

# Responsive Policy Project

making public policy public

# interest in public policy is at an all-time high

- States reopening and resuming
- Student and teacher safety at schools
- Restrictions on voting
- New safety net programs, like the Child Tax Credit and UBI
- Policy authority and funding

# BUT! policy is hard to find



**Grace Panetta** ✓

@grace\_panetta



its Friday night and finally time to do a task I've been putting for weeks: individually researching each state's ballot drop box availability and procedures one state at a time 🙄🙄

9:43 PM · Sep 4, 2020 · Twitter Web App

7 Retweets 167 Likes

# hard to understand

<b>Arizona</b> A.R.S. § 16-542	“The county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall mail the early ballot and the envelope for its return postage prepaid to the address provided by the requesting elector...”
<b>California</b> West's Ann. Cal. Elect. Code § 3010	“(a) The elections official shall deliver all of the following to each qualified applicant: (2) All supplies necessary for the use and return of the ballot, including an identification envelope with prepaid postage for the return of the vote by mail ballot.”
<b>Delaware</b> 15 Del. Code § 5504	“(c) Postage for all mailings made pursuant to this subsection shall be prepaid by the Department.”
<b>Hawaii</b> HRS § 11-182	“The mailed distribution and return of absentee ballots shall be at no cost to the voter. The State and counties shall share in the cost of all postage associated with the distribution and return of absentee.”
<b>Idaho</b> I.C. § 34-308	“(2) The clerk shall issue a ballot, by mail, to every registered voter in a mail ballot precinct and shall affix postage to the return envelope sufficient to return the ballot.”
<b>Iowa</b> I.C.A. § 53.8	“The absentee ballot and affidavit envelope shall be enclosed in or with an unsealed return envelope marked postage paid which bears the same serial number as the affidavit envelope.”

17 states have prepaid postage laws (for ballots). Each is worded differently.

= Ballots do not need stamps .

# and hard to change

 The Washington Post

**In 2018, Florida enfranchised former felons. They're still fighting for the right to vote.**

... coordinator of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, the group that led the fight to restore voting rights to former felons in the state. In 2018 ...

Oct 23, 2020



what

it's no mistake that policy is hard to understand; this keeps policy in the hands of those with power

- + accessible
- ↓
- + people engaging
- ↓
- + “better” policy
- ↓
- + healthy democracy

rather than pretending that people will engage in intentionally opaque processes, we **meet people where they are**

# we are building a policy wiki that is

- **intuitive, user-friendly:** presents information not as it appears on the books, but how it is experienced by people each day
- **authoritative:** links to the policy documents themselves with verified annotations
- **dynamic:** enables annotations from experts, end users, and advocates; allows users to compare policies across different states and localities





# Elections

While **federal voting and election law** establishes basic requirements, states have enormous control over how campaigns, voting, and elections are carried out. Information is subject to change as states confront **legal challenges** and issue new policies. RPP has flagged areas where legal challenges are pending.

## Key Issues

- ▼ **Voter eligibility & registration**
  - Eligibility, age
  - Eligibility, felony status
  - Eligibility, home address
  - Automatic voter registration
  - Pre-registration for young voters
  - Same-day voter registration
  - Online voter registration
  - Voter registration deadlines
  - Party affiliation
- ▶ **Early voting**
- ▶ **Voting by mail & absentee voting**

## By State

Voting varies greatly by state and even by county. Go to directly to a state:

+ Type state...

## FAQ

**Frequently asked questions** about voting.

+ Type your question...

## Dive In

Know the name of the law, regulation or policy document?

# Elections homepage

# our platform brings policy to life



collapse many  
layers of policy  
into one space

Responsive Policy Project

# from this (e.g. new GA voting law)

legislation



A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To comprehensively revise elections and voting; to amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the  
2 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to  
3 revise a definition; to provide for the establishment of a voter intimidation and illegal  
4 election activities hotline; to limit the ability of the State Election Board and the Secretary  
5 of State to enter into certain consent agreements, settlements, and consent orders; to provide  
6 that the Secretary of State shall be a nonvoting ex officio member of the State Election  
7 Board; to provide for the appointment, confirmation, term, and removal of the chairperson  
8 of the State Election Board; to revise provisions relating to a quorum of such board; to  
9 require the Secretary of State to support and assist the State Election Board; to provide for  
10 the appointment of temporary and permanent replacement superintendents; to provide for  
11 procedures; to provide for performance reviews of local election officials requested by the  
12 State Election Board or local governing authorities; to provide for a definition; to provide for  
13 appointment and duties of performance review boards; to provide for reports of performance  
14 review boards; to provide for promulgation of rules and regulations; to provide additional  
15 requirements on the State Election Board's power to adopt emergency rules and regulations;  
16 to provide that no election superintendents or boards of registrars shall accept private

lawsuits



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA DIVISION

THE NEW GEORGIA PROJECT,  
BLACK VOTERS MATTER FUND, and  
RISE, INC.,  
Plaintiffs,  
v.  
BRAD RAFFENSPERGER, in his official  
capacity as the Georgia Secretary of State;  
REBECCA SULLIVAN, in her official  
capacity as the Vice Chair of the Georgia  
State Election Board; DAVID WORLEY,  
in his official capacity as a member of the  
Georgia State Election Board; MATTHEW  
MASHBURN, in his official capacity as a  
member of the Georgia State Election  
Board; and ANH LE, in her official  
capacity as a member of the Georgia State  
Election Board,  
Defendants.

Civil Action No.  
**COMPLAINT FOR  
DECLARATORY AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**  
Plaintiffs THE NEW GEORGIA PROJECT, BLACK VOTERS MATTER

op-ed



## Stacey Abrams: Corporate America must pick a side on voting rights, prevent a Georgia repeat

*Leaving us behind with boycotts won't save us. I ask you to bring your business to Georgia and, if you're already here, stay and fight. Stay and vote.*

Stacey Abrams Opinion contributor

Published 5:03 p.m. ET Mar. 31, 2021 | Updated 11:56 a.m. ET Apr. 28, 2021

reddit



↑ r/centrist · Posted by u/ATLCoyote 1 month ago  
323 ↓ We've had voter ID in Georgia since 2004. That is NOT what is new about the voting law.

Seems like every time there is a discussion about the new Georgia voting law, it devolves into a debate about voter ID. So, I think it's important to set the record straight that Georgia already had voter ID. It's been the law since 2004. The only thing about voter ID that was added in this new bill is that it now replaces signature matching for mail-in ballots. For any type of in-person voting, we already had voter ID. But here's what else is new...

- Voters will now have less time to request absentee ballots.
- It's now illegal for election officials to mail absentee ballot applications to anyone that didn't request them.
- Drop boxes are now a permanent part of mail-in voting rather than a temporary intervention, but locations have been reduced and placed inside polling stations that are only open on early



# Georgia

Elections / Georgia

last updated [May 20, 2021 5:35 pm EST](#)

While **federal law establishes** basic requirements for elections, states still retain enormous control over all aspects of how elections are carried out. Georgia passed **The Election Integrity Act of 2021** on March 25, 2021. RPP flags ( ! ) where lawsuits are still pending.

## Key Issues, trending

- **Absentee voting: ID requirements**
- **Absentee voting: registration deadline**
- **Election Day: polling place hours**

## Key Issues

- ▶ **Voter eligibility & registration**
- ▶ **Early voting**
- ▶ **Voting by mail & absentee voting**
- ▶ **Voter ID requirements**
- ▶ **Voter lists**
- ▶ **Ranked choice voting**

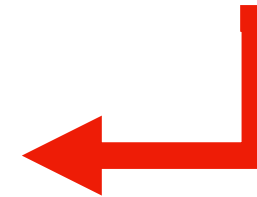
## Articles & Reports, trending

- [What Georgia's Voting Law Really Does \(NYT, 4/2/21\)](#)
- [Calls of 'Jim Crow' Spark Debate About Georgia Election Law \(Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 5/21/21\)](#)
- [Georgia Lawmakers Under Investigation for Handing out Snacks to Voters \(Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 5/19/21\)](#)

## Gov't Action, trending

- [SB 202: Election Integrity Act of 2021](#)
- [Atlanta Executive Order: Plan of Actio...](#)
- [SB 69: Restrictions on Automatic Vot...](#)

to this





# ID requirements

Elections / Georgia / Absentee voting / ID requirements

last updated [May 20, 2021 5:35 pm EST](#)

The Election Integrity Act of 2021 established a new requirement for absentee voting. When applying for an absentee ballot, voters must provide the number on their driver's license or state-issued ID or, alternatively, a photocopy of a valid photo ID (passport, military, employee, or tribal).

944 (C)(i) Any person applying for an absentee-by-mail ballot shall make application in  
 945 writing on the form made available by the Secretary of State. In order to confirm the  
 946 identity of the voter, such form shall require the elector to provide his or her name,  
 947 date of birth, address as registered, address where the elector wishes the ballot to be  
 948 mailed, and the number of his or her Georgia driver's license or identification card  
 949 issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5 of Title 40. If such elector does not have a  
 950 Georgia driver's license or identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5  
 951 of Title 40, the elector shall affirm this fact in the manner prescribed in the application  
 952 and the elector shall provide a copy of a form of identification listed in subsection (c)  
 953 of Code Section 21-2-417. The form made available by the Secretary of State shall

- essential info
- open comments
- policymakers
- experts
- advocates
- comparisons

## Discussion

[@NAACP\\_GA](#) (5/21/21 5:30pm): New lawsuit filed challenging requirements as racially discriminatory

## and this:

- extracts essential info
- answer is **authoritative** (annotates actual law) and **explanatory** (gives context to dry, confusing language)

a copy of a form of identification listed in subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-417:

Other acceptable forms of identification are: a U.S. passport, a photo ID from a government employer (federal, state, or local government), a military photo ID, or a tribal photo ID. If you use one of these forms of ID, you must include a **photocopy** of it with your absentee ballot application.

-original: [@voter\\_GA](#) (5/20/21) 5:30pm)

-verified: [@RPP\\_Elections](#) (5/20/21 5:35pm)



# ID requirements

[Elections](#) / [Georgia](#) / [Absentee voting](#) / [ID requirements](#)

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S. B. 202  
- 38 -

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## and this:

- provides informal space for general public to record their experiences, challenges, questions, etc.

number of his or her Georgia driver's license or identification card:

I always help my grandma vote absentee, but I don't think that she has any of these IDs. She hasn't driven in ages! Is it hard to get a state ID? Saw this WashPo article:

The Washington Post

Courts & Law

Getting a photo ID so you can vote is easy. Unless you're poor, black, Latino or elderly.

May 23, 2016



- [@grandkid\\_GA](#) (5/20/21 8:30am)





# ID requirements

Elections / Georgia / Absentee voting / ID requirements

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## and this:

- layers data, advocacy reports, and arguments on top of the actual text of the law.
- reduces mischaracterizations of text and highlights ideological disputes.

## number of his or her Georgia driver's license or identification card:

Our [study](#) found that 25% of Black voters do not possess a current and valid gov't-issued photo ID, as compared to 11% of voters of all races.

-[@BrennanCenter](#) (5/21/21 10:30am)

Re: That study is over 10 years old and didn't focus on registered voters. See [article](#) examining faulty methodology.

-[@HeritageFoundation](#) (5/21/21 1:00pm)

who



**Responsive Policy Project (RPP)** is a startup nonprofit that lifts the curtain on public policy, making it easy to find, understand, and engage with opaque policy documents.

RPP aims to **radically** transform policy by changing who participates and how.

# team

Our team mixes tech and policy, with a seasoned software engineer, pioneering civic tech UX designer, and expert public interest attorneys.

Founder Emma Clippinger is a policy attorney and acclaimed non-profit founder and leader.

how

**pilot**

**6 months**

**\$250k**

## **tech**

- customized annotation platform
- user authentication
- policy document uploading and verification

## **2-3 policy areas, in-depth**

- partnerships with organizers, advocates, experts
- solicited annotations
- focus groups + iteration

## **people**

- FT fullstack software engineer
- PT UX designer
- PT legal researchers (3, including founder)
- PT social media manager

[www.responsivepolicy.org](http://www.responsivepolicy.org)

check out [this video](#) to learn more

[info@responsivepolicy.org](mailto:info@responsivepolicy.org)