

Notice to Voters in Catoosa County, GA of Intent to Process Absentee Ballots

Prior to the closing of the polls for the Nov. 5, 2024, General Election

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-386(a)(2)(A) and O.C.G.A. 21-2-386 (a)(3) you are hereby notified that it is the intent of the Catoosa County Board of Elections to begin processing and tabulating paper absentee ballots cast during the November 5, 2024, General Election.

Dates, Times, and Locations:

Monday, November 4, 2024, starts @ 4:00 p.m.

Location-Freedom Center 5238 Evitt St. Ringgold, GA 30736

Election Day-Tuesday, November 5, 2024, starts @ 2:00 p.m. and will end until complete election night. Location-Freedom Center 5238 Evitt St. Ringgold, GA 30736.

*Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. Early Tabulation will begin on the Advanced Voting Scanners. Location- Fire station 1 Training Room 5282 Evitt ST. Ringgold, GA 30736.

The early processing of absentee ballots before the closing of the polls shall be a confidential and controlled process to maintain the secrecy of all ballots and to protect against the collection or disclosure of any balloting information before the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on election day.

For additional information, you may contact the Board of Elections & Registration office at 706-935-3990.

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(2)(A) Beginning at 8:00 A.M. on the third Monday prior to the day of the primary, election, or runoff, the election superintendent shall be authorized to open the outer oath envelope of absentee ballots that have been verified and accepted pursuant to subparagraph (a)(1)(B) of this Code section, remove the contents of such outer envelope, open the inner envelope marked "Official Absentee Ballot," and scan the absentee ballot using one or more ballot scanners. At least three persons who are registrars, deputy registrars, poll workers, or absentee ballot clerks must be present before commencing; and three persons who are registrars, deputy registrars, or absentee ballot clerks shall be present at all times while the absentee ballot envelopes are being opened and the absentee ballots are being scanned. However, no person shall tally, tabulate, estimate, or attempt to tally, tabulate, or estimate or cause the ballot scanner or any other equipment to produce any tally or tabulate, partial or otherwise, of the absentee ballots cast until the time for the closing of the polls on the day of the primary, election, or runoff except as provided in this Code section. Prior to beginning the process set forth in this paragraph, the superintendent shall provide written notice to the Secretary of State in writing at least seven days prior to processing and scanning absentee ballots. Such notice shall contain the dates, start and end times, and location or locations where absentee ballots will be processed and scanned. The superintendent shall also post such notice publicly in a prominent location in the superintendent's office and on the home page of the county election superintendent's website, if the county election superintendent maintains such a website. The Secretary of State shall publish on his or her website the information he or she receives from superintendents stating the dates, times, and locations where absentee ballots will be processed.

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(3) A county election superintendent may, in his or her discretion, after 7:00 A.M. on the day of the primary, election, or runoff open the inner envelopes in accordance with the procedures prescribed in this subsection and begin tabulating the absentee ballots. If the county election superintendent chooses to open the inner envelopes and begin tabulating such ballots prior to the close of the polls on the day of the primary, election, or runoff, the superintendent shall notify in writing, at least seven days prior to the primary, election, or runoff, the Secretary of State of the superintendent's intent to begin the absentee ballot tabulation prior to the close of the polls. The county executive committee or, if there is no organized county executive committee, the state executive committee of each political party and political body having candidates whose names appear on the ballot for such election in such county shall have the right to designate two persons and each independent and nonpartisan candidate whose name appears on the ballot for such election in such county shall have the right to designate one person to act as monitors for such process. In the event that the only issue to be voted upon in an election is a referendum question, the superintendent shall also notify in writing the chief judge of the superior court of the county who shall appoint two electors of the county to monitor such process