

# Ready to Vote

Read for the qualifications Georgia voters must meet.

**SS8CG1.d** "List voting qualifications for elections in Georgia."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each qualification a person must meet to vote in Georgia. Number the seven qualifications from 1 to 7 so you can check that you found them all.

### Who Can Vote in Georgia?

- ① Voting in Georgia is a right with qualifications set by law. To vote in a Georgia election, a person must be a citizen of the United States. The person must live legally in Georgia and in the county where the person plans to vote. A voter must also be registered. A person who is at least 17 1/2 may register if that person will be 18 by Election Day. They cannot cast a ballot until they are at least 18. Registration connects each voter to the correct local election list.
- ② Georgia law also places limits on certain people. A person who is serving a sentence for a felony conviction cannot vote. After completing the sentence, that person may regain voting eligibility if all other qualifications are met. In addition, a person cannot vote if a court has determined that the person is mentally incompetent. This decision must come from a court. A disability, a learning difference, or an assistant's help with voting does not by itself remove a person's right to vote.
- ③ Before Election Day, a person who meets the qualifications still needs to register by the deadline for that election. Election offices use registration records to prepare voting lists and assign voters to the proper county and precinct. A person may check registration status before voting and update an address after moving. These steps are practical parts of participating, but they do not change the basic qualifications: registration, citizenship, Georgia and county residency, age, legal eligibility after felony sentencing, and court competence.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What citizenship and residency qualifications must a person meet to vote in Georgia?

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**2** What age must a person be to cast a ballot, and when may the person register?

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**3** How does serving a sentence for a felony conviction affect a person's ability to vote?

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**4** What court decision prevents a person from voting? Name one condition that does not by itself remove voting rights.

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Invent a fictional Georgia resident who can vote in an upcoming election. Write exactly three sentences explaining how the person meets at least five voting qualifications, including registration.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each qualification a person must meet to vote in Georgia. Number the seven qualifications from 1 to 7 so you can check that you found them all. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                            | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What citizenship and residency qualifications must a person meet to vote in Georgia?                                | <b>The person must be a U.S. citizen and must live legally in Georgia and in the county where the person plans to vote.</b>                                                                 |
| 2 | What age must a person be to cast a ballot, and when may the person register?                                       | <b>A person must be at least 18 to cast a ballot. A person who is at least 17 1/2 may register if the person will be 18 by Election Day.</b>                                                |
| 3 | How does serving a sentence for a felony conviction affect a person's ability to vote?                              | <b>A person serving a sentence for a felony conviction cannot vote. After completing the sentence, the person may regain eligibility if all other qualifications are met.</b>               |
| 4 | What court decision prevents a person from voting? Name one condition that does not by itself remove voting rights. | <b>A court determination that the person is mentally incompetent prevents voting. A disability, a learning difference, or needing an assistant does not by itself remove voting rights.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Rina is a U.S. citizen who legally lives in Georgia's Chatham County, where she plans to vote. She will be 19 on Election Day, registered before the deadline, and is not serving a sentence for a felony conviction. No court has determined that Rina is mentally incompetent, so she meets the voting qualifications described here.

Accept equivalent wording for the seven qualifications, including residency in Georgia and the county of voting. For the open response, accept any fictional profile that accurately states at least five qualifications in exactly three sentences.