Opportunities for Engagement
Emory Votes Initiative

Casting a ballot isn't the only way to support a vibrant democracy, and civic engagement isn't limited to citizens. Consider:

1. becoming a poll worker,
2. helping others vote another way, or
3. joining a student organization.

1. Poll Workers Needed

The more poll workers, the more quickly and safely people can vote. Bright, young folks welcome. The training and long day of service even net you a little cash.

In all states: Power the Polls directs you to poll worker information for any location. You can also find your state's official poll worker information through the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

In Georgia: To be a general **poll worker,** you must be a U.S. citizen, age 16 and up, and apply in your county of residence. You will report early to your assigned polling place (transportation necessary) to set up, greet voters, check them in, help them use the system, and keep the area safe. Other details vary by county, including pay, usually somewhere in the $100s.

Start by signing up at the **state's recruitment site,** SecureVoteGA. (Actual hiring will be done by your county, e.g., DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett.)

Going through one of the following **organizations** in addition can help you with training and placement:

- The ACLU of Georgia works with counties statewide to recruit and assign poll workers. It can sometimes group teammates together to "adopt" a polling place.
- New in 2020 was the Georgia Youth Poll Worker Project, created by Georgia State University graduate Evan Malbrough, with its Push for 5k initiative to recruit thousands of student poll workers in the metro Atlanta area (as mentioned in the New York Times and the Emory Wheel).

In 2020, Georgia also began hiring **poll tech workers,** a.k.a. Election Day **field service technicians.** This specialized type of poll worker earns more. Get trained in advance to set up voting machines and troubleshoot during the day. When you apply with the state (here), check

the box for tech worker. You must be 18+, a U.S. citizen, and have transportation to your assigned site, possibly in a neighboring county.

The Emory Wheel published an article in October 2020 about student poll workers.

2. Other Voting-Related Opportunities

Got time on Election Day or before? Help *others* vote.

- Spread accurate **information.** One source to check as elections approach is CEEP (the Campus Election Engagement Project).
- Individual candidates' **campaigns** can always use energetic volunteers.
- Got a party of choice? State-level **political parties** such as the Georgia Republicans and Democrats can always use volunteers. Then there are **county** party organizations on the ground, such as the DeKalb Democrats and Republicans.
- Want to dispel confusion and help voters solve problems? Get trained to answer the **Election Protection** coalition's **nonpartisan voter hotline** at 866ourvote and head off trouble at the polls. Nonprofits and political parties may run additional helplines.
- Be an in-person **poll *watcher* or monitor** (not to be confused with a poll *worker*) through Election Protection's Protect the Vote, Common Cause Georgia, or other nonpartisan or partisan efforts. Training required.
- Within the Emory community, share this **Emory Votes Initiative** website. Encourage others to sign up for TurboVote, register to vote, change or update their information, and figure out how to get and return absentee ballots.
- Get involved with the Georgia 55 Project, the brainchild of Emory MBA student Abigail Greene (slogan "Voting should be easy, fun, and delicious"). This local coalition helps Atlantans register and vote "through **grassroots community and food-centric outreach** methods, from providing absentee applications in food bank boxes to serving pizza to voters on election day." www.georgia55.org/get-involved.
- **Get out the vote** in the larger community by phoning, texting, or writing postcards from home. Some nonpartisan, nonprofit civic engagement organizations focus on particular communities, for example in metro Atlanta the Center for Pan-Asian Community Services (CPACS), the Georgia Muslim Voter Project, the New Georgia Project, or the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO). GoVoteGA is a good starting point.

More possibilities:
- Vote Riders helps people navigate **voter ID** requirements.
- Spread the Vote helps folks who need **ID** get it.
- On your evening walk at the end of Election Day, snap and upload pictures of your precinct's publicly posted **poll tapes.** Protect Our Votes organizes this Photo Finish effort.

3. Student Organizations

Civic engagement isn't just about voting and it's not limited to citizens. It all starts with taking part in your immediate community. Consider joining a student organization—for example, among the hundreds at Emory, one of these:

Emory College
- APIDAA (Asian, Pacific Islander and Desi American Activists)
- Black Student Association
- College Republicans
- Fair Fight Emory
- Hillel
- Latino Student Organization
- NAACP Emory
- Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honor society)
- Students for Justice in Palestine
- Young Americans for Freedom
- Young Democrats

Oxford College
- Oxford College Republicans
- OxFirst - first generation/low-income student group
- OxMUN
- OxPride
- Pre-Law Society
- Race- and ethnicity-based organizations: OLE (Organización de la Lengua Española), Black Student Alliance, African Caribbean Students Union, Asian Culture Club, Indian Cultural Exchange, Hindu Student Association, Chinese Student Association, Muslim Student Association, Korean American Student Association
- Turning Point USA
- Young Democrats