




# The Chatham Elections Newsletter

 [Chatham County Elections](#)
 (912) 201-4375
 [elections.chathamcountyga.gov](http://elections.chathamcountyga.gov)

## HIGHLIGHTS!

### Sample Ballots

Did you know you can print out your sample ballot, mark it, and bring it with you to vote? The ballot is 18 inches long in this election - that's a lot of races! Do your own research on candidates early and find your sample ballot on My Voter Page:



<https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>

### In This Issue

- Speaking Engagements
- Campaign Filing Deadlines
- Monthly Board Meeting
- Message from our Director - Legislation Updates
- What's on the ballot?
- Where can I vote?

# MAY



This is it, Chatham! The May 19, 2026, General Primary/Nonpartisan Election is only days away and our office is finalizing the last details to ensure a secure, transparent, and accessible election for all voters. Make your plan to vote now - early in person, absentee, or on Election Day. Don't miss out on your right to make your voice heard!

In this issue, you will find updates on voting options, key election dates, what to expect on the ballot, recent outreach efforts, and a legislative update from Director Brook Schreiner to help you stay informed and ready to participate.

### Community Updates

#### Director Brook Schreiner is Sworn In

On April 2, our office celebrated an important milestone as Brook Schreiner was formally sworn in as our Elections Director by Chief Judge John E. Morse, Jr. at the Eugene H. Gadsden Courthouse. We are grateful to Judge Morse for presiding over this meaningful ceremony. Brook's appointment reflects a strong commitment to leadership, professionalism, and public service. We look forward to the continued impact of this role in supporting fair, transparent, and efficient elections for our community.





## Elections Events

APR/  
MAY

### Speaking Engagements

Director Schreiner spoke at the monthly Republican meeting, where she provided an overview of election operations, current challenges, and the importance of public trust. She emphasized election transparency, ongoing preparations, and efforts to combat misinformation, and noted that many parts of the process are open to public observation. Brook will also be speaking at the Democratic monthly party meeting in May. Our office welcomes opportunities to meet with local organizations and is available for presentations, discussions, and informational sessions on elections.

MAY  
11

### Monthly Board Meeting

The Chatham County Board of Elections will hold its regular monthly meeting on **May 11th, 2026, at 3:30pm.** The meeting will be held at our elections office: 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite F, Savannah, GA.

MAY  
19

### General Primary/Nonpartisan Election

**Election Day is May 19th, 2026**  
Voters across Chatham County will head to the polls for the General Primary/Nonpartisan Election.  
**Last Day to Register:** 04/20/2026  
**Early Voting:** 04/27/2026 - 05/15/2026

## 2026 Election Updates

### CAMPAIGN FILING DEADLINES

The most recent Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report (CCDR) filing deadline was April 30, 2026, with the grace period extending through May 7, 2026. Officials who do not have an active Affidavit of Exemption on file are required to submit CCDR filings in accordance with state law.  
**Reminder: Final CCDR (Final Report & Termination Statement)**

This is the final report required to terminate a campaign and may only be filed once the campaign has a \$0 balance on hand and \$0 in outstanding debt. All filers must submit this report in order to officially close their campaign, even if an Affidavit of Exemption is on file.

### SPECIAL ELECTION

A special election will be held on **May 19, 2026**, alongside the General Primary /Nonpartisan Election, to **fill the unexpired term for Chatham County Commissioner, District 4.** The seat was vacated when the previous Commissioner, Patrick Farrell, qualified for another office. The Chatham County Commissioners have appointed Shirley Sessions to serve until a candidate is elected and takes office.

**Voters who reside within Commission District 4 will see this contest on their ballot and will elect a candidate to serve the remainder of the term.**

### LOGIC AND ACCURACY

Logic and Accuracy (L&A) testing is currently underway at the Elections Annex located at 10 Mall Terrace. Staff are diligently testing and validating 540 ballot marking devices and printers, along with a scanner for each of the county's 81 active polling locations, to ensure full readiness for the upcoming election. This process helps confirm that all equipment is functioning properly and that ballots will be accurately presented and counted.



# What to Expect on the Ballot

## Partisan Contests

### Federal (Party Primaries)

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives (District 1)

### Statewide Offices (Party Primaries)

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- Commissioner of Agriculture
- Commissioner of Insurance
- State School Superintendent
- Commissioner of Labor
- Public Service Commissioner (Districts 3, 5)
- Georgia State Senate seats (Districts 1, 2, 4)
- Georgia House of Representatives seats (Districts 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166)

### Local Offices (Party Primaries)

- Board of Elections (2 Republican, 2 Democrat)

## Nonpartisan Contests

*These offices are not decided by party primaries and appear on your ballot alongside the May 19 partisan primaries:*

### Local Chatham County Offices

- Chatham County School Board President
- Chatham County School Board Districts 4, 5, 6, and 8
- Recorder’s Court Judge (two seats)
- County Commissioner District 4 (special election)

### Judicial and Other Statewide Nonpartisan Races

Georgia’s nonpartisan elections often include judges whose terms expire in 2026 (such as Supreme Court and Court of Appeals seats). Those will also appear on the May 19 ballot concurrent with party primaries, but without party labels.

## Partisan Ballot Questions

In addition to candidate contests, voters participating in party primaries on May 19, 2026, will see non-binding ballot questions specific to their selected party.

*\*These questions are advisory only and do not directly change law.\**

### Democratic Party Ballot Questions:

1. Should the State of Georgia raise the sales tax on everyday items like clothing, food and school supplies to pay for an income tax cut that would make millionaires and billionaires richer?
2. Is it ethical for political candidates who have used their public offices to enrich themselves and their families, or have had nearly a billion dollars of business dealings with the State of Georgia, to hold statewide office?

### Republican Party Ballot Questions:

1. Should Georgia enact the strongest election integrity measures possible, including hand-marked paper ballots, fines for counties that do not maintain current voter rolls, and limits on no-excuse absentee voting?
2. Should Georgia prohibit judges from releasing defendants accused of serious crimes without secure bail?
3. Should Georgia extend the death penalty to include sexual crimes against children?
4. Should the United States Constitution be amended to limit the number of Supreme Court Justices to nine?
5. Should Georgia require public schools to make instructional materials and library content publicly accessible online?
6. Do you support policies aimed at making Georgia energy-independent through increased domestic energy production and reduced regulation?
7. Do you support banning cellphone use in Georgia public schools?
8. Should Georgia penalize law enforcement agencies that do not cooperate with federal immigration authorities in cases involving serious crimes?

**Fun Fact!**

Did you know that the secret ballot, also known as the “Australian ballot,” was first widely adopted in the United States in the late 1800s? Before its adoption, voters often cast their ballots publicly, which sometimes led to voter intimidation and pressure. The secret ballot system helped protect voter privacy and is now a cornerstone of modern elections.





# Where can I vote?

### Collocated Polls

You can check your Election Day polling location by visiting the State-run My Voter Page.

The following polls have been collocated:



1-13 The Sanctuary will vote at:  
1-14 St. Luke UMC (9114 Whitefield Ave)

2-04 Fellowship of Love will vote at:  
2-03 WW Law (909 East Bolton St)

3-11 Southside Baptist Church will vote at:  
3-09 ConneXion Church (5411 Skidaway Rd)

5-08 Southside Assembly of God will vote at:  
5-11 Largo Tibet School (430 Tibet Ave)

8-17 Georgia Tech, Sav Campus will vote at:  
8-18 Seventh-day Adventist (50 Godley Way)

### Absentee Voting by Mail

Voters in Chatham County may request an absentee ballot for the May 19, 2026 General Primary/Nonpartisan Election.

**Request Period: March 2 - May 8, 2026**

How to Apply:

Mail, email, fax, online at [securemyabsenteeballot.sos.ga.gov/s/](https://securemyabsenteeballot.sos.ga.gov/s/), or in person at the Voter Registration Office

### Ballot Mailing:

**April 20 - May 8, 2026**

For more information, contact the Chatham County Voter Registration Office at (912) 790-1520.

### Early Voting Information

Dates: April 27 - May 15, 2026

#### Weekday Hours & Locations:

- VR Annex (1249 Eisenhower Dr): 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
- Mosquito Control (65 Billy B Hair Dr)
- Island Library (50 Johnny Mercer Blvd)
- Garden City Library (104 Sunshine Rd)
- Civic Center (301 W Oglethorpe Ave)
- Southwest Library (14097 Abercorn St)
- All locations above (except VR Annex) are open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

#### Weekend Voting (9:00 AM - 5:00 PM):

- May 2 & May 9: VR Annex, Mosquito Control, Island Library
- May 3 & May 10: VR Annex only

## Message from our Director Legislation Updates

**What's happening:** Georgia is approaching a July 1 deadline that will prohibit the use of QR codes on ballots to count votes. This stems from Senate Bill 189, passed in 2024, which requires the state to stop using machine-readable QR codes and instead scan human-readable text on paper ballots.

**The challenge:** The 2026 legislative session ended without lawmakers approving funding or a replacement system. A bipartisan bill to delay the deadline passed the House but stalled in the Senate, leaving election officials across Georgia—including here in Chatham County—without clear direction.

### What This Means for Chatham County Voters

**For the May 20 primary and any June runoffs:** Nothing changes. You will continue to use the current ballot-marking devices with QR codes.

**For the November general election:** The voting process may look different depending on decisions made at the state level over the coming weeks.

### Possible Next Steps

**Special session:** Governor Kemp could call lawmakers back to address the issue and appropriate funding after the July cutoff.

**Call for Delay:** Governor Kemp could call for the delay of the July 1st QR deadline

**Court intervention:** Without legislative action, lawsuits could leave the decision to a judge.

**State Election Board guidance:** The board is urging counties to prepare for the possibility of hand-marked paper ballots if no solution emerges.

### Our Commitment to You

Chatham County Elections Board and Staff would like to emphasize that regardless of what system is ultimately used, every vote will be counted. "A proper election execution you have to plan for six months in advance," as noted by our Elections director. "We are already starting on November." Our office is monitoring developments closely and will provide updates as soon as state leaders clarify the path forward.