

## **Voter Registration Information**

The federal court system has ruled that college students may register to vote in a state other than their state of legal residence in order to exercise their privilege to vote. Whether you vote in your home state through absentee ballot or register in Dade County, GA, I encourage you to exercise your right to vote.

Romans 13:1-7 describes why we are to submit to our governing authorities. In the US political system, one of the ways we support and change the governing system we submit to is by electing responsible public servants. You can easily find information about the candidates through web sites and newspapers to become informed before making choices between candidates. Certain local races will address issues that you may want to leave to the full-year residents of Dade County and the City of Trenton, GA. If that is the case, simply abstain from voting in those particular elections and vote in the local, state and/or national elections that you feel the Lord would have you participate. Be a responsible citizen!

The Student Senate sponsored Elections Awareness Committee typically will be assisting students by helping to obtain absentee ballots, hosting speakers and showing presidential and vice-presidential debates on a large screen on campus.

There are two ways to vote in the elections:

**1. Students preferring to maintain their voter registration in their state of legal residence should request an absentee ballot from that state.**

If you are a resident of Georgia, you can get the address of your election board from the state web site <http://www.sos.georgia.gov/electioncenter/>. Georgia has also established an Advance Voting process such that you can visit the Board of Elections Office between appointed dates to vote. If you register in Dade County, that office is located in Trenton, GA, a 25 minute drive from Covenant.

For residents of other states, contact the registrar's office in your county or search the web for the Secretary of State Office or Google "Florida absentee ballot" for your state to determine the process to request an absentee ballot. You should begin this process as soon as possible to determine if that state has an application deadline and allow time to request, receive and return an absentee ballot before Election Day.

**2. To be eligible to vote in Dade County, you must submit a registration application that is processed by the Secretary of State Office or the Dade County Board of Elections Office by the deadline for each election.**

A Voter Registration Application in GA may be printed from the Secretary of State's website <http://www.sos.georgia.gov/electioncenter/>. You would list your campus address (e.g. 14049 Scenic Highway, Box \_\_\_) on your application. You can also register if you apply for a GA drivers license. When you go to the polls, you should take your Covenant photo ID as well as a valid drivers license or state issued photo ID from your state of legal residence. Covenant students registering in the state of Georgia are canceling any previous registration in their state of legal residence. Registering to vote in the state of Georgia does not change your state of legal residence for financial aid purposes.

Qualifications for Voter Registration:

1. Must be a citizen of the United States.
2. Must be at least 17 ½ years of age.
3. Must not be serving any sentence imposed by the conviction of a felony.
4. Must not be judicially determined to be mentally incompetent.

The polling place for our district is the West Brow Community Center (approximately five miles South of the front entrance of Covenant). Directions will be posted in the Campus Announcements prior to Election Day. Please contact Rodney Miller, Dean of Records at ext. 1134 or [miller@covenant.edu](mailto:miller@covenant.edu) or the Elections Awareness Committee if you have any questions.