

Senate Bill 446

By: Senators Williams of the 25th, Burns of the 23rd, Anderson of the 24th, Beach of the 21st, Dolezal of the 27th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elections and primaries generally, so as to revise the period of advance voting; to provide for
3 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

6 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and
7 primaries generally, is amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 21-2-385,
8 relating to procedure for voting by absentee ballot and advance voting, as follows:

9 "(d)(1) There shall be a period of advance voting that shall commence:

10 (A) On the ~~fourth Monday~~ third Thursday immediately prior to each primary or
11 election; and

12 (B) As soon as possible prior to a runoff from any general primary or election but no
13 later than the second Monday immediately prior to such runoff

14 and shall end on the ~~Friday~~ Wednesday immediately prior to each primary, election, or
15 runoff. Voting shall be conducted beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. on
16 weekdays, other than observed state holidays, during such period and shall be conducted
17 on the second and third Saturdays during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 5:00 P.M. and,

18 if the registrar or absentee ballot clerk so chooses, the second Sunday, the third Sunday,
19 or both the second and third Sundays prior to a primary or election during hours
20 determined by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk, but no longer than 7:00 A.M.
21 through 7:00 P.M.; provided, however, that, if such second Saturday is a public and legal
22 holiday pursuant to Code Section 1-4-1, if such second Saturday follows a public and
23 legal holiday occurring on the Thursday or Friday immediately preceding such second
24 Saturday, or if such second Saturday immediately precedes a public and legal holiday
25 occurring on the following Sunday or Monday, such advance voting shall not be held on
26 such second Saturday but shall be held on the third Saturday prior to such primary or
27 election beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. Except as otherwise provided
28 in this paragraph, the registrars may extend the hours for voting to permit advance voting
29 from 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. and may provide for additional voting locations pursuant
30 to Code Section 21-2-382 to suit the needs of the electors of the jurisdiction at their
31 option; provided, however, that voting shall occur only on the days specified in this
32 paragraph and counties and municipalities shall not be authorized to conduct advance
33 voting on any other days.

34 (2) The registrars or absentee ballot clerk, as appropriate, shall provide reasonable notice
35 to the electors of their jurisdiction of the availability of advance voting as well as the
36 times, dates, and locations at which advance voting will be conducted. In addition, the
37 registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall notify the Secretary of State in the manner
38 prescribed by the Secretary of State of the times, dates, and locations at which advance
39 voting will be conducted.

40 (3) The board of registrars shall publish the dates, times, and locations of the availability
41 of advance voting in its jurisdiction on the homepage of the county's ~~publicly accessible~~
42 public website associated with elections or registrations, or if the county does not have
43 such a website, in a newspaper of general circulation, and by posting in a prominent
44 location in the county, no later than 14 days prior to the beginning of the advance voting

45 period for a general primary, special primary, general election, or special election and no
46 later than seven days prior to the beginning of the advance voting period for any run-off
47 election. Any new advance voting locations added after that deadline shall be published
48 in the same manner as soon as possible. The board of registrars shall not remove any
49 advance voting location after the notice of such location is published, except in the case
50 of an emergency or unavoidable event that renders a location unavailable for use. Any
51 changes that are made due to an emergency or unavoidable event after a notice of a
52 location has been published shall be published as soon as possible in the same manner set
53 forth in this paragraph."

54 **SECTION 2.**

55 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.