

North Georgia News

NOVEMBER 7, 2018 Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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ELECTION RESULTS

Union County voters approve SPLOST V with 63 percent support Kemp leading hotly contested governor race at press time

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Voting in the 2018 General Election is over and the people have spoken – SPLOST V will continue when SPLOST IV runs out in 2021.

Union County voters approved the measure with 7,152 YES votes to 4,166 NO votes, giving it a 63.19 percent margin of victory.

A SPLOST, or Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, is a 1-cent sales tax that is collected by counties for up to six years for the purposes of funding county and city capital outlay projects such as roads, public safety, infrastructure, etc.

The sales tax in Union County is 7 cents on the dollar, which includes a penny for current SPLOST IV collections.

Since the county is already collecting SPLOST money, the sales tax rate within the county will simply stay the same at 7 percent when SPLOST IV expires and SPLOST V begins in 2021.

SPLOST V is expected to collect \$24 million over its six-year collection period, just like SPLOST IV.

All told, Union Countians cast 11,910 ballots in the 2018 General Election. With 17,800 registered voters in the county, that's a local voter turnout of 66.91 percent.

In other election news, many of the big statewide races were too close to call with 99 percent of precincts reporting by press time.

Republican Brian Kemp was leading Democratic challenger Stacey Abrams in the race to be the next governor of Georgia, having earned nearly 100,000 more votes than Abrams at press time.

Kemp won big locally, receiving 83.41 percent of the vote here in Union County.

Check back in at nganews.com and the North Georgia News Facebook page for final statewide results in the governor's and other races.

Republican Geoff Duncan had a comfortable lead in the lieutenant governor contest by press time, having earned 52 percent of the vote to Democrat Sarah Riggs Amico's 48 percent.

The race for Secretary of State was a close one with 99 percent of the vote in, with Republican Brad Raffensperger receiving 49.51 percent of the statewide vote to Democrat John Barrow's 48.27 percent.

Libertarian Smythe Duval had received 2.22 percent of the vote in this race by press time, and with no one earning a majority of the vote, it's possible this race will go to a runoff election between Raffensperger and Barrow.

For Attorney General, Republican Incumbent Chris Carr was leading Democrat Charlie Bailey with 51.72 percent of the vote.

For Commissioner of Agriculture, Republican Incumbent Gary Black was leading Democrat Fred Swann with 53.51 percent of the vote.

For Commissioner of Insurance, Republican Jim Beck was leading Democrat Janice Laws and Libertarian Donnie Foster with 50.8 percent of the statewide vote.

For State School Superintendent, Republican Incumbent Richard Woods was leading Democrat Otha E. Thornton Jr. with 53.45 percent of the vote.

For Commissioner of Labor, Republican Incumbent Mark But-

ler was leading Democrat Richard Keatley with 52.89 percent of the vote.

For Public Service Commissioner District 3, Republican Incumbent Chuck Eaton was leading Democrat Lindy Miller and Libertarian Ryan Graham with 50.13 percent of the vote.

For Public Service Commissioner District 5, Republican Incumbent Tricia Pridemore was leading Democrat Dawn A. Randolph and Libertarian John Turpish with 50.69 percent of the vote.

For U.S. Representative in the 116th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Republican Incumbent Doug Collins had a comfortable lead against Democratic challenger Josh McCall, having earned 79.58 percent of the vote by press time.

For State Senator from the 51st District, Republican Incumbent Steve Gooch ran unopposed and was re-elected.

For State Representative in the General Assembly from the 8th District, Republican Incumbent Matt Gurtler ran unopposed and was re-elected.

For District Attorney of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, Republican Incumbent Jeff Langley ran unopposed and was re-elected.

For County Board of Education District 2, Republican Incumbent Tony Hunter ran unopposed and was re-elected.

For County Board of Education District 4, Republican Incumbent Keith Potts ran unopposed and was re-elected.

For County Board of Education District 5, Republican Incumbent Patrick White ran unopposed and was re-elected.

For Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, Jennifer Logan

ran unopposed and was elected.

Also up for approval in the Nov. 6 election were five Proposed Constitutional Amendments.

Amendment 1 passed statewide. The amendment will result in "the creation of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund to protect water quality, wildlife habitats and parks."

Amendment 2 passed statewide. This amendment will result in "the creation of a statewide business court to lower costs, enhance efficiency and promote predictable judicial outcomes."

Amendment 3 passed statewide. This amendment will result in "the encouragement of the conservation, sustainability and longevity of Georgia's working forests through tax sub-classification and grants."

Amendment 4 passed statewide. This amendment will result in "the provision of rights for victims of crime in the judicial process."

Amendment 5 passed statewide. This amendment will result in "the authorization of fair allocation of sales tax proceeds to county and city school districts."

The 2018 General Election Ballot also featured two Proposed Statewide Referenda.

The first referendum passed statewide. This referendum will provide for "a homestead exemption for residents of certain municipal corporations."

The second referendum passed statewide. This referendum will provide "a tax exemption for certain homes for the mentally disabled."

For more election coverage, including full local election results, check out nganews.com and also next week's edition of the North Georgia News.