

# TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

# Election Results

## Sheriff Henderson to get four more years

### *Barrett wins Superior Court Clerk race; Gunter earns GOP nomination*

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**Towns County Herald**  
**Editor**

Results are in for the May 21 General Primary and Nonpartisan Elections, and it's official: Kenneth "Ode" Henderson will be returning for four more years as Towns County Sheriff.

Henderson won handily with 62% of the vote on Tuesday, garnering 2,193 votes to Republican Primary challenger JR Murray's 1,333 votes.

As there were no Democrats to qualify for any county office in 2024, Incumbent Henderson will cruise to victory in the Nov. 5 General Election to win re-election to a second term in office.

There was only one other contested local race to appear in the Republican Primary: the Office of Superior Court Clerk. After 40 years in office, Court Clerk Cecil Dye decided it was time to retire after 2024, clearing the way for new leadership in the office.

Eric Barrett, Sandy Morgan and Chris Clinton qualified in March as Republicans to be the next clerk, and after Tuesday's election, and with no Democrat challenger in November, the next Superior Court Clerk will be Eric Barrett.

Especially for a three-way contest, Barrett achieved a resounding victory with 64% of the vote, earning 2,174 votes to beat Morgan, who received

821 votes, as well as Clinton, who garnered 406 votes. As three candidates appeared in the primary, the ultimate nominee needed to clear greater than 50% of ballots to win, and Barrett was able to do that and avoid a June 18 Runoff Election.

In the state-level race for District 8 State Representative, Incumbent Stan Gunter defeated challenger Dick Mills to earn the Republican nomination. Gunter scored a decisive victory against Mills with 74% of the vote districtwide. Gunter received 9,933 votes to Mills' 3,532.

Similarly, Gunter won Towns County with support from 72% of the voting electorate.

Come November, Gunter will face Democrat challenger Charlotte Sleczkowski, who qualified unopposed for her primary.

All other local and primary races that appeared on ballots May 21 featured unopposed qualifiers.

Incumbents in the remaining county offices up for grabs in 2024 breathed a sigh of relief during qualifying when they learned that no primary or General Election challengers had stepped forward.

Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, Probate Judge/Magistrate David Rogers, Tax Commissioner Michael Anderson and Coroner Tame-

la Cooper all qualified unopposed, and they are set to automatically win re-election in November.

In the Nonpartisan Election, incumbent School Board Members Brandon Grimsley and Caroleen Woods both ran unopposed and so won re-election Tuesday.

Retired local educator Roy Perren was the only qualifier for the School Board seat that will be vacated by Board Member Stephanie McConnell at the end of the year, and he will be joining the Board of Education for the first time in 2025.

Prior to qualifying, Perren served as chairman of the Towns County Board of Elections & Registration, and per state law, he came off the board when he qualified in March.

Also at the state level, District 50 State Sen. Bo Hatchett, the Republican incumbent, appeared unchallenged in his primary race, as did Democrat challenger June Krise, and the two will go head-to-head for the Georgia Senate seat in November.

Incumbent Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Chief Judge Joy Parks was the sole qualifier for her judgeship in the Nonpartisan Election, so she is receiving a new term after Tuesday.

As for Georgia's 9th Congressional District, Republican Incumbent Rep. Andrew Clyde

did not face competition in his primary, but to keep his federal seat next year, he will have to overcome sole Democrat qualifier Tambrei Cash in November.

Turnout was lower than many in the community had hoped, with just 36% of the active Towns County electorate casting ballots for the May 21 elections. Still, Towns turnout has been trending higher than most other counties in the state, and almost certainly, the county will improve upon that turnout figure in the November General Election given that this is a presidential election year.

Overall, the General Primary and Nonpartisan Elections ran smoothly Tuesday night, with Elections Supervisor Rachel Edwards crediting the hard work done by the Elections Office, poll managers and poll workers of Towns County's two voting precincts. The Elections Office also successfully ran three weeks of early voting.

The above results are unofficial until certified with the Secretary of State's Office on Tuesday, May 28.

There will be a state-wide risk-limiting audit May 29-31, with the races being audited to be announced next week. The local audit will be open to the public at the Elections Office, located at 67 Lakeview Circle, Suite A, in Hiawassee.