

NOTICE – FOR YOUR PROTECTION:

The Spalding County Board of Elections and Registration will only provide absentee ballot applications to those electors (and/or their authorized relative) who make request for application.

An official blank application for an absentee ballot is available online and can be accessed at www.sos.ga.gov.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381(a)(1)(C), neither the Secretary of State, election superintendent, board of registrars, other governmental entity, nor employee or agent thereof shall send absentee ballot applications directly to any elector except upon request of such elector or a relative authorized to request an absentee ballot for such elector.

Furthermore, no person or entity other than a relative authorized to request an absentee ballot for such elector or a person signing as assisting an illiterate or physically disabled elector shall send any elector an absentee ballot application that is prefilled with the elector's required information.

Furthermore, no person or entity other than the elector, a relative authorized to request an absentee ballot for such elector, a person signing as assisting an illiterate or physically disabled elector with his or her application, a common carrier charged with returning the ballot application, an absentee ballot clerk, a registrar, or a law enforcement officer during an investigation, shall handle or return an elector's completed absentee ballot application. **Handling a completed absentee ballot application by any person or entity other than as allowed above shall be a misdemeanor.**

Furthermore, any application for an absentee ballot sent to any elector by any person or entity shall utilize the form of the application made available by the Secretary of State and shall clearly and prominently disclose on the face of the form:

"This is NOT an official government publication and was NOT provided to you by any governmental entity and this is NOT a ballot. It is being distributed by [insert name and address of person, organization, or other entity distributing such document or material]."

The disclaimer shall be:

1. Of sufficient font size to be clearly readable by the recipient of the communication;
2. Be contained in a printed box set apart from the other contents of the communication; and
3. Be printed with a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and the printed disclaimer.

Please proceed with caution when distributing absentee ballot applications and be sure to include the required disclaimer. **DO NOT HANDLE OR RETURN AN ELECTOR'S COMPLETED ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION. THE ELECTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RETURN OF HIS/HER COMPLETED APPLICATION. THE SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION WILL NOT ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM ANY PERSON OTHER THAN THE ELECTOR AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, WHICH SAID APPLICATION MAY BE RETURNED IN PERSON OR BY U.S. MAIL OR OTHER COMMON CARRIER SUCH AS UPS OR FEDEX.**