Towns County Herald

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Kemp, Walker earn Republican nominations Unopposed School Board candidates win Nonpartisan General TOWNS COUNTY UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

By Shawn Jarrard Towns County Herald Editor

About 34% of registered Towns County voters cast ballots in the May 24 General Primary/Nonpartisan General Elections, which was up considerably from the 2018 midterm primary election turnout of 22%.

Two residents qualified unopposed in March for the Towns County Board of Education, incumbent Sara Rogers for Post 2 Young Harris and David Phillips for Post 3 Hiawassee.

As the Towns County Board of Education is a nonpartisan elective office, the unopposed candidates won their May 24 elections and are set to be sworn in at the start of next year.

Given Georgia's transition in recent years to an increasingly "purple" electorate, several Peach State elections have garnered national attention in 2022, particularly the offices of Governor and U.S. Senate.

Among the five Republican candidates for governor, incumbent Brian Kemp and David Perdue garnered the most primary votes statewide, with Kemp easily beating out Perdue to guarantee a General Election rematch with lone Democratic qualifier Stacey Abrams, who narrowly lost to Kemp in 2018.

Overall, more Towns County Republican Primary voters supported Kemp, handing him 65% of the vote with 2,234 votes compared to Perdue's 1,041 votes. Statewide, the projected winner Kemp was ahead by more than 70% with over half of the vote counted by press time.

As was widely anticipated, Herschel Walker won the Republican Primary for U.S. Senate, meaning that, come November, he will be squaring off against Democratic incumbent Raphael Warnock, who also won his statewide primary election with ease.

In Towns County, 71% of the Republican electorate supported Walker over his biggest rival, Gary Black. On the Democratic side, 96% of Towns County voters supported Warnock over Tamara Johnson-Shealey.

For U.S. Representative from the 9th Congressional District, Republican incumbent Andrew Clyde won his primary with plenty of room to spare, and he will be appearing on the ballot opposite lone Democratic qualifier Mike Ford in November.

Another race to watch is that of Lieutenant Governor, which, by press time, saw Burt Jones winning by a slim margin in the Republican Primary, and a runoff race expected in the Democratic Primary.

Similarly, by press time, Republican incumbent Brad Raffensperger for Secretary of State had just north of 50% of the vote, with no clear winner on the Democratic side.

Full election results, including other state races with local impacts, will be available in the June 1 edition of the newspaper and at townscountyherald.net.