

# EXACT MATCH II

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY

**11.02.2018 REVISED**

### **Community Advisory on “Pending” Voter Registration Applications**

Georgia’s “exact match” law has frozen more than 53,000 voter registration applications and placed them at risk of future cancellation. Under this law, a voter registration application is placed in “pending” status if the applicant’s name, date of birth, driver’s license or state ID number, last four digits of social security number, or citizenship status on the registration application does not *exactly match* information on file with the Department of Driver Services (DDS) or Social Security Administration (SSA).

“Mismatches” can occur even when applicants submit complete and accurate voter registration applications. For example, clerical errors that result in the misspelling of a name, the misplacement of a hyphen, or a driver’s license number that is one digit off can result in a mismatch. Mismatches may also occur for naturalized citizens if they are incorrectly flagged as non-citizens. This can occur because the voter registration system uses citizenship data in DDS records that are not automatically updated to reflect changes in citizenship.

If applicants do not correct the mismatch within **26 months**, their voter registration is cancelled completely.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta and other civil rights groups filed a lawsuit on October 11, 2018, asking a federal judge to end this law and order that “pending” applications be approved. Because this lawsuit will not be resolved before the upcoming November 6, 2018 election, this advisory is to provide you general information about your rights if your registration application is “pending.”

#### **Find out if your voter registration application is “pending”**

If your voter registration application is in “pending” status, you should have received a notice in the mail from your county board of registrars. If you are unsure of your voter registration status, please visit the [Georgia My Voter Page](#) and login using your first initial, last name, county, and date of birth. On the next screen, you will see a “Voter Information” box that shows your status. If your registration is “pending,” the words “CONTACT COUNTY” will appear in red next to the “Status” field. A red banner will also appear across the top of the page linking you to additional information.

If you have trouble locating yourself on the website, you may call ProGeorgia at 404-583-3871, or your county registrar’s office to verify your status.

**You can still vote in the November 6, 2018 election if your application is “pending”**

If your voter registration application is “pending” because of a mismatch related to your name, date of birth, or driver’s license or state ID number, you can vote by **regular ballot in person** on Election Day or during early voting if you show a poll worker a **photo ID** which has a name that is substantially similar to the one on your voter registration application *and* otherwise complies with Georgia’s voter ID requirements.

These valid state or federal government issued IDs can be used to verify identification:

- US passport
- Employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of federal or GA government
- Photo ID from Georgia public college or university
- US military photo ID
- US tribal photo ID

If you are in “pending” status because you were incorrectly flagged as a non-citizen, you can vote by **regular ballot in person** if you present proof of citizenship to a *Poll Manager or Deputy Registrar*. *Poll Managers should be present at all polling locations for early voting and on election day*. Acceptable proof of citizenship includes a U.S. birth certificate, a U.S. passport, or a naturalization certificate and may be provided in person, by e-mail, or by fax.

**If you face any issues resolving this matter at the polls – immediately call the Voter Hotline: 470-765-VOTE (8683)**

**If absolutely necessary, you can vote by a provisional ballot**

If you are for any reason unable to resolve your “pending” status before or on Election Day, you can still request to vote by a **provisional ballot**. As provisional ballots are not guaranteed to be counted, they should be used as a **last resort only**.

If you vote by provisional ballot, you must present the required photo ID and/or acceptable proof of citizenship to your county registrar office **by the Friday after the election (November 9, 2018)** in order for your vote to be counted. The county registrar will notify you in writing if your vote was not counted.

If you face any trouble on Election Day with obtaining a provisional ballot or voting otherwise, you can call Election Protection at 866-OUR-VOTE, or the Asian Americans Advancing Justice Voter Hotline at 470-765-VOTE.

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