

# Early voting turnout strong; weekend voting on Saturday, Oct. 27

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Early voting turnout has been tremendous so far, as hundreds of people per day voted during the first week of early voting in the leadup to the big General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

And every weekday between now and Friday, Nov. 2, during the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., registered Union County voters can walk into the Union County Registrar's Office to cast their votes.

The Registrar's Office is located within the Union County Courthouse at 65 Courthouse Street in Blairsville, and it will remain open to voters even during lunchtime.

There is one weekend day set aside for voters at the Registrar's Office, which will be this Saturday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., for those who find themselves too busy to vote during the scheduled weekdays of early voting.

Election Day will be on Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and that day, voters should report to one of the 11 pre-assigned Union County voting precincts.

A sample ballot can be obtained at the Registrar's Office and at [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov), which also features valuable voter information personalized to each resident.

"Georgia law requires registered voters to show photo identification in order to vote in person," according to the Georgia Secretary of State's Office. "When you vote in person, you must show one of the following photo IDs:

"A Georgia driver's license, even if expired; any valid state or federal government issued photo ID, including one issued by the Department of Driver Services or your Voter Registrar; valid U.S. passport; valid employee photo ID from any branch, department,

agency, or entity of the U.S. Government, this state, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of this state; valid U.S. military photo ID; valid tribal photo ID."

Voters looking for absentee ballots will need to contact the Registrar's Office in the courthouse, or call (706) 439-6016.

Tuesday, Oct. 9, was the voter registration deadline to be eligible to cast a ballot in the Nov. 6 General Election.

Each of the following candidates will appear on the ballot:

For Governor, Republican Brian Kemp, Democrat Stacey Abrams and Libertarian Ted Metz.

For Lieutenant Governor, Republican Geoff Duncan and Democrat Sarah Riggs Amico.

For Secretary of State, Republican Brad Raffensperger, Democrat Josh Barrow and Libertarian Smythe Duval.

For Attorney General, Republican Incumbent Chris Carr and Democrat Charlie Bailey.

For Commissioner of Agriculture, Republican Incumbent Gary Black and Democrat Fred Swann.

For Commissioner of Insurance, Republican Jim Beck, Democrat Janice Laws and Libertarian Donnie Foster.

For State School Superintendent, Republican Incumbent Richard Woods and Democrat Otha E. Thornton Jr.

For Commissioner of Labor, Republican Incumbent Mark Butler and Democrat Richard Keatley.

For Public Service Commissioner District 3, Republican Incumbent Chuck Eaton, Democrat Lindy Miller and Libertarian Ryan Graham.

For Public Service Commissioner District 5, Republican Incumbent Tricia Pridemore, Democrat Dawn A. Randolph and Libertarian John Turpish.

For U.S. Representative in 116th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Republican Incumbent Doug Collins and Democrat Josh McCall.

For State Senator from the 51st District, Republican Incumbent Steve Gooch is running unopposed.

For State Representative in the General Assembly from the 8th District, Republican Incumbent Matt Gurtler is running unopposed.

For District Attorney of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, Republican Incumbent Jeff Langley is running unopposed.

For County Board of Education District 2, Republican Incumbent Tony Hunter is running unopposed.

For County Board of Education District 4, Republican Incumbent Keith Potts is running unopposed.

For County Board of Education District 5, Republican Incumbent Patrick White is running unopposed.

For Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, Jennifer Logan is running unopposed.

Union County voters will also be asked to support or reject the continuation of the county SPLOST in the Nov. 6 General Election.

A SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) is a 1-cent sales tax that is collected by counties for up to six years for the purposes of funding county and city capital outlay projects such as roads, public safety, infrastructure, etc.

The sales tax in Union County is 7 cents on the dollar, which includes a penny for current SPLOST IV collections.

Since the county is already collecting SPLOST money, if residents decide to renew the SPLOST, the sales tax rate within the county will stay the same at 7 percent.

SPLOST V is expected to collect \$24 million over its six-year collection period, just like SPLOST IV.

The county would also be able to issue \$10 million in SPLOST-backed bonds to complete projects if the referendum passes.

Also on the ballot are five Proposed Constitutional Amendments, including: the creation of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund to protect water quality, wildlife habitats and parks; the creation of a statewide business court to lower costs, enhance efficiency and promote predictable judicial outcomes; the encouragement of the conservation, sustainability and longevity of Georgia's working forests through tax sub-classification and grants; the provision of rights for victims of crime in the judicial process; and the authorization of fair allocation of sales tax proceeds to county and city school districts.

## Fire Training...from Page 1A

the capability of helping the instructors test you on your skills," said Union County Fire Chief David Dyer. "So, any kind of firefighting skills or any other skills that you have for those certifications."

Essentially, evaluators assist instructors by making sure firefighter candidates fully understand skills they're required to learn.

For example, when it comes to setting up, raising and lowering a ladder, an evaluator would explain what the candidate is being tested on, and the candidate would then have to successfully complete each step of the ladder skill being tested.

"The training was open for all of Northeast Georgia," said Dyer. "We had 20 attendees from just Union County, which they said was pretty impressive for us to be a small county and have that many attending."

Added Dyer: "Before this

class, we only had about four to five people who were certified to evaluate firefighters through Standards and Training. And now that we've got this, we'll have about 25 people."

This was the first time that Union County had hosted any training classes by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council, and this class in particular will help the Fire Department to further its goal of becoming a regional fire training and testing site.

The main benefit of being able to train locally for state certifications is that volunteer firefighters become better positioned to receive more training, as they wouldn't have to take off work or rearrange their schedules to drive to the nearest Georgia Fire Academy campus.

"Those are two big goals that we have, to make sure that we have as much testing and as much training that we can have

that the state provides here in Union County," said Dyer.

Another benefit of locally training firefighters from around the region is that everyone will undergo the same training and also get to know each other, which will come in handy during mutual aid calls with other counties.

The Fire Department is in the process of constructing a couple of new fire training facilities at Station No. 1, which will add to the level of preparedness of all local firefighters moving forward.

"I was very proud that we had at least one quarter of our firefighting group, our career and paid (on call) group, at this class," said Dyer. "I was expecting maybe 10 folks that would be interested in this, but we had 20, and that was pretty impressive to me to have that many."

"And we would have probably had more, but some people didn't qualify because they hadn't had five years of experience yet."

## 2nd Annual Veterans Appreciation Weekend Celebration

The United States Army Rangers are Sponsoring a 3-day weekend festival (The 2nd Annual Veterans Appreciation Weekend Celebration) that includes numerous events over the Veterans Day weekend November 10-12, 2018. These events include a 5/10K Charity Run (Run for Rangers) at 8 a.m. Saturday November 10, 2018, followed by the existing Annual Veterans Day Parade, the then followed by a Music Festival at Hancock Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.. Food, beverage, beer, wine, and merchandise will be available in the Park. All Veterans are free. Performers include:

11:15 - Band of Steel;  
12 noon - Elliott Sperin; 1

p.m. - Jim Wood; 2:p.m. - Philip Rogers; 3p.m. - Radford Windham; 4 p.m. - Jay Drummonds; 5 p.m. - Kurt Thomas.

On Sunday, November 11, 2018, there will be a Charity fundraising cycling event (Ride for Rangers) with 3 courses, a 20 mile, a 32 mile Half-Metric, and a 64 mile Metric. The courses are unique foothill courses and provide for all skill and performance levels. Concurrently, there will be a Motorcycle Clubs Rally in the area and Hancock Park will be open for food, beverage, and merchandise purchases.

Monday, November 12, 2018 there will be the 1st Annual "Team Ranger" Charity Golf Tournament at Achasta Golf Course in Dahlonega, GA. The scramble format tournament will begin at 11 a.m. and conclude at 6 p.m. after dinner and a Silent Auction. Individual golfers are welcome.

Sponsor opportunities for all events are available, and donations are welcome. Please visit our website, [veteranasappreciationday.org](http://veteranasappreciationday.org) for details.

Registration for all events is available at the website, along with detail sched-

ules and course maps. Please support your Army Rangers and all Veterans!

Saturday, November 10, 2018: 8 a.m. 5/10 K Run for Rangers, 1st Annual Run for Rangers Charity Run, Hancock Park, Dahlonega.

10 a.m. Veterans Day Parade, Downtown Dahlonega.

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Music Festival, 2nd Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Music Festival Hancock Park, Dahlonega.

Sunday, November 11, 2018: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - 64 Mile Metric/32 Mile Half-Metric/20mile Charity Fundraising Cycling Ride, 1st Annual Ride for Rangers, Hancock Park, Dahlonega.

Monday November 12, 2018: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Charity Fundraising 1st Annual "Team Ranger" Golf Tournament, 1st Annual Team Ranger Golf Tournament, Achasta Golf Course, Dahlonega, GA.

Proceeds are used for Veterans Aid and Support Programs as outlined on the website. Visit our website on or after October 14, 2018 to register for events or make a donation. [www.veteranasappreciationday.org](http://www.veteranasappreciationday.org)

## Cancer freezing procedure

Freezing procedures available for breast, lung, liver, and prostate cancers. These procedures have been around for years, yet so many people do not know about them. Research information under [www.radiologyinfo.org](http://www.radiologyinfo.org) and look up procedure by name, Cryotherapy. N(Oct24Z1)CA