

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FIVE GEORGIA COUNTIES SEEKING COMPUTER SAVVY POLL WORKERS FOR 2008 ELECTIONS

Press Conference Highlights

- County election officials expect 90% voter turnout in the November election.
- Five million Georgia voters are expected to cast ballots in the general election on November 4th.
- On Super Tuesday, some precincts experienced long lines due in part to a slow computerized check-in process.
- In the hopes of speeding up the process in November, county election officials are urgently seeking poll workers who are adept at using computers.
- County election officials hope to have at least ONE computer savvy poll worker in each precinct.
- County election officials have purchased or are purchasing more check-in computers for the precincts expected to have the highest traffic in November.
- Young people, high-school students, business people and technically savvy citizens are asked to apply for poll worker positions in their counties of residence.
- Poll worker applications for the 5 counties can be found at www.ElectionProtectionGA.org.
- All county election officials encourage citizens to consider advance voting and voting by absentee ballot. It's a great way to avoid waiting in line on Election Day.
- It's important to set up reasonable expectations for voters for the November election. With high turnout, a full ballot and many new voters, people should expect voting to take up to an hour.

County Election Numbers:

Fulton County

- 486,197 registered voters
- 255 precincts
- 2411 poll workers employed
- 200 new poll workers needed in N. Fulton county.
- Will increase advance voting sites from 3 to 6 sites by November.

Cobb County

- 416,000 registered voters
- 175 precincts
- Looking to add 1 new poll worker at each precinct = 175.
- Poll workers must complete 3 hour training (workers will be paid for training)
- On Super Tuesday, Cobb County had 'poll worker sign-up sheets' in the precincts. 400 voters signed up to become poll workers. Still in search of more however.
- Cobb County has 5 advance voting locations. Will add one more in November.

DeKalb County

- 422,000 registered voters
- 193 precincts
- 6 advance voting sites. Open 7a - 7p the week before the election.
- DeKalb County has been working with schools and local colleges. Has already recruited 60 young people to be poll workers on Election Day, but need more.
- Encourage DeKalb County citizens to call 311 for more information on becoming a poll worker or if they have questions about voting or the election.

(Atlanta, Georgia) - In an unprecedented collaboration, election officials from Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties announce an all-out effort to recruit new, technology-skilled poll workers for the upcoming July 15th primary and November 4th Election Day.

On Super Tuesday in metro-Atlanta, a few precincts experienced lines, and some voters waited up to 2 hours to cast a vote. The Metro counties are taking every possible step to prevent long waits for this year's upcoming elections.

In an effort to speed up and streamline the process in the primary and general election, county election officials are looking for qualified citizens, students and business people to get involved.

“There’s always a shortage of qualified people to work at the polls at election time,” said Sam Tillman, of the DeKalb County Board of Elections. “If we can get more people involved, especially those who are adept at using computers, it will help tremendously to keep the lines moving smoothly in November.”

Poll workers must be U.S. citizens, a resident of the county you will work in, at least 16 years old and able to speak and write the English language.

In an effort to attract more young people to the process, election officials are hoping high school political science teachers and principals will encourage students to sign up for poll worker training.

Georgia election officials are also calling for employers to give workers a day off on Election Day to work at the polls.

The pay rates for entry-level poll workers vary by county but average from \$95 - \$175 for a full day of work. Training sessions are required. Applicants will be paid for attending training sessions, **if** they complete the session, pass an exam, and work on Election Day. Hours for poll workers on Election Day are 6:00 a .m. - 8:30 p.m.

If you're interested in becoming a poll worker in Cobb, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton or Gwinnett County, go to www.ElectionProtectionGA.org to find the link for the appropriate poll worker application for your county.

A press conference with more details will be held:

WHO: Election Directors from Cobb, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett Counties

WHAT: Press Conference Detailing Need for New Poll Workers for 2008 Elections

WHEN: Thursday, May 15, 2008, 10:00 AM (EST)

WHERE: State Capitol Building, North Wing

SPEAKERS:

Annie Bright, Elections Director, Clayton County

Linda Latimore, Director, DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Maxine Daniels, Assistant Director, DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Beth Kish, Cobb County Manager of Elections & Registration

Sharon Dunn, Director, Cobb County Elections & Registration

Mark Henderson, Fulton County Voter Education Coordinator

Lynn Ledford, Gwinnett County Elections Supervisor

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