

“Ten Tips for Tuesday”

ELECTION DAY! Depending on when you read this, the Primary Election is either just a few days away or it has already come and gone. As we get closer to March 5th, we continue to get questions about the election. Here are ten tips that should help answer those questions:

- 1) **What are the dates and times?** The Henry County Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 5th. All fourteen geographical voting locations in Henry County will be open from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM. (Those still in line at 7:00 PM will be allowed to vote.)
- 2) **Have there been any voting precinct location changes?** Yes, there have been two. The Douglass Cross Roads location has been moved to Sardis Missionary Baptist Church on AL-134, just west of Granberry Cross Roads. It is being listed as ‘Sardis Church South’. The voting location in Lawrenceville has been moved a few miles south to Sardis Baptist Church at 1791 County Road 133. It is being listed as ‘Sardis Church North’.
- 3) **When is the Absentee Voting Deadline?** Today (February 29th). Absentee ballots must be hand-delivered to the Circuit Clerk’s office in the Henry County Courthouse by 4:30 PM.
- 4) **Will I need to present a photo I.D. to vote?** Yes. You must have valid state issued photo identification in order to vote. The most common form is a non-expired driver’s license.
- 5) **What happens if I’m not on the voting register when I arrive to vote in my precinct?** Ask to speak with the Precinct Inspector. He or she will be glad to contact the Registrar’s office to determine if you are in the correct precinct. If you are not, they can direct you to the correct location where you can cast your ballot. There is also the option of voting a ‘Provisional Ballot’. We will never deny any qualified, registered voter the right to vote.
- 6) **What is the probability of a Henry County Primary Runoff Election on April 16th?** I could be mistaken, but my opinion is that there is a 95% chance that there will **NOT** be a runoff election in Henry County this year. There are no local or state races containing more than two candidates on either the Democratic or Republican ballot in Henry County. The only offices with a small possibility of a runoff are the presidential races on each ballot.
- 7) **Will voters be asked to choose which ballot they would like to vote?** Yes. When you sign in to vote, you must ask for either a Democratic ballot or a Republican ballot. **(NOTE: please study a sample ballot of each party before you come to vote - sample ballots can be found in this issue of *The Abbeville Herald*).** The Democratic ballot has no contested local or state races in the Henry County Primary Election. All local Democratic candidates will automatically advance to the General Election in November. There are three local contested races on the Henry County Republican ballot: (a) Probate Judge/Commission Chair; (b) County Commission – District One; (c) Board of Education – District One. The Henry County Republican ballot also contains several contested state races.
- 8) **Is there a constitutional amendment on the Primary Ballot?** Yes. Amendment One would make it much easier to pass local legislation. As it now stands, no local bill can be voted on until after state budgets are passed - **UNLESS** a ‘Budget Isolation Resolution (B.I.R.)’ is passed. For example, we hope to pass a local bill addressing large gatherings like the one that resulted in gunfire on County Road 40 several weeks ago. As it currently stands, that

legislation could not be addressed without the passage of a B.I.R. resolution, possibly preventing passage of our local bill. I **URGE** you to vote **'YES'** on Amendment One.

- 9) **How long should it take to tabulate the votes?** We've made changes to allow votes to be counted and the results made public more quickly than in past years. Sheriff Blankenship will have deputies monitoring each voting location throughout Election Day. Deputies will bring the results to the Herndon Building as soon as each polling location closes. Updates will be made available to the media and to the general public at regular intervals.
- 10) **How can I become more involved in the November 5, 2024 General Election?** Every non-municipal election in Henry County requires between 85 and 100 poll workers in addition to more than a dozen county employees. They join a team headed by the probate judge, the circuit clerk and the sheriff. We are very appreciative to each of those who are an essential part of the election process. Two years ago, we strongly supported legislation to raise the compensation of trained poll workers to \$125 for clerks and \$150 for Inspectors. For more information, please contact the Henry County Probate office (334) 585-3257.

30 Day Review:

- Probate cases for January: four wills probated, five administrations, five involuntary mental commitments, nine miscellaneous hearings, seven guardianships and nine marriage certificates recorded.
- If the first initial of your last name is 'C' or 'E', your tags renew in March.
- Feb. 9: HCEDA Strategic Planning Session – ATTA Library of STEM and History
- Feb. 15: February county commission meetings
- Feb. 23: Wiregrass Forum legislative breakfast – Ozark
- Feb. 28: Poll worker training – Headland Methodist Church
- Feb. 29: Headland Chamber Luncheon – Headland Methodist Church

Dates to Remember:

- March 1 – HCEDA board meeting – Headland
- March 5 – Election Day
- March 5 – Wallace College Foundation Board meeting
- March 14 – SEARP&DC executive committee and general board meeting – Dothan
- March 15 – Missions Dinner/Auction "Roundup for Missions" (Western theme) – Abbeville Methodist Church Family Life Center – 6:00 PM
- March 19 – Henry County Youth Leadership 'Henry County Local Industries Day'
- March 29 – 'Good Friday' holiday
- March 31 – Easter Sunday