



# Voter Registration Forum

Chatham County Voter Registration

Spring Quarter 2011

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## *Letter from the Director*

The Chatham County Voter Registration Office wishes to commend our local public and private high schools and local area universities for fully supporting and participating in providing all eligible students the opportunity to register to vote (see article page 5). As part of the effort to keep our county students informed of the voting process, our office has published an information pamphlet, "Government 101 and Voter Education." Copies are being distributed to all our local high schools. It is important to keep our young electors aware of the significance of participating in the electoral process.

### **NO CONTACT CONFIRMATION NOTICES**

During the month of April 2011, the Georgia Secretary of State identified electors who have failed to vote and/or with whom there has been "no contact" during the preceding three calendar years. The term "no contact" means the elector has not filed an updated voter registration card, change of address or name, has not signed a petition which is required by law to be verified by the election superintendent of a county or municipality or the Secretary of State, has not signed a voter certificate, and has not confirmed continuation at the same address during the preceding three calendar years (O.C.G.A § 21-2-234 (a) (1)). Approximately 7,000 Chatham County voters were identified and have been mailed confirmation notices. The confirmation notice is a postage prepaid; preaddressed return card on which an elector may state such elector's current address and which states substantially the following: If the elector has not changed addresses or has changed addresses within the county or municipality in which the elector is currently registered, the elector must return the card with the updated information, if any, within 30 days after the date of the notice; and If the card is not returned within 30 days after the date of the notice, the elector's name shall be transferred to the inactive list of voters provided for in Code Section 21-2-235 (O.C.G. A. § 21-2-234 (c) (1) and (2)).

An elector placed on the inactive list of electors shall remain on such list until the day after the second November general election held after the elector is placed on the inactive list of voters. If the elector makes no contact during that period, the voter shall be removed from the inactive list of voters (O.C.G.A. 21-2-2-235 (b)).

The Chatham County Board of Registrars asks that all electors who received a confirmation notice please return them with your current address information. It is an individual responsibility to keep your address information current with the County Voter Registration Office. Don't wait until Election Day to discover that your address information is not current or find that you were removed from the voters list for "no contact".



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# Georgia Voter Identification Requirements

Georgia Law (O.C.G.A § 21-2-417 (a)) requires voters who vote in person to present proper identification to the poll worker. If the voter votes *by mail*, they *do not* need a photo ID. Photo ID rules *only apply* to *in-person* voting. Other forms of ID apply to electors who registered to vote by mail, see O.C.G.A. 21-2-417, c.

## Acceptable photo ID's for in-person voting

1. Any valid state or federal government issued photo ID, including a FREE Voter ID Card issued by your county registrar's office or the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS)
2. A current or expired Georgia driver's license
3. Valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. Government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of this state
4. Valid United States passport
5. Valid United States military photo identification card
6. Valid tribal photo identification card



For more information go to  
[www.sos.ga.gov/gaphotoid](http://www.sos.ga.gov/gaphotoid)

## Chatham County Voter Registration will be Scheduling Training Sessions for Nursing Administrators in September 2011

### Training Sessions will Cover:

- Who is eligible to register in Georgia?
- How does a person find out if he or she is registered?
- How to assist a resident in applying to register to vote?
- Assisting a resident with submittal of their voter registration application

### In Further Detail you'll learn about:

- Voting in person on election day
- Voting absentee in person prior to election day
- Voting absentee by mail prior to election day

### **Citizenship and Personal Choice**

(a) All residents legally eligible to vote must be permitted to vote in all primary, special and general elections and in referenda. If requested by the resident, the facility must assist in obtaining voter registration forms, applications for absentee ballots and in obtaining such ballots and assist the resident in meeting all other legal requirements in order to be able to vote. The facility shall not interfere with nor attempt to influence the actual casting of the resident's vote.

**GA. Comp Reg. 290-5-39-.04**

For more information contact:

Lorraine Patterson— Absentee Ballot Clerk

912-790-1520

Website: <http://voter.chathamcounty.org>

# Georgia VoteSafe Program

**State law requires the public availability of voter lists including names and addresses of registered voters. In 2009, the Georgia Legislature enacted a bill known as the VoteSafe program to provide for the confidentiality of residence addresses of certain registered voters who have been, or may be, subject to acts of family violence or stalking or currently reside in a family violence shelter.**

For more information go to <http://sos.ga.gov/votesafe>

## ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible for participation in the VoteSafe program if you meet the following eligibility requirements:

- You are a resident of the State of Georgia
- You are a registered voter in the State of Georgia; and
- You meet one of the following qualifications:
  1. You have a protective order under O.C.G.A. § 19-13-4 or under a similar provision of law in another state;
  2. You have a restraining order or protective order under O.C.G.A. § 16-5-94 or under a similar provision of law in another state; or
  3. You are a bona fide resident of a family violence shelter, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 19-13-20.

## MVP

### MY VOTER PAGE

Go to [www.sos.ga.gov/mvp](http://www.sos.ga.gov/mvp) to Log In

Use MVP to Check Your:

- Voter Registration Status
- Mail-in application and ballot status
- Poll Location
- Early voting location
- Elected Officials
- Registration information on file with the county office
- Sample ballot for the upcoming election

## Registered Voters as of May 1, 2011

Active: 141,169

Inactive: 13,715



# Community Activities

## County Government Week

The Voter Registration Department fully supported National County Government Month during April. The staff participated in the County Fair Day/Open House by conducting voter registration and providing photo ID and general information. Office members also enjoyed assisting with the Youth Commission Rally/Employee Picnic at Lake Mayer.

## Walk GA



CVR Fit Club: Carolyn, Sabrina, Shionna, and Inger

All of the employees at Voter Registration participated in an eight week exercise program sponsored by Walk GA. Walk GA is a program started by the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. People from all over Georgia participated. The goal is to gain at least 15 miles or more each week. You gain mileage by walking, biking, yard work, and through many other activities.

In Chatham County, there were four active teams. The Voter Registration Dept. had two of those teams: CVR Fit Club and OLDSKOOL. CVR Fit Club was the leading team since the program started. The team gained 644.9 miles and OLDSKOOL gained 477.2 miles.

36 people participated in Chatham County. Inger Bostick (CVR Fit Club) and Randy Slay (OLDSKOOL) battled it out to be in the top 5 individual in Chatham County category. Inger Bostick came out on top with 292 miles. Although she was not the number one finisher in this category, she

## March of Dimes

Lorraine Patterson and Shionna Brown along with other county employees participated in the March of Dimes hot dog sale on St. Patrick's Day. Despite a few bumps, such as running out of propane for the grill, the team nearly sold out the hot dogs and raised \$535.



The office also raises money by donating one dollar to wear jeans each Friday. Most companies allow their employees to wear jeans on Friday, but our department is allowed to wear jeans on Wednesday. So, if an employee wants to wear jeans on Friday, they've got to pay up! After all, the money goes to a good cause. This quarter we've raised \$ 85.

# High School Registration

During the month of April and May, The employees at Voter Registration visited 5 schools to register students to vote. The students were excited to register and the turnout was excellent.

Beach — 38 students registered

Islands — 19 students registered

Johnson — 129 students registered

Savannah High Liberal Arts— 71 students registered

Savannah High School of Law—21 students registered

Also, representatives from other schools participated in a deputy registrar training program in March, so they could register students at there own school. Again, The Voter Registration Dept. would like to thank the representatives from those schools for there hard work and doing an excellent job registering students to vote!

Jenkins — 71 students registered

Groves — 50 students registered

St. Andrews— 4 students registered

The Voter Registration Dept. will be visiting Windsor Forest H.S. in May.

## Employee Spotlight



Lorraine Patterson has been with the Voter Registration Department for 3 years and with the county for 5 years.

She is the absentee ballot clerk. As team leader of a dedicated staff, she is responsible for collecting absentee applications, sending out absentee ballots, and processing the absentee ballots as they come in before election time.

She is also the department's March of Dimes/United Way representative. She collects donations from her colleagues every Friday if they wear jeans and participates in fundraising activities throughout the year.



## Election Information Websites

**Chatham County**

<http://voter.chathamcounty.org>

**Secretary of State**

[www.sos.state.ga.gov](http://www.sos.state.ga.gov)

**Federal Voting Assistance**

[www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Chatham County Voter Registration**

**1117 Eisenhower Dr.**

**Suite E**

**Savannah, GA 31406**

Office 912-790-1520

Fax 912-790-1519

Email [voter@chathamcounty.org](mailto:voter@chathamcounty.org)

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**Sandra M. Williams**

Director

**Randolph Slay**

Assistant Director

## FACEBOOK

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**Chatham County Voter Registration**

## Subscriber Info:

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If you would like to unsubscribe to this news letter, please click on the above email address and put “**unsubscribe**” in the subject line.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Schools in Chatham County