

E-mail Georgia

We also called Matt from SOS office. The phone number is 1-404-656-2871. He said, "you can only vote in state elections if you still have a residence. If you mark your FPCA return uncertain you can still vote in state elections if you have a residence in Georgia." He went on to say you, "you can only vote in Federal elections if you never resided in GA."

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rayburn, Kevin** <krayburn@sos.ga.gov>

Date: Sat, Dec 23, 2017 at 6:20 AM

Subject: RE: information regarding voting from abroad

To: Melissa Herron <herro048@umn.edu>

Ms. Herron,

Below please find responses to your questions:

1. If a U.S. citizen is residing abroad and they intend to return, are they allowed to vote in state elections?

Yes, as long as they are only temporarily overseas and not a permanent overseas resident.

2. If a U.S. citizen is residing abroad and their return is uncertain, are they allowed to vote in state elections?

This is less clear. If they no longer retain a residence in the state of Georgia and do not have an intent to return, they might be considered a permanent overseas resident and therefore only eligible to vote for federal offices.

3. If a U.S. citizen has never resided in the United States, are they eligible to vote in state elections?

No.

4. If a US citizen has never resided in the United States, are they eligible to vote in federal elections?

It depends on whether the person has a parent who is currently registered to vote in Georgia. Pursuant to Georgia Statute O.C.G.A. § 21-2-219(c), "Permanent overseas citizens shall only be authorized to vote for presidential electors and United States senator or representative in Congress. Permanent overseas citizens shall be deemed to be residents of the precinct in which the county courthouse is located." Relevant to those who have never resided in the U.S., O.C.G.A. § 21-2-219(e) says, "A person who is a United States citizen, permanently residing overseas, who has never lived in the United States, may register and vote in this state in the county of residence of either of such person's parents under the limitations of subsection (c) of this Code section if either of the person's parents is registered to vote in this state. Such person shall be deemed to reside at the same location as the parent for voting purposes."

Kevin Rayburn

Assistant Elections Director and Deputy General Counsel

Georgia Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp

[404.656.2871](tel:404.656.2871) (main)

[404.654.6004](tel:404.654.6004) (direct)

From: Melissa Herron [mailto:herro048@umn.edu]
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 10:17 PM
To: Rayburn, Kevin <krayburn@sos.ga.gov>
Subject: Re: information regarding voting from abroad

Dear Mr. Rayburn,

We appreciate your efforts and will be looking for the information.

Thank you,

Melissa Herron

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 6:35 AM, Rayburn, Kevin <krayburn@sos.ga.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Herron,

I am in receipt of your questions. Our office is preparing a response. Thank you for your assistance in helping people exercise their franchise.

Sincerely,

Kevin Rayburn

Assistant Elections Director and Deputy General Counsel

Georgia Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp

[404.656.2871](tel:404.656.2871) (main)

[404.654.6004](tel:404.654.6004) (direct)

From: Melissa Herron [<mailto:herro048@umn.edu>]

Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 4:40 AM

To: SOS Contact <soscontact@sos.ga.gov>

Subject: information regarding voting from abroad

Hello,

I'm a volunteer helping US citizens, living overseas, vote in US elections. We want to make sure that votefromabroad.org provides accurate and up-to-date voting information. Would you please answer the following questions.

1. If a U.S. citizen is residing abroad and they intend to return, are they allowed to vote in state elections?

2. If a U.S. citizen is residing abroad and their return is uncertain, are they allowed to vote in state elections?

3. If a U.S. citizen has never resided in the United States, are they eligible to vote in state elections?

4. If a US citizen has never resided in the United States, are they eligible to vote in federal elections?

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. We appreciate you helping Americans execute one of their most important rights!

Take Care,

Melissa Herron