

UNLOCK! The Vote

**The Georgia Council on Developmental
Disabilities**

June 13, 2018

Speakers:

Ilias N. Savakis, The Georgia Advocacy Office

Vincent Olsziewski, Rev Up Georgia



Key Election Dates:

- ▶ **General Primary Runoff Date – July 24, 2018**
 - ▶ In some of the primary races, no candidate received more than 50% of the vote. The top two candidates from these races enter a runoff election to determine the party candidate. Both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party will have runoff elections this year.
 - ▶ Deadline to register to vote for this election: June 25, 2018
- ▶ **General Election (Mid-term elections) – November 6, 2018**
 - ▶ Deadline to register to vote for this election: October 9, 2018

Reminding You to Vote: Voter Rights & Key Steps



Ilias N. Savakis, Program Coordinator

Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO)

One West Court Square, Suite 625

Decatur, GA 30030

404-885-1234

isavakis@thegao.org





Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) authorizes state Protection and Advocacy agencies to investigate voter discrimination against people with disabilities. The Protection and Advocacy organization for Georgia is the Georgia Advocacy Office.

Thanks to Civil Rights legislation like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

Aids and services may include:

- ▶ Ballots in alternative formats
 - Audio recordings
 - Braille
- ▶ The assistance of another individual of the voter's choosing (poll worker or otherwise)
- ▶ Accessible polling places

ADA
AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT

Voting is Your Civil Right!



Who Can Register to Vote in Georgia?

- ▶ To register to vote in the state of Georgia, you must be:
 - ▶ A citizen of the United States
 - ▶ A legal resident of Georgia and of the county where you wish to vote
 - ▶ At least 18 years of age by Election Day
 - ▶ You can register to vote 6 months before your 18th birthday

Registering to Vote in Georgia



There are several easy ways for Georgians to register to vote:

- ▶ Download a registration form from the Secretary of State's Office
 - ▶ You can register here: <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>
- ▶ Contact your county election office, public library, public assistance office, school or other government offices
- ▶ Register when you renew or apply for your driver's license or identification card at the Department of Driver Services
- ▶ **Once registered, make sure to keep your registration up to date with any name or address changes**

Georgia Voter Identification Requirements



Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp

What types of IDs are acceptable?

- ▶ Any valid state or federal government issued photo ID, even if expired
 - ▶ Georgia offers a FREE Voter ID Card issued by your county election office
- ▶ 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
- ▶ A valid U.S. passport ID
- ▶ A valid U.S. military photo ID
- ▶ A valid tribal photo ID

Georgia's Voter Identification Card

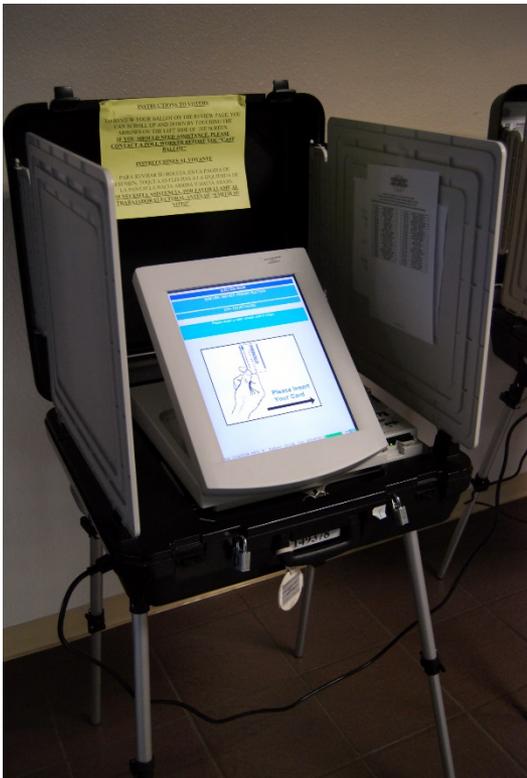
The State of Georgia offers a FREE Voter Identification Card. An identification card can be issued at any local county election office.

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
- ▶ Documentation showing the applicant's name and residential address



What if I need help with voting?



- Ask a poll worker at your voting place
- Ask any other person of your choosing, except your employer or a worker's union

What if you can't get to the polls?

- ▶ You do not have to go to a polling place to vote!
- ▶ Any voter can request a mail-in/absentee ballot
- ▶ No excuse is needed in Georgia for a mail-in/absentee ballot
- ▶ You can request a mail-in ballot online or at your county Board of Registrars Office

FULTON COUNTY

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE/PROVISIONAL/CHALLENGED BALLOT

OFFICIAL GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION BALLOT
OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 5, 2013

To vote, blacken the Oval (●) next to the candidate of your choice. To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, manually WRITE his or her name in the write-in section and blacken the Oval (●) next to the write-in section. If you desire to vote YES or NO for a PROPOSED QUESTION, blacken the corresponding Oval (●). Use only blue or black pen or pencil. Do not vote for more candidates than the number allowed for each specific office. Do not cross out or erase. If you erase or make other marks on the ballot or tear the ballot, your vote may not count. If you change your mind or make a mistake, you may return the ballot by writing "Spoiled" across the face of the ballot and return envelope. You may then mail the spoiled ballot back to your county board of registrars, and you will be issued another official absentee ballot. Alternatively, you may surrender the ballot to the poll manager of an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

*I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law. (OCGA §§2-2-286(f) and 21-3-383(g))

<p>CITY OF ATLANTA</p> <p>For Mayor (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> AL BARTELL</p> <p><input type="radio"/> FRASER DUKE</p> <p><input type="radio"/> KASIM REED (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> GLENN S. WRIGHTSON</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p> <p>For City Council President (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> RACHELE FRUIT</p> <p><input type="radio"/> CEASAR C. MITCHELL (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>	<p>For City Council Member Post 1 At Large (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> MICHAEL JULIAN BOND (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p> <p>For City Council Member Post 2 At Large (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> MARY NORWOOD</p> <p><input type="radio"/> AARON WATSON (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p> <p>For City Council Member Post 3 At Large (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> ANDRE DICKENS</p> <p><input type="radio"/> H. LAMAR WILLIS (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>	<p>For City Council Member District 1 (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> BILL POWELL</p> <p><input type="radio"/> CARLA SMITH (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> ROBERT WELSH</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p> <p>For City Council Member District 2 (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> KWANZA HALL (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>
--	---	--

TURN BALLOT OVER TO CONTINUE VOTING

FRONT Card 1 RptRt 10 "01A" FOR PROOF ONLY 10/04/13 11:14:56

Examples of Voter Discrimination against People with Disabilities:



- ▶ Questioning if you are able to vote because of your disability
- ▶ Refusing to assist you or refusing to allow someone of your choice to assist you
- ▶ Refusing to supply a reasonable accommodation such as braille ballots or headphones to listen to the computerized ballots
- ▶ No signs marking the location of the accessible entrance
- ▶ Inaccessible parking
- ▶ The polling location itself is inaccessible

Minimizing Problems on Election Day

Talk to your local election officials about:

- ▶ Polling place accessibility
- ▶ Specific accommodations you need on Election Day
- ▶ Vote early in the day
- ▶ **Bring your photo identification with you**
- ▶ Ask for help, if you need it
- ▶ Read the voting instructions carefully
- ▶ Take your time; there is no time limit in the voting booth



Problems on Election Day?

Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO) Voter Hotline

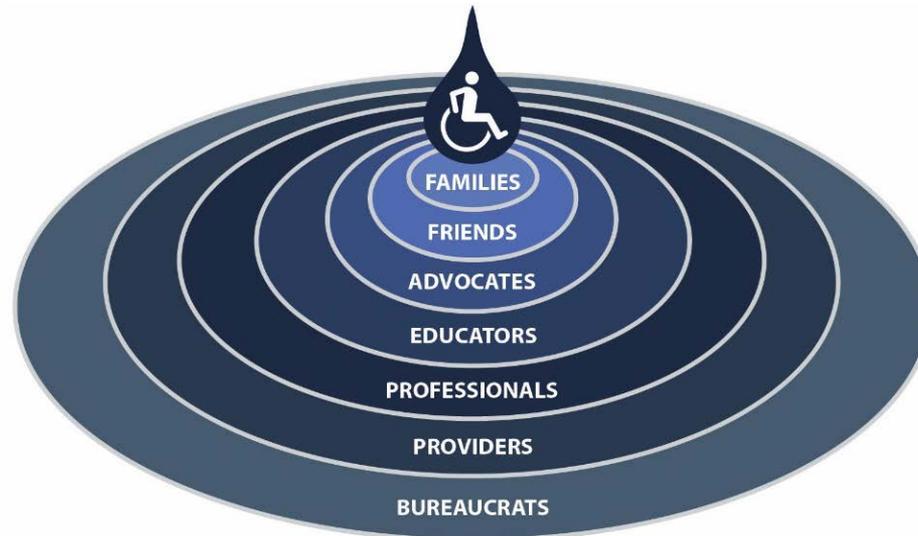
If you are a Georgia citizen with a disability and encounter problems with voting, please call us at (404) 885-1234 or (800) 537-2329.

The hotline is available from the time polls open (7:00 AM) until the time polls close (7:00 PM).

You can also call the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office at (404) 656-2871.



UNLOCK! The Vote: Learning About the Candidates & Getting Involved



Vincent Olszewski

Co-Chair, Rev Up Georgia Coalition

revupgeorgia@gmail.com

404-217-2253

THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF THE
DISABILITY VOTE



How do I find out who's running?

- ▶ The most complete list of candidates can be found on the Georgia Secretary of State's website.
- ▶ Go to <http://elections.sos.ga.gov/GAElection/CandidateDetails>
- ▶ Fill in the drop down boxes to find the candidates for the office you are interested in.

Qualified Candidate Information Page

QUALIFYING CANDIDATE INFORMATION

The information and materials available on this website are provided by local elections officials as a service to the public and intended to be as accurate as possible. If the generated list appears to be missing any information regarding qualified candidates, please visit <http://elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/countyelectionoffices.do> to locate the contact information for the appropriate elections office to report the issue. This list will not include anyone who has qualified to run in a municipal general or special election unless the city contracts with a county to conduct qualifying of candidates on the city's behalf.

*Political body and independent candidates are also required to timely submit nominating petitions in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§21-2-132 (d) in addition to filing a notice of candidacy and affidavit and paying any associated qualifying fees.

Election Year: Election: Party:

Office Type: Offices:

Qualified Candidates

OFFICE OF BRIAN KEMP CONTACT

11:53 AM 6/7/2018

How can I find out more about the candidates?

There are several ways to learn about the candidates.

- ▶ The media- newspapers and television can be sources of information. Keep in mind that some new sources may have editorial leanings.
- ▶ The Internet is another great source of information. There are a variety of non partisan, objective websites

Project Vote Smart

Project Vote Smart provides information about candidates at the federal and state level.

- ▶ It lists who is running, as well as information about the candidate.
- ▶ It will have any contact information and social media links that are available.
- ▶ It has voting records for incumbents.
- ▶ It will also have issue information if the candidate has provided it.

Project Vote Smart

<https://votesmart.org/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://votesmart.org/>. The browser's address bar shows "Secure | https://votesmart.org". The website's header features a red banner with the text "PLEASE HELP US!" and a "Donate»" link. Below this, the "My VOTESMART" logo is displayed alongside "SIGN UP" and "LOGIN" buttons. The main content area includes the "VOTE SMART" logo with the tagline "FACTS MATTER" and a quote from CNN: "We think so highly of Vote Smart that we are distributing their materials to all of our affiliates." A search bar prompts users to "Enter a politician's name or zip code". Below the search bar are six blue buttons labeled "BIO", "VOTES", "POSITIONS", "RATINGS", "SPEECHES", and "FUNDING". The "I SPY" section features a magnifying glass icon and the text "40,000 POLITICIANS, MILLIONS OF FACTS". The "POLITICAL GALAXY" section includes a spiral icon and the text "Any Politician, Any Issue". The "VOTE EASY" section has the text "Find your political soulmate" and two buttons for "CONGRESSIONAL" and "PRESIDENTIAL". The "ON POINT" section shows a hand touching a tablet screen. A sidebar on the right contains social media icons for Facebook (29.3K), Twitter, and a red button with a white 'F' and a plus sign (12.6K). At the bottom, a blue banner reads "Get the facts at our new Blog!". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock displaying "12:14 PM 6/7/2018".

Politics 1

Politics 1 has information about federal and statewide candidates and is organized by state.

- ▶ It list all declared candidates and sometimes potential candidates
- ▶ It will have website links, when available
- ▶ It also has links to all of the political parties in a given state, as well as links to major media outlets in the state.

Politics 1

<http://politics1.com>

Microsoft
Get premium **Office 365** apps & services for PC/Mac, tablet & phone + 1 TB OneDrive storage **\$99.99/yr.** **BUY NOW** →

Politics1 News Updates:
Follow Politics1 on Twitter: [@politics1com](https://twitter.com/politics1com)

Politics1.com
@Politics1com
House GOP leadership holds off members revolt in

Follow Us on Twitter:
[Twitter.com/Politics1com](https://twitter.com/Politics1com)

Microsoft
Get premium **Office 365** apps with exclusive new features every month + 1 TB OneDrive storage

12:33 PM
6/7/2018

How to engage with a campaign

- ▶ Get on their email list.
- ▶ LIKE/Follow their social media pages.
- ▶ Email them questions.
- ▶ Ask questions at events, in person or virtually.

How to speak to a candidate

- ▶ Try to ask questions at forums, town halls and the like.
- ▶ Email questions.
- ▶ When asking, make your point, but be respectful. Raise the level of discourse rather than lowering it.
- ▶ Give them a chance to answer.

How to speak to a candidate

- ▶ Press them if they don't answer, but again, be respectful. Don't let the crowd feel like you are bullying the candidate.
- ▶ Hold them accountable for their own words and actions.
- ▶ If they aren't responsive, be persistent. Attend multiple events. Again, avoid letting them get the crowd's sympathy.

Sharing your information

If you get a candidate to answer your question or address your concern, you will probably want to let other people know about it. Maybe you liked their answer. Maybe you didn't. Either way you can spread the word.

- ▶ Use social media
- ▶ Use word of mouth
- ▶ Encourage others to press the candidate on the same issue

How can I get involved in a campaign

If you find a candidate that appeals to you, you might want to get involved in the campaign

- ▶ Candidate websites generally have *Volunteer* and *Contribute* links.
- ▶ If you want to volunteer, there is almost certainly a task that fits your availability, interests and skills. Technology has made volunteering easier than ever.

Special Accommodations

You may want to attend an event but are afraid because you require special accommodations. Don't be.

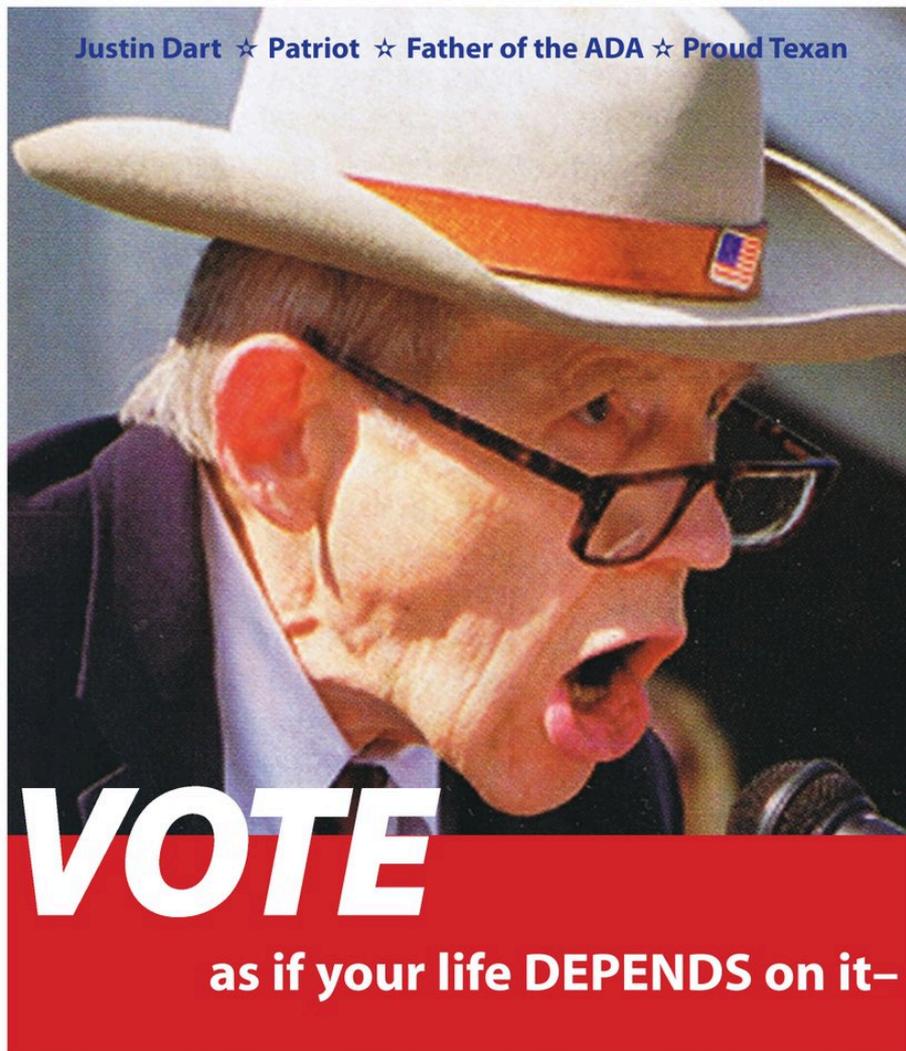
- ▶ Reach out to the campaign ahead of time to let them know you want to attend but require special accommodations. Most campaigns will do their best to work with you.
- ▶ Accessibility isn't often part of campaign planning, not because campaigns are uncaring. It's just not usually part of candidate or staff trainings. This is slowly changing.

Other ways to get politically active

- ▶ You might want to get politically active, but not necessarily work for a particular candidate. There are many different avenues to do this.
- ▶ Get involved in your local political party
- ▶ Join an activist group. There are groups that are issue based. There are groups that are based on a general ideology.

VOTE! It is the single most important thing you can do to affect the policies adopted by the government.

Justin Dart ☆ Patriot ☆ Father of the ADA ☆ Proud Texan



Because it DOES!

Next Steps:

- ▶ Join the Rev Up Coalition
 - ▶ Next Phone Call: Friday, June 22 at 3 PM.
 - ▶ Call in number: 712-775-7031
 - ▶ Pin: 608190939.



Next Steps:

1. If you are not registered to vote, register to vote
2. If you are registered to vote, make sure your address is up to date
3. Double check you have the required identification to vote
4. Reach out to friends and family. Make sure they are registered to vote with an up to date address and have the correct identification.
5. Research your candidates. Find out where they stand on issues that are important to you
6. Reach out to candidates with questions regarding their stance on disability related issues
7. Talk with local election officials about what accommodations you may need on election day.

Questions?

