

Towns County Herald

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ELECTION RESULTS

Kenneth 'Ode' Henderson wins primary runoff for Towns County Sheriff Gurtler, Pandey, Hall win in county; Clyde, Pandey, Hall victorious districtwide

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

The Aug. 11 General Primary Runoff Elections are over, and come January 2021, there'll be a new sheriff in Towns – Kenneth "Ode" Henderson.

Henderson defeated challenger Daren "Bear" Osborn by 40 votes to win the Republican nomination, receiving 1,880 votes to Osborn's 1,840.

And with no Democratic challenger, Henderson is set to appear unopposed on the Nov. 3 General Election Ballot, which would make him the sheriff-elect ahead of swearing in January 2021.

Henderson and Osborn went head-to-head in the Aug. 11 runoff as the top two vote-getters from the June 9 General Primary Election, as none of the five candidates initially vying for local top cop earned a majority vote.

The runoff elections experienced a turnout of nearly 40 percent in Towns County, likely driven by the local

sheriff's contest, though there were three other runoffs for races undecided in the June 9 primary.

For District 50 State Senator, Republican Stacy Hall won Towns County with 1,872 votes, while challenger Bo Hatchett took 1,678 votes. Hall won districtwide as well, grabbing 50.13 percent of the vote to Hatchett's 49.87 percent.

On the Democratic ticket, Dee Daley ran unopposed for 50th District State Senator in the General Primary, meaning Daley and Hall will go head to head for the seat on Nov. 3.

For Georgia's 9th Congressional District race, on the Republican side, Matt Gurtler won Towns County with 2,032 votes to Andrew Clyde's 1,589.

However, districtwide, Clyde was projected to win the race at press time, as he was ahead by more than 10,000 votes for 56.02 percent of the vote with 95 percent of precincts reporting.

The Democratic ticket

for the 9th Congressional seat featured Devin Pandey and Brooke Siskin, and Pandey took the contest in Towns County, securing 239 votes to Siskin's 129. Pandey was also projected to win with 95 percent of precincts reporting, having earned 68.27 percent of the vote.

Clyde and Pandey will face off Nov. 3 for the office of U.S. Representative in the 117th Congress for Georgia's 9th Congressional District.

Results of the Aug. 11 runoff elections will be made official Friday, Aug. 14.

Since this was a primary runoff, voters had to choose a political party ballot to vote, but there will be just one ballot for the upcoming General Election in November.

Early in-person voting for the November election will take place at the Towns County Board of Elections Office during the three weeks prior to Election Day, which is Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Registered voters who will be at least 18 years of age

by Election Day are eligible to vote during early voting, with Oct. 5 being the registration deadline for voters looking to participate in the Nov. 3 election.

On Election Day, voters should report to one of the three pre-assigned Towns County voting precincts: Hiawassee at the Civic Center; Young Harris at the Lodge Hall Building, aka Stephens Lodge; and Macedonia at Macedonia Baptist Church.

According to the Secretary of State's Office, Aug. 14 is the last day "for an Independent or a Political Body Candidate to file their Nomination Petition to have his/her name placed on the General Election Ballot."

Additionally, Sept. 8 is the deadline "to file the notice of intention to be a write-in candidate and have notice published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-133."

For full election coverage, pick up a copy of the Aug. 19 edition of the newspaper.