



**DEMOCRATS
ABROAD**

SOUTH AFRICA

GEORGIA RUNOFF VOTING GUIDANCE FOR GEORGIA VOTERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

20 NOVEMBER 2020 v1

Dear Georgia Voters in South Africa –

Just think for a minute about the power that rests in your hands and ballots! The Senate Runoff election determines so much of what we'll be able to accomplish, or not, in the coming years. Please vote – and do so carefully so we can ensure your ballot arrives safely, on time and is counted! We're here to support you if you need help.

We believe the safest way to vote is to use a courier. We have volunteers who are willing to help coordinate the sharing of courier envelopes (and costs) by GA county. We have people in Joburg and Cape Town – if you are willing to assist or would like to share courier packs with others – please contact Liz at 083 766 5912 or southafrica@democratsabroad.org so we can send the ballots on their way within the next week!

Georgia's two US Senate seats are in contention 5 January 2021 in a special runoff election following the 3 November general election.

- US Senate: **Jon Ossoff (Democrat)** versus David Perdue (Republican)
- US Senate Special: **Raphael Warnock (Democrat)** versus Kelly Loeffler (Republican)

21 November	Overseas ballots should be available online/sent out
7 December	Deadline for new voters to register to vote
5 January	Election Day and Deadline for ballot to be postmarked
8 January	Deadline for ballots to arrive and for any signatures to be "cured"

PLEASE – Don't wait, send your ballot this week!

GET THE WORD OUT

Help us get the word out and reach other potential voters within South Africa, across the continent and around the world! Use social media, contact organisations (schools/membership based organisations etc) that Americans may be linked to. Use your networks and be creative!

Social Media: Connect with us on [WhatsApp](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

VOTING INFO

The info you need to vote is available here:

Vote from Abroad Georgia Runoff Info Page

All info - dates, process, voting instructions etc.

Please also click on the "Click to Expand" sections to see all info.

<https://www.votefromabroad.org/voting-in-the-georgia-us-senate-runoff-election-jan-5-2021/>

Democrats Abroad / Vote from Abroad GA Senate Runoff Slides with Main Info for Voters

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pE7e_KYY5ac9I_PL7W_aYe0YGeXAlGB8c14bDeD_wsgA/edit?usp=sharing

Georgia State Info for Overseas Voters

You can find templates for envelopes and county addresses here too.

https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/military_and_overseas_voting2

OPTIONS FOR RETURNING BALLOTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Georgia requires *mailed* delivery of overseas ballots.

PLEASE DO NOT use any postal or global mail service.

SUGGESTED OPTION: Courier

We strongly suggest you send your ballot by courier to your Local Election Officials. And we suggest you send it ASAP – before 1 December. Vote now and know your vote will be counted!

The Georgia Secretary of State wrote to DA: "Voters can use the postal service or a courier service like FedEx, DHL, and UPS. They can send multiple ballots in one envelope as long as the ballots and oaths are packaged according to the instructions and going to the same county voter registration office."

We have GA voters in Joburg and Cape Town who are willing to help coordinate courier envelopes (you can share the costs) for different counties. DHL to the US is approximately R500. We still need others to help! If you would like to assist with this or would like to send your ballot with others, please contact Liz O'Leary at 083 766 5912 or southafrica@democratsabroad.org

This will take place this week so don't wait!

SECONDARY OPTION (Only if sending immediately and willing to risk your vote)

US Consulates Diplomatic Pouch

The US Consulates in Joburg, Cape Town and Durban will accept your ballots and send them via the diplomatic pouch but it takes time and remember that ballots go into the US Postal Service when they arrive in the US and can take 5+ weeks (this was our experience in the general election) and holiday mail is likely to increase, so *we are not recommending it*. Should you choose this as your option they have asked that you email them ahead of time to make arrangements. Their hours are limited.

Info from the Consulate: "If using diplomatic pouch, voters should email the consulate nearest them to plan a time to bring in their ballot. Given the limited number of specifically Georgia voters, U.S. citizens should bring their ballots directly to the window counter of American Citizen Services so that we can collect, date-stamp, and mail the ballot immediately when received. We'd like to remind voters that they must properly address the envelope to their local election officials."

Johannesburg: VoteJohannesburg@state.gov

Cape Town: VoteCapeTown@state.gov

Durban: ConsularDurban@state.gov

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Individual Zoom Voter Help four days a week <https://grco.de/GAabroad>

Email help@votefromabroad.org / GVAsst2020@democratsabroad.org

Voter Protection

Democrats Abroad Voter Protection has picked up many issues in Georgia this election season. If you experience any difficulty, potential misinformation, unresolved voter issues etc please contact them at: voterprotection@democratsabroad.org

Currently there is a lot of misinformation being given out in Local Election Official/UOCAVA (Overseas) voter interactions. If you believe you should be able to vote in this election but are being told that you can't, for any reason, you should NOT accept that as the definitive answer -email Voter Protection for guidance.

TO GET INVOLVED

If you would like to assist with Democrats Abroad South Africa (Organising courier meet ups, voter assistance, media, sharing info, social media etc)

Please contact Liz at 083 766 5912 or southafrica@democratsabroad.org

How to Support the Senate Runoff in Georgia (Various resources)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13sbepf8Lay9CFgG545gKINGaxlonDPdoKKEOnurq8Ok/edit>