

Election Dates, please see the website for all other information

General Primary Election:
May 19, 2026

- **Voter Registration**
Deadline: April 20th
- **Advance Voting:**
April 27th - May 2nd
May 3rd - 9th
May 11th - 15th
- **Last Day to Accept Absentee Ballot**
Applications: May 8th

Run-Off Election:
June 16, 2026

- **Absentee Ballot**
Applications: accepted now until June 5th
- **Advance Voting:**
To Be Determined

General Election:
November 3, 2026

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

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



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A Day We Will Never Forget

On Monday, May 4th, we began our day with the monthly Board meeting. Before each meeting, we pause for prayer and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our great nation. This past Monday, Lynne Saunders led the prayer. Her words were beautiful and she specifically prayed for our safety.

Later that same day, when a car crashed through the wall of our building, God answered that prayer and kept every voter, poll worker, member of the elections team, and even the driver of the vehicle safe. The impact was so powerful that my first thought — and greatest fear — was that a bomb had detonated. Without hesitation, and not yet knowing what had happened, staff immediately ran from the back offices toward the voting room to help. I have joked since then that I didn't know I could still run that fast, and imagined myself looking like a superhero racing in to save lives. I am quite certain the reality looked very different!

Within minutes, Cherokee Fire & Emergency Services and officers from the Canton Police Department arrived on scene. I am not sure how many of us called 911, but the operator I spoke with instructed us to evacuate the building because of possible structural damage — something that had not even crossed my mind in the moment.

We are deeply grateful to the 911 operators, Cherokee Fire & Emergency Services, and the Canton Police Department for their swift response and professionalism.

Word of the incident traveled quickly, and calls immediately began coming in from members of the Georgia State Election Board, the Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division, and election officials from other counties, all offering assistance and support. After all, we truly are one large election family. When one of us faces a challenge, we all come together.

We also extend sincere appreciation to Geoff Morton, County Manager; Matt Williams, Property Management Director, and his crew; Derek Nelson, Director of Risk Management; and Andrea Barker, Assistant Communications Director. Matt and his team secured the building before the end of the day, allowing voting operations to resume by 10:00 a.m. the following morning.

Most importantly, thank you to our poll workers and the Elections Team. We were all frightened and shaken, but everyone remained calm, ensured that voters were safe, and protected the voting equipment and voting room.

Perhaps the greatest blessing of all is that while the room was filled with voters, the voting booth located beside the wall that was struck was empty. Had someone been

A WORD FROM OUR BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Audits: When Used, They Improve Every Product and Service

By John Wallace, Board Member

Audits improve every product and service we rely on. I have shared this example at several Board of Elections and Registration meetings over the past three years, and it is worth repeating.

Seventy-five years ago, cars often experienced major breakdowns after 75,000 miles. Today, many vehicles exceed 200,000 miles before major repairs are needed. What changed? Audits.

Beginning in the 1980s, manufacturers started conducting complete system audits throughout the production process. These audits improved quality, accountability, and public confidence in the final product.

The same principle applies to elections. The more often Board members conduct post-certification audits, the more confidence Cherokee County voters can have in election results.

Each audit conducted in Cherokee County has confirmed that the totals produced by ballot scanners matched the totals from the hand-counted paper ballots exactly. Audits strengthen transparency, accuracy, and voter trust in our elections.



Community Outreach

By Donna Kosicki,
Community Outreach Specialist

*Pictured: Residents of Manor Lake
BridgeMill Assisted Living*

There is no real mystery to the act of voting. An election is held and voters cast their ballot. While some elections may seem more significant than others, every election matters and every vote is important. Voting is one of the simplest and most meaningful ways people can stay engaged in their community. It gives voters the opportunity to have a voice and contribute to the future of their community. Correct information is vital.

The remaining Voter Education Session and Tour dates for 2026, are August 13th and September 10th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Elections Office. We hope you can join us for one of these informative events. Registration is available by using the QR code at the end of this article, emailing dxkosicki@cherokeecountyga.gov, or by clicking the [Voter Education Session and Tour Registration](#) link.

Voters are also encouraged to plan for voting by downloading their sample ballot from mvp.sos.ga.gov. Reviewing your ballot in

advance can help at the polling location, especially during elections with lengthy ballots and multiple races.

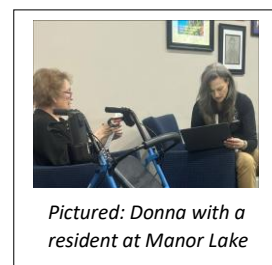
Community outreach efforts have remained active throughout the year. We have connected with residents and activities directors by visiting more than twenty senior centers and assisted living facilities to provide voter education information and presentations. Crystal Green from Manor Lake at BridgeMill shared, "It's always a good day when you can create something meaningful and make your voice count!" In addition, Cherokee County high schools hosted voter registration drives that resulted in 154 students—ages 17½ and older—registering to vote, an increase from 104 students last year.

Our outreach to community leaders has also expanded to churches, civic organizations, and community groups. These organizations are excited to create opportunities for their members to stay informed and engaged in the voting process. This outreach is especially important as

election offices across Georgia discuss but wait on decisions that will impact future operations in election processes.

Whether through on-site presentations, educational events, or sharing newsletters and email communications, our goal is to continue empowering voters by increasing voter education opportunities, strengthening partnerships, and encouraging community engagement.

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**.



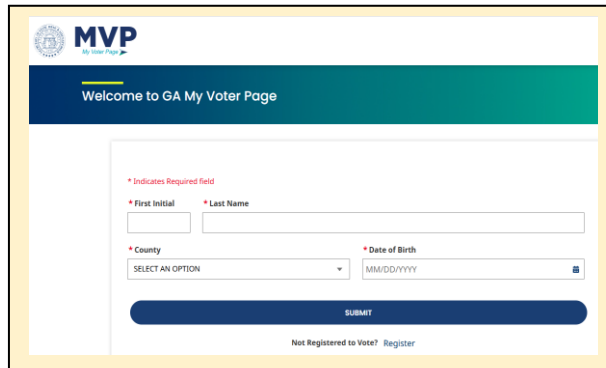
Pictured: Donna with a resident at Manor Lake



YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN MVP!

By Ginger Millsap,
Registration Manager

[Secretary of State's My Voter Page](#)



The Secretary of State's My Voter Page (MVP) can be your new friend in elections if you haven't already been acquainted with the website. Please visit MVP.SOS.GA.GOV and type in your first initial, last name, date of birth, and choose Cherokee from the dropdown menu. This safe website is available to voters statewide, so if you can't find your record in Cherokee and you are coming from another county, you can see if you might still be active in your previous county. Remember the cutoff to register or update your name or residential address was April 20th. You may click on "Update voter information" and "edit" if you need to make a change, which we will process in time for the November election.

One of the most frequently asked questions ahead of the May 19th primary is, "who is on the ballot?" Once you are logged in to MVP, you can click on "view my sample ballot". Since it's a primary, please select which party's ballot you want. From there you

can print the sample ballot, mark it up, and then take it with you when you vote if you need to look back at your notes since there is so much on this ballot.

In our office we have consolidated sample ballots readily available. Many candidates only represent certain districts. You will see candidates on a consolidated sample ballot that you will not see on your screen when you go vote. Therefore, it is more beneficial for you to have your sample ballot from MVP which is specific to your residential address.

MVP.SOS.GA.GOV

also has the advance voting locations, dates, and times listed in a calendar view with a link to get directions to any of those polling locations. Also available is information on absentee by mail voting. Take some time to navigate this informative website today because you've got a friend in MVP!



ASK THE ELECTIONS TEAM!

You ask the questions and elections staff answers!

As a newly registered voter, what should I expect when I go to vote? – Kirsten C.

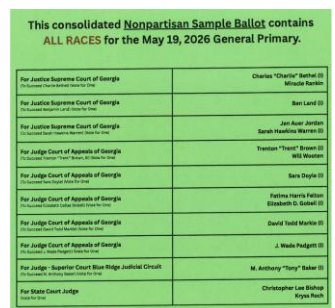
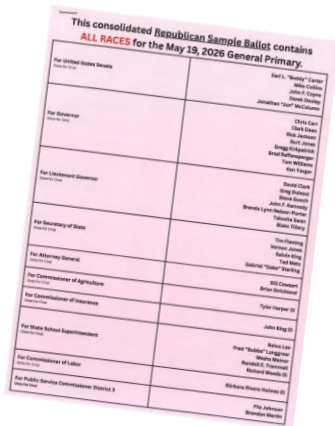
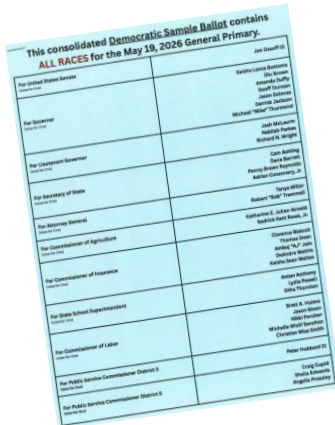
Before you arrive at your polling location, be sure to have your identification ready. A list of acceptable forms of ID can be found on our website under Voting and ID Requirements. A photo of your ID on your cell phone is not acceptable.

Review your sample ballot in advance, by visiting My Voter Page and download your personalized ballot based on your residence address.

When you arrive at your polling location, you will check in with a poll worker using the electronic poll pad. Because this is a primary election, you will be asked to choose which party's ballot you would like to vote.

After checking in, you will be given a voter access card and directed to an available ballot marking device. Using this machine, you will make your candidate selections. Once you have completed your ballot, you will print it for review. Your ballot will be printed on both sides, so take a moment to carefully review all of your choices.

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Pictured above: (in order as listed on the Secretary of State's website) Democratic, Republican, and Nonpartisan Consolidated Sample Ballots

ASK THE ELECTIONS TEAM!

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When you are ready, proceed to the scanner to cast your ballot.

Once your ballot is accepted, you're all set—and don't forget to pick up your "I Voted" sticker on your way out!

What are my options for voting? – Thomas W.

First and foremost – have a plan for voting! This includes being mindful of deadline dates, polling locations, forms, and more. Eligible voters can vote any one of the three options:

1. Absentee ballot by mail
2. Early / Advance voting
3. Election Day voting

What if we have a General Primary Runoff Election on June 16, 2026?

A runoff election takes place when no candidate in the General Primary Election receives more than 50% of the vote. Here are key points for every eligible voter to know:

- Any registered voter in Georgia can vote in the General Primary Runoff Election.
- You do not have to vote in the May 19th General Primary to participate in the Runoff Election.
- The voter registration deadline for both the primary and the runoff was April 20, 2026.
 - There is no new registration period between the primary and the runoff for state/local races.
 - In the event of a runoff for Federal races, registration will reopen for new registrations, the deadline is May 18th.
- If you voted a specific political party's ballot in the primary, you must vote the same party's ballot in the runoff.
- If you did not vote in the primary, you can choose either political party's runoff ballot.
- If you voted a non-partisan ballot in the primary, you may choose either political party's ballot for the runoff.

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standing there voting, this story could have ended very differently.

Y'all are truly election heroes.

As we continue through this election season, the Elections Team prays that God will continue to bless and protect us all.

Anne Dover, Director

KEY RESOURCES

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

Cherokee County Board of Elections

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

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Jody Gramling, Voter Services Specialist
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Cherokee County Elections & Voter Registration

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

Call or email with any question you have for our elections staff!

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

