

## Proposed State Election Board Recommendation to General Assembly

WHEREAS, absentee voting in Georgia has led to numerous complaints from the public and the numerous reported errors are undermining public faith in the integrity of elections in Georgia;

WHEREAS, the centralization of absentee balloting and the reporting of results from the absentee ballots removes the tabulation of those votes from the local precincts;

WHEREAS, the State Election Board has received numerous complaints involving absentee ballot requests, duplicate voting by absentee ballot, failure to mail or deliver absentee ballots in a timely manner, defects in the handling processing and recording of absentee ballots, appearance of counterfeit absentee ballots, involving enough ballots to call into question the accuracy of election results;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has held there is no constitutional right to vote absentee and Georgia for many years was able to conduct elections without "no-excuse" absentee voting;

WHEREAS, there are many days authorized by the Election Code for "early voting" and electors who are out of the country may vote under federally-mandated means of voting, and

WHEREAS, Georgia has had limited experience with "no excuse" absentee voting and Georgia law prior to 2010 allowed a reasonable amount of absentee voting, but limited to an elector who:

- (1) Was required to be absent from his or her precinct during the time of the primary or election he or she desires to vote in;
- (2) Will perform any of the official acts or duties set forth in this chapter in connection with the primary or election he or she desires to vote in;
- (3) Because of physical disability or because of being required to give constant care to someone who is physically disabled, will be unable to be present at the polls on the day of such primary or election;
- (4) Because the election or primary falls upon a religious holiday observed by such elector, will be unable to be present at the polls on the day of such primary or election;
- (5) Was required to remain on duty in his or her place of employment for the protection of the health, life, or safety of the public during the entire time the polls are open when such place of employment is within the precinct in which the voter resides; or
- (6) Was 75 years of age or older;

WHEREAS, "no-excuse" absentee voting was helpful during the recent pandemic, but even during that period, voting was chaotic and untrustworthy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Dr. Johnston and the members of the Board are authorized on behalf of the State Election Board to work with the General Assembly to restore Georgia law to allow absentee voting only for the reasons embodied in O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-380 prior to 2009.