absentee ballot may be requested for the November 5, 2024 General Election

September 20, 2024

UOCAVA ballots start to be mailed for November 5, 2024 General Election

October 7, 2024

Voter registration deadline for November 5, 2024, General Election and absentee ballots start to be mailed

October 15, 2024 - November 1, 2024 Advance Voting for General Election

November 5, 2024

General Election Day

November 25, 2024 - November 27, 2024 Advance Voting for General Election Runoff

December 3, 2024

General Election Runoff

*Dates are subject to change



KEY ELECTION DATES FOR 2025

March 18, 2025	Potential Special Election*
June 17, 2025	Potential Special Election*
September 16, 2025	Potential Special Election*
November 4, 2025	General Municipal Election

KEY ELECTION DATES FOR 2026

March 17, 2026	Potential Special Election*
May 19, 2026	General Primary / Nonpartisan Election
June 16, 2026	General Primary Runoff*
November 3, 2026	General Election
December 1, 2026	General Election Runoff*

*Potential Special Elections – potential special elections may be held on these corresponding dates

*Runoff Elections – Runoffs are determined when no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote



POLLING LOCATIONS

Watkinsville City Hall

Poplar Springs Baptist Church

Bishop Baptist Church

Grace Fellowship Church

Bethabara Baptist Church

Bogart Community Center

Marswood Hall - St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church

Oconee County Civic Center

ADDRESS

191 VFW Dr. Watkinsville

2700 Colham Ferry Rd. Watkinsville

1110 Old Bishop Rd. Bishop

1120 Macolm Bridge Rd. Bogart

4651 Monroe Hwy. Statham

141 East Thompson St. Bogart

3761 Mars Hill Rd. Watkinsville

2661 Hog Mountain Rd. Watkinsville

PRECINCT

01-CH

02-CF

03-BI

04-NO

05-DC

06-BO

07-MH

08-CC





Oconee County Administrative Building

7635 Macon Hwy. Watkinsville, GA 30677

BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEMBERS

Chair - Jay Hanley - Board of Commissioners Appointee

Vice Chair - Kirk Shook - Republican Appointee

Board Member - Ken Davis - Democratic Appointee

Board Member - Doug Hammond - Board of Commissioners Appointee

Board Member - Shami Jones - Board of Commissioners Appointee



The background features a patriotic design with a dark blue horizontal band at the top containing white stars. Below this, a large circular area is framed by a red and blue border, containing the text. The rest of the background is filled with a pattern of red, white, and blue stripes radiating from the center, with small gold stars scattered throughout.

OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

7635 Macon Hwy.
Watkinsville, GA 30677

oconeecounty.com/elections

706-769-3958

 facebook.com/oconeecountygaboe