

TurboVote Signup Tips

Emory Votes Initiative | Fall 2020



What is TurboVote?

An online service that makes voting easy. The platform gives you access to information about voting, in Georgia or elsewhere, whether registered to vote or not, and can help you register and vote by mail. It is a creation of the nonpartisan, nonprofit organization Democracy Works.

To access

- Go to **emory.turbovote.org** (or use the QR code provided, if any).
- Click through the interface and enter your personal information and preferences to get details about registering, set up reminders, and opt for help voting by mail.
- Sign up for TurboVote **even if** you are already registered to vote. Sign up **again** if you signed up previously but your information or address has changed.
- We recommend signing up for both text *and* email reminders. Make sure the first email from TurboVote does not end up in your Junk folder.

Signup tutorial video: <http://campuslife.emory.edu/about/initiatives/evi.html#turbo>

What does TurboVote provide?

- Reminders about election dates, registration deadlines, and status checks
- Prompts to request your absentee ballot, if desired, and the means to do so
- Details about voting hours and locations

What doesn't TurboVote do?

- It does **not** register you to vote. It guides you to do so yourself.
- It does **not** send you an absentee *ballot*, as that will come directly from local elections officials. It does help you *request* your ballot, including mailing you forms to send in.
- It does **not** share personal information with any other services or campaigns.

Where to register? Or reregister?

- Students in residence at Emory may register to vote at **either** at your campus address **or** your hometown/permanent address.
- If you are in residence on the main campus, use this format address to register locally:
1762 Clifton Rd NE
MSC _____ [Your MSC number can be found in your Opus account]
Atlanta, GA 30322
The county is DeKalb.

- If you are currently studying remotely and have not already registered in Georgia, register to vote in your hometown.
- If you previously registered at an Emory address and are now studying remotely elsewhere, your Georgia registration should still be valid. Just sign up with TurboVote again with your *current mailing address*. Once TurboVote sends you the absentee ballot *request form*, you will provide your current mailing address again so your elections officials know where to mail the ballot itself. **-Or-** You also have the option of registering to vote anew in your current location and voting there instead, like when people move. Start by signing up again with TurboVote and following the steps to register there.

What else to look for when signing up and registering

- The **name** you enter should exactly match that on your government-issued identification. This is necessary in many states that require this ID to vote.
- Not all students are eligible to vote.
- Some states offer **online** voter registration; some will require a **paper** form. In Georgia, you can register *online* if you have a Georgia drivers' license or ID. Otherwise, you will be prompted to fill out a *paper* form or printout.
- TurboVote will walk you through the registration process, pointing to portals or downloads or mailing you forms if necessary.
- The TurboVote mailing, in a bright blue envelope, includes a registration form pre-filled with most of your information and a pre-stamped envelope addressed to the appropriate election authority; you'll only need to fill in your ID information, sign at the bottom, and send it off. If you can't wait, you can always download and print a state's form on your own, fill it in, sign, and mail it directly to your election authority, adding your own stamp.

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More TurboVote FAQ

Questions and pre-pandemic answers from TurboVote

What is the mission of TurboVote and what can I do to help? The mission of TurboVote is straightforward—make voting a simple, seamless experience for all Americans so that no one misses an election. While TurboVote provides the tools to help make voting easy, some responsibility falls to you. You can help by staying informed and civically engaged at all levels of government (local elections, too!), helping peers and family members get registered to vote and stay registered..

Is TurboVote an app? No, lucky for your data usage, TurboVote is not an app. However, it is tablet- and smartphone-friendly. Just pull up emory.turbovote.org and TurboVote can help you register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and sign up for email or text reminders about your upcoming elections.

Will I receive annoying texts and emails from TurboVote? Messages are as infrequent and concise as possible. You can expect to hear from us when you first sign up, then thirty days before an election, and the day before Election Day. If you have any questions along the way, you can always give us a shout at help@turbovote.org.

Does TurboVote register me to vote? No, unfortunately, TurboVote can't automatically register you to vote, as the registration process varies greatly from state to state, even county to county. TurboVote is a nationally used tool that helps you *fill out* the registration form you need wherever you are, whether it's your college campus or your hometown. If you'd like to register to vote through TurboVote, you can complete that process either by paper form or online, if your state has online voter registration. After you submit your form, it will be processed by your local election authority, and from there you should be all set to go. If you'd like to double-check, many states have online portals that allow you to check your registration status, or you could always give your county clerk a call.

Does it cost money to register to vote? No.

What are the three most common ways to complete the voter registration process?

- 1) **Online:** If the state where you'd like to register offers online voter registration, TurboVote will link you to that state's portal and spell out the requirements for usage. For example, some states require that the address on your ID matches the address of where you want to register.
- 2) **By mail:** If your state does not have online voter registration or if you do not have the right ID handy to complete the process online, you can register to vote by mail using a paper form. You may print out the form yourself or elect to receive TurboVote mailings. For the latter, we will send you a bright blue TurboVote envelope with your pre-filled voter registration form inside, plus an enclosed second envelope, pre-stamped, with your local election authority's address. Once you receive your pre-filled registration form from TurboVote, all you need to do is fill in your ID number, sign at the bottom, and send it off. However, if you are pressed for time with an approaching voter registration deadline and can't wait for it to arrive, you can always download, print, add your information, sign, and mail your registration form on your own (ask your roommate if they have stamps lying around!).
- 3) **In person:** TurboVote provides you with a downloadable PDF of your voter registration form that you can print, add your information, sign, and drop off in-person at your local election authority.

Does TurboVote allow me to vote online? No, TurboVote can't help you vote online and, in fact, no one can! For now, all ballots must be cast either at the polls, by mail, or at a voting center or ballot drop-off location (depending upon laws in your state). Through TurboVote, you can receive help with voter registration and absentee voting. We'll also make sure you never miss an opportunity to cast your ballot by sending you email or text reminders about elections happening in your community and at the national level.

Does TurboVote remind me about upcoming local and national elections? Yes, TurboVote sends you election reminders for all elections you are eligible to vote in—local, state, and federal. We send email or text message reminders both thirty days and one day prior to every election in which you're eligible to vote. These reminders include information on your polling place location, laws that govern the process (e.g., voter ID, early voting), and ballot information for state and federal elections where available. All TurboVote communications include an unsubscribe option, and we never contact you outside of providing election information. But if you have a question for us, we're happy to chat if you send a message to help@turbovote.org.

Can I register at my permanent home address, or do I have to register on campus? You can register to vote at either address; it just depends on where you want to vote. If you register back home at your permanent address (i.e. your parents' house), you can set up a separate mailing address so you can receive absentee ballots and other election-related forms at your campus address. That way, if you're eligible to vote absentee, you can cast your ballot at school for elections taking place back home.

If you choose to register to vote on campus, you can participate in elections affecting your institution's community. Often, if you're registering to vote on campus, your registration address and mailing address will be the same. Depending on state rules, you may still be able to vote absentee for elections in your institution's community (your

polling place could be an expensive Lyft ride away). But, if you need to vote at the polls, just get your friends together and share a ride.

What if I want to vote in elections back home? More power to you! You are not required to register to vote with your campus address, even if your university is a TurboVote partner. Again, TurboVote enables you to choose either your permanent home address or your campus address when registering to vote.

Plus, TurboVote makes it easy to request an absentee ballot if you register back home and can't make it to the polls on Election Day. We'll get you all the forms and information you need, when you need them. We'll even email or text you about upcoming local, state, and national elections so you'll never miss one—even if it's states away.

What if I've recently moved? Great question. Confusion around this issue is one of the biggest barriers to young people, particularly students, making their voices heard in elections.

If you have moved, be sure to register to vote at your new address. First, navigate to your institution's TurboVote site, emory.turbovote.org. When asked, "Are you registered to vote?," go ahead and click "No/I'm Not Sure," and complete the remainder of the process.

If you're a college student and living on campus, you can choose either to re-register (or register for the first time!) at your new location or vote in elections back home by keeping your registration (or registering for the first time!) at that address instead. If you want to vote at home but will be on campus for Election Day, be sure to request an absentee ballot and pay attention to our deadline alerts.

If you've forgotten what address you're registered with, most states have online portals that allow you to confirm that information. Luckily, though, there's no harm in re-registering.

What if I recently became an American citizen and sign up for TurboVote? The process is the same for all American citizens, recent or not. TurboVote is for all individuals looking to stay engaged with local, state, and federal elections; you don't even need to be an American citizen nor over 18 years old to sign up for TurboVote's email and text reminders. Reminders let you know about important dates and deadlines for elections affecting your community so you can stay informed and get involved in ways outside of voting.

In order to register to vote through TurboVote, you will need to be an American citizen and at least 18 years old. As long as your local election authority can confirm your citizenship upon receiving your voter registration form, your tenure as a citizen doesn't matter. If you became a citizen within the past few weeks and state records might not have been updated yet, you could enclose a photocopy of your naturalization certificate with your voter registration form so there's no question.

Does TurboVote release my information to candidates and agencies? No way! TurboVote doesn't sell data. TurboVote is only interested in using your information in order to serve your voting needs (i.e. registration, absentee ballot help). TurboVote's online platforms are secure and simply act as a liaison to collect your voting-relevant info and sort it into the appropriate forms needed to register to vote/receive an absentee ballot. If you'd like, we can then [send those forms](#) directly to you, so you can get them to the government office in charge.

The only people who have access to data during this process are your school administrators, so they can track campus progress, and the people needed to complete TurboVote's services. Finally, TurboVote is nonpartisan. Our objective is to get you registered to vote and excited about the process. Releasing personal information plays no part in that. If you have more questions, feel free to take a look at our [Privacy Policy](#).