

# North Georgia News

November 4, 2020

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

[www.nganews.com](http://www.nganews.com)

## ELECTION RESULTS

### Republicans Gooch, Gunter, Clyde win district races

#### 81.4% of local voters cast ballots in major turnout

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Editor

Voting in the 2020 General Election ended at 7 p.m. on Nov. 3 in Georgia, and unlike other parts of the country that will be counting ballots for days to come, results from all 159 Peach State counties were expected quickly.

Fortunately, results were in at press time for competitive district races in Union County, where a whopping 81.4% of active registered voters participated in Tuesday's election.

Here's the total ballot breakdown from Union: 8,270 early in-person, 3,596 mail-in ballots and 3766 on Election Day for a total of 15,632 votes.

Percentage of voter turnout in Union County was higher in 2016 at 85%, though about 3,400 more people voted in 2020 due to an increase in voter registration over the last four years.

For District 51 State Senator, Republican Incumbent Steve Gooch successfully fended off Democrat June Krise with 84% of the districtwide vote. In Union County, he won 81% to Krise's 19%.

In another early called race, Republican Stan Gunter beat Democrat Dave Cooper with 82% of the vote districtwide to earn the District 8 State Representative seat. Union Countians supported

Gunter with 83% of the local vote.

For U.S. Representative in the 117th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Republican Andrew Clyde defeated Devin Pandey with 80% of the vote to earn the seat. Here in Union, Clyde earned 83% to Pandey's 17%.

At press time, Republican Incumbent David Perdue was up about 10% statewide in the race to keep his U.S. Senate seat against Democratic challenger Jon Ossoff, though counting continued past midnight. In Union County, Perdue earned 12,410 votes to Ossoff's 2,616.

For President of the United States, local voters chose Donald Trump and his running mate Vice President Mike Pence to serve another four years, with 81% of Union Countians voting for the president over candidate Joe Biden and running mate Kamala Harris.

In 2016, 82% of Union County voters supported Trump over then-candidate Hillary Clinton. Trump went on to win Georgia in 2016, where he was ahead of Biden by more than 300,000 votes at press time.

For the special election to fill the unexpired term of Sen. Johnny Isakson, who resigned last year for health reasons, for Top Three, Union Countians

chose Republican Doug Collins with 8,092 votes, Incumbent Kelly Loeffler with 3,945 votes and Democrat Raphael Warnock with 1,904 votes.

Because a candidate must receive at least 50% of the vote plus 1 to win, and there were 20 candidates in the special election, a runoff election will be necessary, as no single candidate earned a majority of votes.

At press time, the Top Two vote getters in the statewide race were Loeffler and Warnock, meaning these two candidates are likely headed for a runoff election.

For Public Service Commissioner District 1, Republican Incumbent Jason Shaw earned 81% of the Union County vote in his race against Robert G. Bryant, a Democrat, and Elizabeth Melton, a Libertarian. Shaw was ahead statewide at press time.

For Public Service Commissioner District 4, Republican Incumbent Lauren Bubba McDonald Jr. won 81% of the vote in Union County, running against Democrat Daniel Blackman and Libertarian Nathan Wilson. McDonald Jr. was ahead statewide at press time.

In terms of the Georgia ballot initiatives, all three appeared to have enough support statewide to pass at press time, and Union Countians voted the following:

Amendment 1 carried locally with 83% of the vote. This amendment will ensure that specific fees, such as the \$1 old-tire disposal fee charged in new tire purchases, are dedicated for their intended purpose instead of being allocated elsewhere, as is current practice under state law.

Seventy-four percent of Union County voters said "YES" to Amendment 2, which will enable citizens to freely sue the state in an attempt to challenge "state or local laws that violate the Constitution of Georgia, the U.S. Constitution, or state law."

Concerning Statewide Referendum A, 69% of Union County voters said "YES" to establishing "a tax exemption for certain real property owned by charities," which will benefit some nonprofits like the local Habitat for Humanity.

Also on the ballot were uncontested elections for eight local offices, including Clerk of Superior Court, Sheriff, Tax Commissioner, Surveyor, Coroner, Sole Commissioner, District 1 Board of Education and District 3 Board of Education.

For complete district and statewide results that came in after press time, readers will want to visit the North Georgia News at [nganews.com](http://nganews.com) or via Facebook.