

The Chatham Elections Newsletter



Chatham County Elections



(912) 201-4375



elections.chathamcountyga.gov

HIGHLIGHTS!

JustFOIA

Did you know we have a special portal for all Open Records Requests?

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chathamcountyga.justfoia.com/publicportal



In This Issue

- June 16 Runoff Recap
- Risk Limiting Audit
- Republican PSC District 3 Recount
- Legislative Updates
- Upcoming Campaign Finance Deadlines & Affidavit Reminder



JULY



A Look Back at a Successful Election Season

With the June 16th, 2026 General Primary and Nonpartisan Runoff now behind us, our office wants to thank the voters, poll workers, and staff who made this election season a success. From the May 19 primary through the June 16 runoff, we remained focused on delivering a secure, transparent, and accessible voting experience, and the results bear that out.

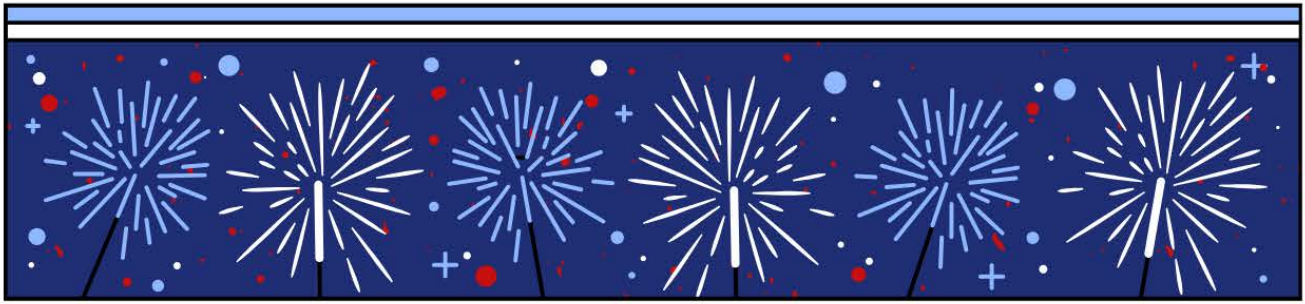
Inside this edition, you'll find a recap of the June 16 turnout, an inside look at the audits that confirmed our results, and an update on the recount in the Public Service Commissioner contest.

The newsletter is taking a break for the summer, but don't worry - we will be back in the Fall to get you ready for the November election!

Community Updates

SPREADING THE WORD: RADIO AD SPOTS

For the November 2026 election cycle, our office will be demoing a new idea proposed by Director Brook Schreiner: purchasing targeted ad spots through iHeartMedia's radio platforms. The goal is to reach voters where they already are - in their earbuds and on their commutes - to publicize election dates, deadlines, and other election-related information. We see it as another opportunity to expand how we communicate with the community and keep voters informed.



Elections Events

**JULY
3**

Closed for Independence Day

Friday, July 3, the Elections Office will be closed for the July 4 Holiday.

**JULY
13**

Monthly Board Meeting

The Chatham County Board of Elections will hold a joint meeting with the Board of Registrars on **July 13th, 2026, at 12:00pm**. The meeting will be held at our elections office: 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite F, Savannah, GA.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE INFORMATION & REMINDERS

The next Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report (CCDR) filing deadline is July 31, 2026, with the grace period extending through August 7, 2026. Beginning July 1, 2026, candidates and elected officials will be able to create accounts and become familiar with PeachFile (<https://peachfile.ethics.ga.gov>), the Georgia Ethics Commission's online filing portal. PeachFile will become the required filing platform beginning January 2027, when all local officials will file digitally. Until that time, all campaign finance reports and related filings must still be submitted locally through Chatham County in accordance with current procedures.

2026 Election Updates

JUNE RUNOFF TURNOUT RECAP

Out of 208,913 active voters, 27,689 ballots were cast in this election, resulting in a local turnout rate of 13.25%, slightly below the statewide turnout rate of 15.1%.

Ballots Cast by Party

Democratic Ballots: 13,861
Republican Ballots: 13,824

Voting Method Breakdown

Election Day Voting: 19,890
Early Voting: 6,927
Mail-In Voting: 859
Provisional: 13

For voters interested in exploring additional turnout statistics and statewide election data, visit: <https://sos.ga.gov/page/election-data-hub-unofficial-turnout>

**Fun
Fact!**

While most states have their utility regulators appointed by the governor or legislature, Georgia is one of only about ten states that elects its Public Service Commissioners by popular vote. That means Georgia voters have a direct say over the board that helps set their electricity and utility rates.



Special Legislative Session

RESULTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL SESSION

On June 17, following the 2026 Special Session, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation delaying the state's planned transition away from QR code-based ballot marking devices until January 1, 2028. The legislation establishes the Election Equipment Specifications and Standards Committee, which will develop recommendations for a new statewide voting system and report its findings by January 2027. The bill also includes provisions for mandatory manual recounts in certain close statewide elections and revisions to risk-limiting audit procedures. Redistricting was initially discussed as a potential subject for the special session, but the General Assembly did not take it up during the session.

At the end of June, we said goodbye to Gavin Mason, who is moving on to a new, well-deserved position elsewhere in the election world. We wish him the best of luck and will miss him!

Audit and Recount Information

VERIFYING THE RESULTS: AUDITS OF THE MAY 19 AND JUNE 16 ELECTIONS

For both the May 19 primary and the June 16 runoff, our office conducted two post-election audits to verify the results. The Ballot Image Audit, performed after certification, compares OCR (optical character recognition) data captured from ballot images with the tabulated results to confirm the vote totals match. The Risk-Limiting Audit (RLA) is a hand count of selected races from randomly sampled batches of ballots. For both elections, these audits confirmed the accuracy of the reported results.

These audits are among the many safeguards used to verify election outcomes and maintain confidence in the election process. Additional information about election audits is available from:

<https://sos.ga.gov/page/elections-audit-information>

PSC DISTRICT 3 RECOUNT

The statewide recount of the Republican Public Service Commissioner (PSC) District 3 race was successful in confirming the results in Chatham County. Minor changes were made in the results that required recertification on July 1, but did not change the outcome of any races.