

## Questions April 23, 2014 - Voting –Part 1

This week we begin a series of questions about the voting process. The primary election is coming up on **May 20<sup>th</sup>** this year and we want you to have all the information you need to exercise your very important right to vote.

### **Q. If we want to vote in the current primary election, when is the deadline for registering?**

A. Unfortunately, it is too late to register to vote for the Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> primary election, but it is not too late to register for the General Election in November.

### **Q. If we are voting in the primary election, when can we start early voting?**

**A. Early voting will begin April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup>. The Registrar's Office will also be open for early voting on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm.** Early (in person) voting is available Monday – Friday, 8 – 4:30, 3 weeks prior to an election. Absentee (vote by mail) ballots are available 45 days before each election. Applications must be made in writing. Electronic delivery of the ballot is available to military and overseas voters. Information can be found on the Secretary of State's website ([sos.ga.gov](http://sos.ga.gov)) on how to request an absentee ballot or by calling the Registrar's Office at 706-439-6016. You can find the location of your polling place as well as track absentee ballots you have requested on the same website under "my voter page".

### **Q. Where do we go to early vote?**

A. Early voting is done at the Board of Registrar's office in the Union County Courthouse.

### **Q. What is the Board of Registrars and where are they located?**

A. This is a board of five people appointed by the Chief Superior Court judge upon recommendation of the Grand Jury. The Registrar's Office is located at 65 Courthouse Street, in the Union County Courthouse just to your left as you walk in the main entrance. They are open Monday –Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Their phone number is 706-439-6016.

### **Q. When is the Board of Registrars required to be in the office?**

A. They are not in the office on a regular basis except during elections. The Deputy Registrar, hired by the Board, runs the office on a day to day basis. The Board comes together for regular meetings, for training and during elections. They are required by law to have the office open on Election Day.

**Q. What is the function of the Board of Registrars?**

A. The Board of Registrars is responsible for the safekeeping of all voter registration records for Union County. This includes adding new voters; removing deceased voters, felons, etc.; entering voter history; and working with the office of the Secretary of State on a daily basis to verify voter eligibility. They are also responsible for all early voting and absentee voting. Their rules and regulations are governed by the Georgia State Election Code as well as the State Board of Elections.

**Q. Is the Registrar's Office where I would go to register to vote?**

A. Yes, it is. You can also register to vote at any public library, at the Department of Drivers Services, and other locations. You may also [register online](#) or print and mail an application available on the Secretary of State's website, [www.sos.ga.gov](http://www.sos.ga.gov).

**Q. What else do I need to know about voting?**

A. You do not register by party in Georgia since the state has open primaries. You can choose which party primary to vote in for each primary election. You simply ask for a Democrat or Republican ballot when you go to the polls during the primary. It does not matter what party you affiliate with, so it is your choice which ballot you request.

**Q. What ID is required to vote in Georgia and Union County?**

A. Identification is required to vote, which for most people is their Driver's License (even if expired). Other forms of ID are: or a Georgia voter ID card, a valid state or federal government-issued ID card, including an ID card from a public university, college, or technical school in Georgia (with photo), a valid U.S. military ID card (with photo), a valid employee ID card (with photo) issued by any division of the federal government or the government of Georgia, a valid tribal ID card (with photo) or a valid U.S. passport

Part 2 Continued next week.....