



Cherokee County Elections & Registration

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Greetings from the Director of Elections

When voters walk into a busy polling place on Election Day, they see a vast array of people, most of them rushing around doing lots of different things. Who are these people? They are Poll Workers - who either volunteer, or are paid a very small stipend. They are not full time government employees.

They are people who are donating their time to help make sure elections are conducted fairly and efficiently. Every major election year, over 600 citizens of Cherokee County carry out a task critical to our democracy. On Election Day, the citizen's right to cast a ballot rests not in the hands of Election Officials only, but in the hands of Election Day Poll Workers as well.

Ultimately, Poll Workers ensure that eligible citizens are able to cast a ballot. We provide the training and tools needed by Poll Managers and Poll Workers to carry out these most important tasks. However, it is up to Election Day Poll Workers that attend these training sessions to apply what they learn in order to properly carry out their responsibilities.

Attending these training programs takes time, work, and patience. We greatly appreciate the effort put forth by each of them.

As we move forward into 2008, we reflect on February's Presidential Preference Primary. Georgia problems were very isolated, with the exception of long waits, where poll workers checked IDs against computerized registration records (ExpressPolls), leaving some voters waiting for 90 minutes while booths stood empty. Cherokee County experienced similar problems. Perhaps the solution as we approach an historic election in November is to continue using self-motivated young people, comfortable with today's technology, working at the polls. By involving students in the elections process, we hope to inspire them to continue as poll workers in the years to come. They not only have the personal satisfaction of getting involved in the system; they also provide a burst of energy at the polling place.

The Cherokee County Board of Elections and Voter Registration **staff** has spent countless hours, as usual, preparing for the upcoming elections. Everyone is making every effort to meet the needs of the Cherokee County Voters. We think that a record number of voters will choose to participate in the voting process and cast a record number of ballots. With everyone's dedication - we will be an example of a 'shining star' for 2008!

Janet Munda

Director of Elections & Registration

Your voice was HEARD! Yes, some of the larger and busier precincts clearly needed at least one more worker on February 5th; specifically, a "floater" to relieve on breaks, etc. We have evaluated the needs of each precinct and are assigning additional poll workers as necessary. Thanks for all your hard work and success!

February 5, 2008, was one of the most watched Presidential Primary races in decades. There was a record turnout across the State of Georgia, and Cherokee County was no exception with 43.12 % of the registered voters casting ballots. Poll Workers remained busy from sunrise to sunset to make sure every voter had an opportunity to cast a vote in the Presidential Preference Primary.



[Meet and Greet with Director of Elections](#)

On April 15, 2008, we held a Meet and Greet for potential poll workers with the Director of Elections, Janet Munda. This meet and greet was a chance for voters interested in the elections process to learn more about becoming poll workers. These new workers have varying degrees of experience in the election world. Some have never worked the polls while others may have worked in other counties or states.

Janet covered some very valuable information for these poll workers. A summary is as follows:

- Overall rules for being a poll worker
- Necessity of communication. Ashley Goodwin, Community Outreach Specialist, emphasized how important communication is before, during, and after an election cycle. Good communication is the key to a great election.
- Technology
 - Direct Record Electronic (DRE) voting machines.
 - Express Polls, which take the place of a huge elector's list on paper.
 - Optical Scan for Absentee Voting and Provisional Voting, where the voter fills out a paper ballot.
 - Laptops used during Advanced Voting week at the Satellite locations.
- Training
 - Type of training we will conduct; poll workers will have hands-on training, as well as handouts so they may study the material.
 - Group training with their own precinct, so all the poll workers will get a chance to meet and train with each other before Election Day.
 - Miscellaneous training centered on the hours they may work, how to conduct themselves on Election Day, the pay scale, what a Stand-by poll worker is and what is expected of them.

After receiving this vital information, Janet took the group on a tour of our facility. They were able to see some of the new changes that have been implemented within the office, including the warehouse where the machines are stored, the storage room where all Election Day supplies are kept, and our new room that will help with security when uploading election night results.

All in all, the meet and greet went very well. A lot of questions were asked and everyone seemed really excited to jump on board. If anyone is interested or knows anyone interested in being a poll worker, please contact Ashley Goodwin, Community Outreach Specialist at awgoodwin@cherokeega.com or 770-479-0407 ext. 229. Please feel free to visit our website at: <http://voter.cherokeega.com>.



Pictured Janet Munda, Director of Elections & Registration and former staff member, Cathy Becker.

Luncheon Hosted by Elections & Registration to Honor Precinct Managers & Assistant Managers

Precinct Managers and Assistant Managers attended a luncheon in their honor on December 5, 2007, held at the Union Hill Club House.

The day began with a delicious lunch that was served to the honored guests by the staff from Elections & Registration.

Former staff member, Cathy Becker, was honored and presented with a gift from her fellow staff members. Donald Conkey was recognized for his years of service and dedication in his position of poll worker.

Motivational speaker, Ellen Hester, entertained the group while stressing the importance of having a positive, helpful attitude.

Janet Munda, Director of Elections and Registrations presented certificates to several poll managers and workers in recognition of their distinguished years of service to Cherokee County.



Donald Conkey honored for his years of service as a poll worker.

February 5, 2008 Election Information

Top Five Precincts with the Highest Turnout by Percentage:

Hillside – 45.07%
Rosecreek – 44.72 %
Waleska – 44.43%
Freehome - 43.41%
Sixes – 43.32 %.

Top Five precincts with the Highest Turnout by Votes:

Toonigh – 1,495
Freehome – 1,452
Teasley – 1,378
Little River – 1,338
Kellogg – 1,327.

We had 102 **Provisional Ballots** with 63 of these ballots counting and issued 6264 **Absentee Ballots** with 6116 of these ballots returned.

Youth Participate in School Elections

High school elections across the county started out with a “BANG” for the 2007-2008 school year. School started on August 6, 2007, and by the end of the week, we were booked solid for the next three months, holding one to two elections per week. Cherokee County is one of the few counties in Georgia whose elections department works hand in hand with the school system to conduct its elections. By allowing the schools to use actual Direct Record Electronic (DRE) voting machines, the students gain knowledge of elections and voting. This is a wonderful learning experience for the students in preparation for when they turn 18.

Cherokee High School ignited the spark with the first Student Government Election and Voter Registration Drive. We had such a wonderful response that within two weeks of their first election, we were holding their Homecoming Election. Between the two elections we had a total of 49 new registered voters.



Woodstock High School added a Voter Registration Drive to their Homecoming Election. At the end of the day, we had some very excited candidates and a total of 15 new registered voters.

Reinhardt College held their Student Senate Elections for two days, along with a registration drive. This election has become an annual event for the school.

Crossroads High School added 14 new registered voters on September 11, 2007. Most of the schools hold Voter Registration Drives during the Fall and Spring semesters. Students may register at 17 ½, but must be 18 by an election date to vote in that election.

On September 12, 2007, we held the first election for the new Creekview High School using the voting machines for Student Government and Homecoming. We had such a wonderful experience. The students were stunned to see such “High Tech Machinery” being used for high school elections.

On September 14 and 25 and October 8, we held our Elementary School Student Government Elections. I wanted to thank Mountain Road Elementary School, Ball Ground Elementary School, and the new Avery Elementary School for letting us come to conduct their elections. It is always a joy to be able to go out and participate with the elementary schools and see the looks on the student’s faces when we bring our “Big Machines” as they call them, to the schools so they can use them. You can’t help but sit back and smile because these students are so proud of themselves. Remember, these children are our future.

Cherokee County Elections is excited to continue our commitment to youth voter registration and be a contributor to the school election process.

2008 Training Dates

Monday June 9 th	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Tuesday, June 10th	6 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Wednesday, June 11 th	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Thursday, June 12th	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Tuesday, June 17th	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wednesday, June 18th	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Thursday, June 19th	6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

***Training will be conducted at:
Creekview High School
1550 Owens Store Road
Canton, GA 30115***

Dedicated to Improving the Voting Process



Cherokee County Elections & Registration 400 East Main Street Canton, GA 30114		
http://voter.cherokeega.com		

2008 Election Events

Election	Date	Registration Deadline	Absentee Voting	Advance Voting
General Primary	July 15	June 16	June 2 – July 11	July 7 – July 11
GP Runoff	Aug. 5	June 16	Upon receipt of ballots	July 28 – Aug. 1
Special	Sept. 16	Aug. 18	Sept. 8 – 12	Sept. 8 - 12
General	Nov. 4	Oct. 6	Sept. 19 - Oct. 31	Oct. 27 – Oct. 31
GE Runoff	Dec. 2	Oct. 6	Upon receipt of ballots	Nov. 24 - Nov. 28

