Opportunities for Engagement
Emory Votes Initiative

Casting a ballot isn’t the only way to support a vibrant democracy. Consider
1. becoming a poll worker,
2. helping others vote another way, or
3. joining a student organization.

1. Poll Workers Needed

As longtime older poll workers sit out the pandemic, bright, young, fresh folks are needed to fill
the shortage. The more poll workers, the more polling places can stay open, and the more
quickly and safely people can vote. The training and long day of service even nets you a little
cash. Please consider whether this is a safe choice for you and those who live with you.

In all states: Power the Polls directs you to poll worker information for any location. You can
also find your state’s official poll worker information through the U.S. Election Assistance
Commission.

In Georgia: To be a general poll worker, you must be a U.S. citizen, age 16 and up, and apply in
your county of residence. You do not have to be registered to vote there. You will report early
to your assigned polling place (transportation necessary) to set up, greet voters, check them in,
help them use the system, and keep the area safe. Other details vary by county, including pay,
usually somewhere in the $100s.

Start by signing up at the state’s recruitment site, SecureVoteGA. (Actual hiring will be done by
your county, e.g., DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett.)

EVI recommends also going through one of the following organizations. Either one will help
train and place you and provide additional PPE:

- The well-established ACLU of Georgia works with counties statewide to recruit and
  assign poll workers. Put “Emory Votes Initiative” as your organization. It can sometimes
  group teammates together to “adopt” a polling place.

- New in 2020 is the Georgia Youth Poll Worker Project, created by recent Georgia State
  University graduate Evan Malbrough, with its Push for 5k initiative to recruit thousands
  of student poll workers in the metro Atlanta area (as mentioned in the New York Times
  and the Emory Wheel).
Georgia has also been hiring **poll tech workers**, a.k.a. Election Day **field service technicians**. This specialized type of poll worker earns **$400**. You will get trained in advance to set up voting machines and troubleshoot during the day. When you apply with the state ([here](#)), check the box for tech worker. You must be 18+, a U.S. citizen, and have transportation to your assigned site, possibly in a neighboring county.

The Emory Wheel published an [article](#) in October about student poll workers.

**2. Other Voting-Related Opportunities**

Got time on Election Day or before? Help *others* vote.

- Spread accurate **information**. For Georgia’s January 5 Senate runoff election, a nonpartisan [guide](#) from CEEP (the Campus Election Engagement Project) shares resources on the candidates’ positions on the issues.

- Individual candidates’ **campaigns** can always use volunteers. For Georgia’s January runoffs those include **Ossoff** and **Perdue** for Senate runoff 1, **Loeffler** and **Warnock** for Senate runoff 2, and **Blackman** and **McDonald** for Public Service Commissioner.

- Got a party of choice? State-level **political parties** such as the Georgia **Republicans** and **Democrats** can always use volunteers. Then there are **county** party organizations on the ground, such as the DeKalb **Democrats** and **Republicans**.

- Want to dispel confusion and help voters solve problems? Get trained to answer the **Election Protection** coalition’s **nonpartisan voter hotline** at [866ourvote](#) and head off trouble at the polls. Nonprofits and political parties may run separate voter helplines.

- Be an in-person **poll watcher or monitor** (not to be confused with a poll **worker**) through Election Protection’s [Protect the Vote](#), **Common Cause Georgia**, or other nonpartisan or partisan efforts. Training required.

- Within the Emory community, share this **Emory Votes Initiative website**. Encourage others to sign up for TurboVote, register to vote, change or update their information, and figure out how to get and return absentee ballots.

- Get involved with the **Georgia 55 Project**, the brainchild of Emory MBA student Abigail Greene (slogan “Voting should be easy, fun, and delicious”). This local coalition helps Atlantans register and vote “through **grassroots community and food-centric outreach** methods, from providing absentee applications in food bank boxes to serving pizza to voters on election day.” [www.georgia55.org/get-involved](#) or [@georgia55project](#).
• **Get out the vote** in the larger community by phoning, texting, or writing postcards from home. Some nonpartisan, nonprofit civic engagement organizations focus on particular communities, for example in metro Atlanta the Center for Pan-Asian Community Services (CPACS), the Georgia Muslim Voter Project, the New Georgia Project, or the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO); [GoVoteGA](https://govotega.org) is a good starting point.

• More possibilities:
  - [Vote Riders](https://www.voteriders.org) helps people navigate **voter ID** requirements.
  - [Spread the Vote](https://www.spreadthetvote.org) also helps folks who need **ID** get it.
  - On your evening walk at the end of Election Day, snap and upload pictures of your precinct’s publicly posted **poll tapes**. [Protect Our Votes](https://protectourvotes.org) organizes this Photo Finish effort.

3. **Student Organizations**

Civic engagement isn’t just about voting and it’s not limited to citizens. It all starts with taking part in your immediate community. Consider joining a student organization—for example, among the hundreds at Emory, one of these:

**Emory College**
- APIDAA (Asian, Pacific Islander and Desi American Activists)
- Black Student Association
- College Republicans
- Fair Fight Emory
- Hillel
- Latino Student Organization
- NAACP Emory
- Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honor society)
- Students for Justice in Palestine
- Young Americans for Freedom
- Young Democrats

**Oxford College**
- Oxford College Republicans
- OxFirst - first generation/low-income student group
- OxMUN
- OxPride
- Pre-Law Society
- Race- and ethnicity-based organizations: OLE (Organización de la Lengua Española), Black Student Alliance, African Caribbean Students Union, Asian Culture Club, Indian
Cultural Exchange, Hindu Student Association, Chinese Student Association, Muslim Student Association, Korean American Student Association
• Turning Point USA
• Young Democrats