

Towns County Herald

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ELECTION RESULTS

Anderson wins Tax Commissioner; Hatchett takes State Senate seat

74.9% of local voters cast ballots in major turnout

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Towns County Herald
Editor

Voting in the 2020 General Election ended at 7 p.m. on Nov. 3 in Georgia, and unlike other parts of the country that will be counting ballots for days to come, results from all 159 Peach State counties were expected quickly.

Fortunately, results were in at press time for competitive district and local races in Towns County, where 74.9% of active registered voters participated in Tuesday's election.

Percentage of voter turnout in Towns County was higher in 2016 at 80%, though about 1,150 more people voted in 2020 due to an increase in voter registration over the last four years.

In the only locally contested race for county office, Republican Michael Anderson defeated longtime Democratic Incumbent Bruce Rogers for Towns County Tax Commissioner. Anderson earned 66% of the vote with 5,158 votes to Rogers' 2,648.

For District 50 State Senator, Republican Bo Hatchett earned 82% of Towns County's vote to Democrat Dee Daley's 18%. And Hatchett carried that momentum through to the rest of the district, taking 84% of the vote to win the seat.

In another early called race, Republican Stan Gunter beat

Democrat Dave Cooper with 82% of the vote districtwide to earn the District 8 State Representative seat. Towns Countians supported Gunter with 82% of the local vote to Cooper's 18%.

And for U.S. Representative in the 117th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Republican Andrew Clyde defeated Devin Pandy with 80% of the vote to earn the seat. With Towns Countians, Republican Andrew Clyde earned 81% to Pandy's 19%.

At press time, Republican Incumbent David Perdue was up about 10% statewide in the race to keep his U.S. Senate seat against Democratic challenger Jon Ossoff, though counting continued past midnight. In Towns County, Perdue earned 6,281 votes to Ossoff's 1,450.

For President of the United States, local voters chose Donald Trump and his running mate Vice President Mike Pence to serve another four years, with 80% of Towns Countians voting for the president over candidate Joe Biden and running mate Kamala Harris.

In 2016, 80% of Towns County voters supported Trump over then-candidate Hillary Clinton. Trump went on to win Georgia in 2016, where he was ahead of Biden by more than 300,000 votes at press time.

For the special election to fill the unexpired term of Sen. Johnny Isakson, who resigned

last year for health reasons, for Top Three, Towns Countians chose Republican Doug Collins with 3,992 votes, Incumbent Kelly Loeffler with 2,035 votes and Democrat Raphael Warnock with 1,017 votes.

Because a candidate must receive at least 50% of the vote plus 1 to win, and there were 20 candidates in the special election, a runoff election will be necessary, as no single candidate earned a majority of votes.

At press time, the Top Two vote getters in the statewide race were Loeffler and Warnock, meaning these two candidates are likely headed for a runoff election.

For Public Service Commissioner District 1, Republican Incumbent Jason Shaw earned 80% of the Towns County vote in his race against Robert G. Bryant, a Democrat, and Elizabeth Melton, a Libertarian. Shaw was ahead statewide at press time.

For Public Service Commissioner District 4, Republican Incumbent Lauren Bubba McDonald Jr. won 80% of the vote in Towns County, running against Democrat Daniel Blackman and Libertarian Nathan Wilson. McDonald Jr. was ahead statewide at press time.

In terms of the Georgia ballot initiatives, all three appeared to have enough support statewide to pass at press time, and Towns Countians voted the

following:

Amendment 1 carried locally with 83% of the vote. This amendment will ensure that specific fees, such as the \$1 old-tire disposal fee charged in new tire purchases, are dedicated for their intended purpose instead of being allocated elsewhere, as is current practice under state law.

Seventy-two percent of Towns County voters said "YES" to Amendment 2, which will enable citizens to freely sue the state in an attempt to challenge "state or local laws that violate the Constitution of Georgia, the U.S. Constitution, or state law."

Concerning Statewide Referendum A, 70% of Towns County voters said "YES" to establishing "a tax exemption for certain real property owned by charities," which will benefit some nonprofits like the local Habitat for Humanity.

Also on the ballot were uncontested elections for five local offices, including Probate Judge, Clerk of Superior Court, Sheriff, Coroner and Commissioner, and no one ran for Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor.

For complete district and statewide results that came in after press time, readers will want to visit the Towns County Herald at townscountyherald.net or via Facebook.