

Towns County Herald

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NOVEMBER 7, 2018

ELECTION RESULTS

Voters approve liquor by the drink sales in Towns County

Hiawassee to extend Sunday alcohol hours Kemp leading hotly contested governor race at press time

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Voting in the 2018 General Election is over and the people have spoken – Towns County will start allowing restaurants to apply for licenses to sell liquor by the drink.

Towns County voters approved the measure with 3,953 YES votes to 1,976 NO votes, giving it a 66.67 percent margin of victory.

Moving forward, liquor licenses will be regulated by county ordinance, which will determine the hours and other parameters of liquor by the drink sales, excluding Sunday sales altogether.

In Hiawassee, residents approved a measure to move the start time of local alcohol sales by the drink from 12:30 p.m. to 11 a.m. on Sundays. The measure carried with 61.41 percent of the vote to 38.59 percent.

All told, Towns Countians cast 6,166 ballots in the 2018 General Election. With 9,386 registered voters in the county, that's a local voter turnout of 65.69 percent.

In other election news, many of the big statewide races were too close to call with 99 percent of precincts reporting by press time.

Republican Brian Kemp was leading Democratic challenger Stacey Abrams in the race to be the next governor of Georgia, having earned nearly

100,000 more votes than Abrams at press time.

Kemp won big locally, receiving 81.67 percent of the vote here in Towns County.

Check back in at townscountyherald.net and the Towns County Herald Facebook page for final statewide results in the governor's and other races.

Republican Geoff Duncan had a comfortable lead in the lieutenant governor contest by press time, having earned 52 percent of the vote to Democrat Sarah Riggs Amico's 48 percent.

The race for Secretary of State was a close one with 99 percent of the vote in, with Republican Brad Raffensperger receiving 49.51 percent of the statewide vote to Democrat John Barrow's 48.27 percent.

Libertarian Smythe Duval had received 2.22 percent of the vote in this race by press time, and with no one earning a majority of the vote, it's possible this race will go to a runoff election between Raffensperger and Barrow.

For Attorney General, Republican Incumbent Chris Carr was leading Democrat Charlie Bailey with 51.72 percent of the vote.

For Commissioner of Agriculture, Republican Incumbent Gary Black was leading Democrat Fred Swann with 53.51 percent of the vote.

For Commissioner of Insurance, Republican Jim Beck was leading Democrat Janice Laws and Libertarian Donnie Foster with 50.8 percent of the statewide vote.

For State School Superintendent, Republican Incumbent Richard Woods was leading Democrat Otha E. Thornton Jr. with 53.45 percent of the vote.

For Commissioner of Labor, Republican Incumbent Mark Butler was leading Democrat Richard Keatley with 52.89 percent of the vote.

For Public Service Commissioner District 3, Republican Incumbent Chuck Eaton was leading Democrat Lindy Miller and Libertarian Ryan Graham with 50.13 percent of the vote.

For Public Service Commissioner District 5, Republican Incumbent Tricia Pridemore was leading Democrat Dawn A. Randolph and Libertarian John Turpish with 50.69 percent of the vote.

For U.S. Representative in the 116th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Republican Incumbent Doug Collins had a comfortable lead against Democratic challenger Josh McCall, having earned 79.58 percent of the vote by press time.

For State Senator from the 50th District, Republican Incumbent John Wilkinson ran unopposed and was re-elected.

For State Representative in the General Assembly from the 8th District, Republican Incumbent Matt Gurtler ran unopposed and was re-elected.

For District Attorney of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, Republican Incumbent Jeff Langley ran unopposed and was re-elected.

No one ran for Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor.

Also up for approval in the Nov. 6 election were five Proposed Constitutional Amendments.

Amendment 1 passed statewide. The amendment will result in "the creation of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund to protect water qual-

ity, wildlife habitats and parks."

Amendment 2 passed statewide. This amendment will result in "the creation of a statewide business court to lower costs, enhance efficiency and promote predictable judicial outcomes."

Amendment 3 passed statewide. This amendment will result in "the encouragement of the conservation, sustainability and longevity of Georgia's working forests through tax sub-classification and grants."

Amendment 4 passed statewide. This amendment will result in "the provision of rights for victims of crime in the judicial process."

Amendment 5 passed statewide. This amendment will result in "the authorization of fair allocation of sales tax proceeds to county and city school districts."

The 2018 General Election Ballot also featured two Proposed Statewide Referenda.

The first referendum passed statewide. This referendum will provide for "a homestead exemption for residents of certain municipal corporations."

The second referendum passed statewide. This referendum will provide "a tax exemption for certain homes for the mentally disabled."

For more election coverage, including full local election results, check out townscountyherald.net and also next week's edition of the Towns County Herald.