

Election Connection

Election Dates, please see the website for all other information

General Primary Election:
November 3, 2026

- **Voter Registration**
Deadline: October 5th
- **First Day to Accept Absentee Ballot Applications:** Aug. 17th
- ***Advance Voting:**
Oct. 13th – Oct. 17th
(Tuesday to Saturday)
Oct. 19th – Oct. 24th
(Monday to Saturday)
Oct. 25th – Elections Office only (Sunday)
Oct. 26th – Oct. 30th
(Monday to Friday)
- **Last Day to Accept Absentee Ballot Applications:** Oct. 23rd

Run-Off Election (if needed):
December 1, 2026

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

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



Joint Election Equipment Specifications and Standards Committee: Who Is on the Committee and What Are They Doing?

During the 2026 Special Legislative Session, the Georgia General Assembly established the Election Equipment Specifications and Standards Committee through Senate Bill 3EX. The committee's charge is to develop recommendations for the specifications, standards and requirements for Georgia's next uniform election equipment system. Under the law, the new system will be based on hand-marked paper ballots produced through ballot-on-demand printing.

As an elections official, I am very pleased that Governor Brian Kemp appointed two experienced elections professionals to the committee. He appointed **Deidre Holden, Supervisor of Paulding County Elections and Voter Registration**, and **Chris Harvey, Executive Director of the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council and former Elections Director and Chief Investigator in the Georgia Secretary of State's Office**. Governor Kemp also appointed **Sam Hatcher, Executive Counsel for the Governor's Office**. These appointments bring valuable election-administration, investigative and state-government experience to the committee. The other six members are legislators. **Sen. Max Burns** and **Rep. Victor Anderson** serve as the

Senate and House co-chairs, respectively. The remaining legislative members are **Sen. Bo Hatchett, Sen. Rick Williams, Rep. Tim Fleming, and Rep. Scott Holcomb**. Rep. Holcomb is the committee's only Democratic member.

The committee's work is important because its recommendations will help determine the equipment and standards Georgia counties will use in future elections. The committee is required to submit a detailed report by **January 31, 2027**. That report is intended to provide state policymakers with enough information to develop plans for funding, procurement, and implementation of a new uniform election system for the **2028 election cycle**.

The legislation also specifically allows the committee to seek input from election officials, the Secretary of State's elections director, the State Election Board, the Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials, cybersecurity experts, and accessibility and disability experts. That input will be particularly important as the committee considers the practical needs of the 159 county election offices that will ultimately have to implement and operate the new system.

The committee held its first meeting on **August 7**. During that meeting, members adopted committee rules and discussed the schedule for their upcoming work. Proposed meeting dates include September 3rd, September 17th, October 1st, and October 15th. The October meetings are

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A WORD FROM OUR BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Voting Is Easy and Convenient

By Julie Glade, Vice Chair

Georgia election law gives eligible voters several convenient ways to cast a ballot: absentee voting, early in-person voting, or voting on Election Day. Each option is straightforward, but following a few important steps helps ensure your vote is counted.

For the November 3, 2026, General Election, absentee ballot applications may be submitted beginning August 17th and must be received by your county elections office no later than October 23rd. Absentee ballots must be completed carefully and returned by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Voters may return ballots by mail, through an authorized drop box, or by turning it into the elections office; follow the instructions provided with your ballot.

Early voting offers flexibility for work, school, family responsibilities, travel, appointments, or other commitments. Georgia provides three weeks of early voting, including Saturdays, with Cherokee County offering Sunday voting on October 25th. Cherokee County voters may cast a

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Community outreach doesn't happen by accident. It begins with a plan—and, more importantly, with a commitment to building meaningful relationships throughout the community.

At the Cherokee County Elections & Voter Registration Office, Community Outreach is guided by an intentional plan of work designed to connect our office with the people and organizations we serve. Our outreach includes senior centers and assisted living facilities, high school students, civic organizations, churches, political parties, legislators, voters, and others who play an important role in connecting citizens with accurate, nonpartisan election information.

As the program has grown, so has an important realization: **we are not the only elections office doing this work.**

Across Georgia, election professionals are developing creative ways to engage their communities, educate voters, build partnerships, and strengthen voter confidence. Yet many of us

are working independently, sometimes solving the same challenges or developing similar resources without knowing what another county has already learned.

That realization led to an idea: **What if the people doing this work had a place to connect with one another?**

That idea is now becoming a reality through the new Community Outreach & Voter Education Collaborative. The inaugural meeting, *Community Outreach and Voter Education: A Starting Point*, will bring together county election professionals to share ideas, successes, challenges, resources, and practical approaches.

The Collaborative is intentionally designed to grow organically. There are no membership requirements or expectations to attend every session. Instead, the goal is simple: create a place where election professionals can learn from one another and take useful ideas back to their counties.

Our community outreach plan begins with building relation-

ships with the people we serve. The Collaborative expands that philosophy by building relationships with the people doing this work across Georgia.

Because every county is doing something worth sharing, no county should have to reinvent an outreach program that another county has already figured out.

Closer to home, if you have not had an opportunity to attend a Voter Education Session and Tour, September 10th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm is your best option. Click on the QR Code below to register to attend. We would love to see you!

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**.



Building Connections: From a Community Outreach Plan to a Collaborative

By Donna Kosicki,
Community Outreach
Specialist

Have You Seen Me?

By Anne Dover,
Director



VOTER REGISTRATION NOTICE

[Paid for by Ready to Register, Inc.]
This mailing is not affiliated with
any government agency or state/
local election office.

FAKE

Our records show you may not be registered to vote in Georgia. If that's right, the deadline to register for this November's election is 30 days before Election Day.

Registering takes about five minutes and you can do it from home. Most people who haven't registered yet just haven't gotten around to it — you're not alone, and it's easy to fix.

Two ways to register today:

1) Register **ONLINE (fastest)**: Scan the QR code below or visit ReadyToRegister.org. It takes about 5 minutes.

OR

2) Register **BY MAIL**: Fill out and sign the enclosed Voter Registration Form and drop it in any mailbox. The return envelope is prepaid — no stamp needed.

If you've already registered at your current address, you don't need to do anything. You can confirm your status anytime at ReadyToRegister.org.

Sincerely,

A notice sent from a third party organization is causing concern and confusion among Cherokee County residents, and the Office of Elections and Voter Registration leadership want you to know the mailings are not official election notifications. The letter typically includes a copy of the State of Georgia Application for Voter Registration.

The Elections Office began receiving calls June 30th from concerned voters about a mailing from Alexandria, Virginia marked "Election Notice" and "Time Sensitive: Immediate Action Requested." The mailings are not isolated to Cherokee County.

Emails have also been sent to Cherokee County residents with the words "We've Reached Out Repeatedly. Your File is Still Blank" in the subject line. The claim in the email is that the voter registration status is unverified and appears to be a message that has been forwarded from an organization. This email is also "fake" and is not official election notifications.

It appears these notices are being sent to voters who have moved out of the county or out of state, as well as voters who are deceased, and to voters who are already registered to vote in Cherokee County. While this doesn't appear to be fraudulent action, the elections office has notified the State Board of Elections and the Secretary of State's Office. Additionally, residents need to know how they can legitimately register to vote and check their voter registration status.

Cherokee County residents who are eligible must register to vote by October 5th to participate in the November 3rd General Election. Visit www.cherokeegavotes.com and click the Register to Vote button. General information, qualifications to register, and where and how to register are listed on the webpage.

Residents who have previously registered to vote can visit mvp.sos.ga.gov and check their voter registration status and precinct location. To use the Secretary of State's My Voter Page, the resident must input first initial, last name, county, and date of birth.

Don't let a questionable mailing create confusion—when it comes to your vote, trust the source, check the facts with the elections office, and stay election ready!

ASK THE ELECTIONS TEAM!

These questions and answers come from the Secretary of State's FAQs - Elections FAQ
Georgia Secretary of State

Will my polling place be accessible to a voter with disabilities? The law requires that every county provide polling places that are accessible to people with disabilities. And Georgia's paper ballot voting system has adjustments to accommodate various disabilities. The machines have a headset so you can hear your choices read to you. They have large controls for people with limited mobility. And they can accommodate sip-and-puff devices.

Also, earlier this year, Cherokee County staff went to every polling place in the county to ensure each are ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) compliant!

Can members of the public watch elections? Yes, most of what goes on in election administration is open to the public. The counties, which run elections, are required to post notice of when and where they are conducting work related to elections, from opening and scanning absentee ballots, to testing voting machines and counting votes.

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ASK THE ELECTIONS TEAM!

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Candidates and political parties can request to have poll watchers present during these procedures. They may observe without disrupting poll workers or voters. They may not see how individuals voted. As you would expect, limited information must be kept confidential due to laws protecting election security and voters personal information like email addresses, dates of birth, and driver's license numbers.

Do I need my voter card (aka precinct card) to vote? You do not need to have your voter card with you to vote, just a government issued photo ID.

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expected to focus on election-equipment technology and potential vendor solutions as the committee develops its requirements. Representatives from the Georgia Department of Administrative Services also provided information regarding the state's procurement process.

We look forward to the committee's upcoming meetings and to seeing its work move forward. With a January 31, 2027, reporting deadline and a goal of implementing a new uniform election system for the 2028 election cycle, there is a significant amount of work ahead. The involvement of experienced elections officials, legislators and other subject-matter experts will be important as Georgia develops a system that is secure, reliable, accessible, and practical for election officials and voters across the state.

Anne Dover

Director

Cherokee County Elections & Voter Registration

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ballot at any early voting location in the county.

On Election Day, voters must vote at their assigned polling location. Because Election Day is typically the busiest voting option, consider early voting if it better fits your schedule.

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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Scott Little, Board Member
James Adams, Board Member

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Cherokee County Elections & Voter Registration

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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

