



LETTER TO THE EDITOR (LTE) GUIDE

How To Use This Guide

This guide will illustrate how to craft a letter to the editor (LTE), based on five voting rights bills put forth by House Democrats during the 2017 legislative session: The “Any Precinct Act,” which would allow voters to cast ballots at any precinct in their county; the “Absentee Ballot Access Act,” which would allow voters to check a box when requesting an absentee ballot so that they could always receive an absentee ballot; and the “Georgia Voters’ Bill of Rights,” a five-part bill to improve access to the polls; the “Permanent Portable Registration Act,” which would allow eligible voters to remain registered within the state without re-registering, even if those voters move between counties or change their names; and the “Timely Process Act,” which would require the Secretary of State or any county receiving an application for voter registration to process the application within 45 days of receipt. You can read more about these bills here: http://media.wix.com/ugd/b055f8_2f1cdf8527524f258242b111bf7951b7.pdf

In the below examples, the author is in support of these commonsense proposals because voting should be easier. These examples will help you talk to your community broadly through your local publication about the issues you're passionate about and want to see to fruition. They are meant as a suggestion and should be used as a template only.

Why Write a Letter? How Do I Write a Letter?

A letter to the editor of your local newspaper is an excellent way to make your voice heard regarding your support for voting rights or any other issue in Georgia. Letters to the editor are short (ideally 250 words), simple, and whenever possible reflect your personal reasons for supporting or opposing an issue, whether you or a loved one would be impacted, your religious/moral views, or how the bill affects you as a taxpayer.

Letter Example

To The Editor:

The Georgia General Assembly will soon be voting on the “Georgia Voters’ Bill of Rights,” a comprehensive bill that would allow for automatic voter registration and updates when interacting with several state agencies, permit registered voters to change their address on Election Day, require reasonably spaced early voting locations, require a polling location within 25 miles of every voter, and prohibit changes in polling locations within 90 days of voting. These provisions would bring us a few steps closer to having a simplified, accessible voting system and will improve the lives of Georgia voters.

[Personal Story]

Every Georgian deserves a say on Election Day, and expanding access to the polls is commonsense. Voters deserve the Georgia Voters’ Bill of Rights.

Your Name

Your Title or Occupation (if applicable)

Your City/Town

Another Example LTE

To The Editor:

Leaders in the state house will soon consider the "Absentee Ballot Access Act" and the “Any Precinct Act” during this legislative session. The right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy, and we should be improving access to the polls whenever we can.

The reasons for reform are clear. Students, those in the armed services, and Georgians who travel for business will usually need to vote absentee, and it makes no sense to require that they request a ballot for each election. The “Absentee Ballot Access Act” removes that barrier, and the “Any Precinct Act” ensures that even if a voter can’t make it to their own polling location, they can vote elsewhere in their county.

Simplified voting procedures are crucial. We need to help streamline the process by passing the "Absentee Ballot Access Act" and the “Any Precinct Act.”

Your Name

Your Title or Occupation (if applicable)

Your City/Town

How Do I Send a Letter?

To Whom Can I Send a Letter?

You can send a letter via U.S. Mail or via email. If you send it via mail, address it to your newspaper of choice. If you send it via email, please put LETTER TO THE EDITOR in the subject line.

In the body of the email you may write: Hello, I am writing to submit a letter to the editor regarding the importance of simplifying Georgia's voting processes. The letter is attached and below for your consideration.

Thank you,
Your Name
Your Title or Occupation (if applicable)
Your City/State Your Phone Number

****PASTE LETTER BELOW****

You may send a letter to any newspaper in Georgia. Contact information is often available on a newspaper's website.