



## OFFICIAL ELECTION BULLETIN

June 12, 2020

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**TO: County Election Officials and County Registrars**

**FROM: Chris Harvey, State Elections Director**

**RE: Cure Period for Late Mailed Absentee Ballots Cure Notices**

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The State Election Board rules and Election Code provisions work together to establish a timetable for reviewing absentee ballots, providing notice to voters of absentee ballots issues, and allowing voters time to cure the problem with their absentee ballot. Once within eleven days of Election Day, SEB Rule 183-1-14-.13 requires that notice be sent to voters of such absentee ballot rejection and opportunity to cure by close of business on the next day. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386 further establishes that the deadline to cure absentee ballots is the close of the provisional period established by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-417 (Friday after Election Day).

However, given the complicating factors brought forth due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing public health state of emergency, it appears some counties have not been able to process, review and provide notice of absentee ballot rejections to voters by the close of business after Election Day. **Any absentee ballots that have been rejected should have a cure notice mailed (and emailed, if applicable) to the voter as soon as possible.**

The code and election board regulations envision that voters have 3 days to cure absentee ballot rejected. Therefore, our guidance given the ongoing state of emergency is for a voter to be permitted 3 business days to cure his or her absentee ballot from the date notice of such rejection and opportunity to cure is actually mailed to that voter. So for example, if notice is not mailed until Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>, the voter should have until Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> to cure. This guidance should have no impact on the overall provisional period and is limited to voters who were not provided timely notice as required by law. Please remember that you are required to also notify voters by telephone and email if a telephone number or email address is provided on the voter registration record or absentee ballot application per SEB Rule 183-1-14-.13.

The deadline for county election superintendents to certify the election results is 5:00 PM on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, so all required notices should be sent as soon as possible to ensure the certification deadline is met.