

# COMMON MISTAKES WHEN VOTING BY MAIL

44 states and the District of Columbia are offering voting by mail because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Voting by mail can be more prone to human error than voting in person.

## GA VOTING DEADLINES:

*2020 application deadline (by mail or in person)*

*Received by October 30, 2020*

*2020 voted ballot deadline (by mail or in person)*

*Received by November 3, 2020*

## Here are some common mistakes when voting by mail and what you can do to prevent them:

### Improperly Filling Out Ballot

- fill ballot out on a dry surface
- do not leave stray marks on ballot
- do not use red ink, marker, or anything that could be problematic
  - look at instructions for required ink color
- strictly follow instructions on the ballot

### Sending Ballot Back Too Late

- ballots are rejected because they arrive too late or lack a postmark
- put ballot in the mail at least a week in advance

Voters who mail in their ballots near or on the day of deadline should go in person to a post-office branch & have their ballot envelope postmarked by a clerk.

### Using a Different Signature Than What's On File

- \*31 states use signature verification to confirm the authenticity of voted ballots
  - make sure to use the signature that has been previously used on state records
  - election officials look for consistency
- In Georgia - young voters, first-time voters, and Black voters were likely to have their ballots rejected due to "exact match" laws in 2019.

### Forgetting to Sign Envelope

- sign the statement on the outside of the envelope containing the mail ballot to affirm identity & eligibility to vote
- the oath on the envelope must be signed by the voter
  - the signature on the oath is compared to the signature on the absentee ballot application for confirmation