

Election Connection

Election Dates,
*please see the website
for all other
information*

Qualifying: March 2 - 6

General Primary

Election: May 19, 2026

- **First Day to Accept Absentee Ballot Applications:** March 2
- **First Day to issue Absentee Ballots:** April 20
- **Voter Registration Deadline:** April 20
- **Advance Voting:** April 27 to May 2
May 4 - 9
May 11 - 15
- **Last Day to Accept Absentee Ballot Applications:** May 8
- **Run-Off Election:** June 16, 2026

Check your voter registration record at mvp.sos.ga.gov.

For information on polling locations and absentee ballots, visit cherokeegavotes.com



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Why Do I Do This Job?

I get this question often! Sometimes I ask myself this very question.

Being an elections director can be deeply rewarding because it sits right at the heart of democracy—and you get to see the impact of your work in very real, human ways. You see the joy in the first-time voter, you see the pride on the faces of wartime veterans, you see the sense of accomplishment when a voter in their 100's reaches the front of the line, and you build lifelong relationships with the poll workers that make elections possible.

Elections directors help ensure that every eligible voter can participate and that every ballot is counted accurately and fairly. That's not abstract work; it directly protects people's voices. Few jobs let you say, honestly, "What I do helps keep democracy functioning."

There's also the **trust and responsibility** of the role. Communities rely on elections directors to be impartial, meticulous, and ethical. Earning and maintaining that trust—across political parties and viewpoints—can be challenging, but it's incredibly meaningful.

When an election runs smoothly, it's often invisible, and that quiet success is something to take pride in.

There's also a strong **problem-solving and leadership component**. Elections directors manage complex logistics, tight deadlines, and high-stakes operations. Every election brings new challenges—polling location issues, equipment questions, changing laws—and solving those problems under pressure can be demanding but very satisfying.

Finally, many people find meaning in the **long-term impact** of the work. Even though elections happen on specific days, the effects last for years. Knowing you helped deliver a fair, accessible election that shaped local or national leadership can give the job a lasting sense of purpose.

We take pride in serving our voters and encourage each of you to reach out to a team member or myself with questions or join us for one of our community outreach sessions.

In short, this work is rewarding because it blends public service, honesty, leadership, and real-world impact—all in service of something bigger than yourself.

Anne Dover, Director

A WORD FROM OUR BOARD OF ELECTIONS

By Scott Little, Member

The Importance of Elections

I have had the privilege of serving on the Cherokee County Board of Elections and Registration for several years now. Throughout this time, I have witnessed the great amount of effort and coordination that each election requires. I have also witnessed the incredible performance of the staff and poll workers that ensure the fair and accurate elections we enjoy.

I would consider elections to be the cornerstone of democracy. A stable democracy is something that our great nation has enjoyed for centuries now. This privilege can continue to be enjoyed only with people exercising their right to vote. Elections, from the local to national level, ensure that legislative decisions represent the public sentiment.

I encourage everyone to remember to check your current registration status. This ensures all pertinent information is correct. It also allows each individual to familiarize themselves with their respective voting precinct, elected officials, and ballot content. I also encourage everyone to remind friends and family to do the same.



A Banner Year Begins for Elections Office Community Outreach

By Donna Kosicki,
Community Outreach
Specialist

2026 is shaping up to be a banner year for community outreach at the Elections Office. We kicked off the year with two major honors: a national communications award from the Partnership for Large Election Jurisdictions recognizing our voter education program, and a Proclamation of Appreciation from the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners. These acknowledgments set the tone for an ambitious year focusing on expanding outreach and strengthening voter education across the community.

This quarter, outreach efforts continue to focus on senior centers and assisted living facilities, high school students, and preparations for upcoming voter education sessions and tours. The Elections Office hosted two Lunch & Learn sessions and facility tours, welcoming staff from eight senior centers. Participants received practical, easy-to-use information that equips them to assist seniors with voter registration and absentee ballot questions. Remaining senior centers have either scheduled on-site training or will receive a

visit from the Community Outreach Specialist to ensure they are fully prepared ahead of the General Primary Election.

Engaging young voters also remains a priority. At the end of March, voter registration materials will be sent to all six county high school principals for students who are 17½ years old or older. Schools are encouraged to host voter registration drives and submit completed registrations before April 20 deadline. In addition, the schools send their list of newly registered voters to our staff to ensure their voter registration records are done correctly. Students will be placed in “pending” status until they turn 18, at which time their registration becomes active automatically. Students who will be 18 by Election Day are eligible to vote during Advance Voting or on Election Day.

Looking ahead, three Voter Education sessions and tours are scheduled for the general public: **April 16, August 13, and September 10**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Elections Office.

Registration is available via the **QR code below**. Additionally, a session and tour have been scheduled for each of the political parties in Cherokee County for their respective members and poll watchers in April. This session is ideal for poll watchers, as a supplement to the mandatory poll watcher training political parties provide, pursuant to Georgia Election Law. Session content will be updated as new election legislation is adopted this year.

To stay informed, watch for press releases and articles in the *Cherokee Tribune*, and consider joining our email distribution list to receive the quarterly newsletter directly. To sign up, contact dxkosicki@cherokeecountyga.gov

To learn more about our events and this program, elections, election results, legal notices, polling locations, and more, visit cherokeegavotes.com or call 770-479-0407.



Poll Workers: Recruiting A Diverse, Well-Trained Corps!

By Grace Waddell, Electronics Systems & Training Manager



During larger election years, Cherokee County is always looking to add new faces to our polling location teams. We are blessed that many of our poll workers return year after year to work with us, but inevitably, there is always a need to add more.

Elections depend on dedicated individuals who staff polling places and ensuring voters have a pleasant and efficient experience. From setting up polling sites to guiding voters through the process, poll workers are indispensable to every election.

The role itself involves a range of responsibilities: preparing polling sites, checking in voters, issuing ballots, operating equipment, assisting voters with disabilities, and closing out election night procedures. These tasks are critical to maintaining orderly and secure voting environments. Training is required before every election, and poll workers will be paid for the work they provide.

Recruiting a diverse, well-trained poll worker corps not only helps ensure elections run smoothly – it also strengthens public confidence in the democratic process. As elections change throughout the years, cultivating a robust pool of election workers becomes ever more essential to the health of democracy.

The Cherokee County Elections Office staff hosted two Poll Worker Meet and Greet events where we went over the requirements of becoming a poll worker as well as basic information someone would need to get their “foot in the door”.

These meet and greets were not a requirement to become a poll worker, but it was a good way for people interested to get to know the staff, and vice versa. Since those events have passed, we are always happy to meet with individuals one on one, before training, to answer any questions they may have about getting involved.

If you are interested in becoming a poll worker for Cherokee County, you will need to fill out an application that can be found on our website, as well as in our office. We can also send you an application via email if you call the office and request one. Once you have turned in your application, we will begin the process of getting you set up at a polling location and get more training information sent out to you. There is still time to get your application submitted to be able to work in the upcoming May General Primary.

Serving as a poll worker is not only a meaningful way to serve your community and support the democratic process, but it also gives you firsthand insight into how elections work, helps ensure voters have a positive experience, and plays a direct role in upholding the integrity of local and national elections.

ASK THE ELECTIONS TEAM!

This edition, we introduce a new column to answer questions you have on elections and voter registration.

At 79, how do I get an absentee ballot? - Ed B.

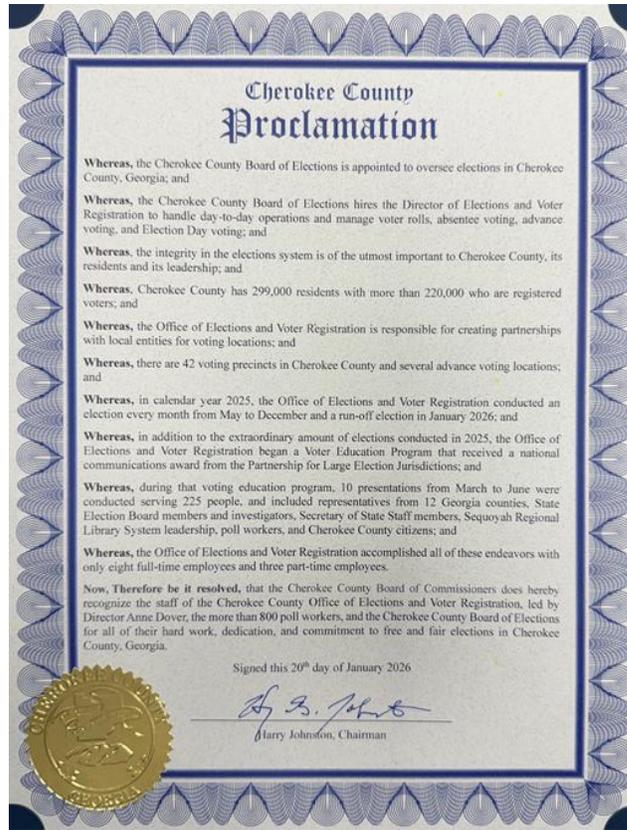
An absentee ballot starts with the absentee ballot application. That form is found on our website, it can be downloaded, completed, and sent to our office. The easiest way is to call our office and we will mail the form to you. Fill it out and you can email, USPS mail, FAX, or walk the form into our office. In 2026, the earliest we can accept applications is March 2nd and no later than May 8th. This year, if you desire to receive an absentee ballot for every election, complete section 12 of the form. Please consider including your telephone number on the form, in case we need to contact you. Once the form is processed by our staff, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you.

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ASK THE ELECTIONS TEAM!

How do I change my party in Georgia? – Anonymous
In Georgia, we do not register to vote by political party. In the General Primary Election, held in late spring, a voter must select either a Democratic, Republican, or Non-Partisan ballot when going to an Advance Voting or their assigned Election Day polling location. A Non-Partisan ballot will have only Judge races and/or questions. All candidates who won their General Primary Election in the spring are placed on one ballot – in November.

Send your questions to dxkosicki@cherokeecountyga.gov.



Make a plan to vote!



KEY RESOURCES

- Cherokee County Elections & Voter Registration – cherokeegavotes.com
- Secretary of State (SOS) website – sos.ga.gov
- MyVoterPage – mvp.sos.ga.gov
- OLVR – sos.ga.gov/s/olvr-home
- State Election Board – sos.ga.gov/state-election-board

Cherokee County Board of Elections

Glen Johnson, Board Chair
Julie Glade, Board Vice-Chair
Larry Hand, Board Secretary
Scott Little, Board Member
John Wallace, Board Member

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Cherokee County Elections & Voter Registration

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Email: voterhelp@cherokeecountyga.gov
Website: cherokeegavotes.com

Office Hours: Monday to Friday (except on holidays observed by Cherokee County government)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Hours are extended during elections.

