

# Rabun County Alliance

*formerly West Rabun Property Owners ~ Est. 2001*



*“Seeking Leadership and Accountability in Government”*

**SPRING 2022 EDITION**

## **President’s Message: Spring Brings New Beginnings!**

Happy Spring, Everyone. The Rabun County Alliance Newsletter has just experienced its biggest changes since Charlie Brundage first created it about 20 years ago. I wanted to share with you these changes and our goals, as this transition is taking place. Before doing so, let me share with you the main thing that has not changed. When Charlie created this newsletter, he sought to provide information to the people of Rabun County that could help them make informed decisions on selecting their leadership and holding their leaders accountable. Those are strong words, but Charlie had a bold plan. Twelve years ago when I met Charlie, he convinced me of the importance of what he was doing and I still believe in his goal, to this day. So the goals and purpose of the newsletter are remaining constant and this is Not changing.

I moved to Rabun County with my wife about thirteen years. Our plan was to start our family here and to raise our child in a safe and family oriented community. We spent two years researching locations to live and chose Rabun County as our first choice. I have not regretted this decision a single day since we relocated here. I embraced this community socially and over time I found myself utilizing many of the county government and some city agencies that we all need. Tax assessors, election board,

Justice, Sheriff and Police, City Water, Marshals, and County Commission, parks and lakes, Fire Departments, just to name a few. Periodically, I began to see projects in the county that I didn’t fully understand or grasp their purpose and found there to be a lack of communication from a few of our elected officials when I attempted to get answers. That is what sparked my interest in the RCA Newsletter. I found information that I had could not find on my own.

I feel like the importance of being informed about our county and the decisions that our elected officials are making is more important now, than ever. The desire to live in Rabun County is at an all time high. Demographics are changing as more and more folks move into our community and we become an even greater destination for tourism. The focus of this newsletter has always been for Property Owners to have the information they need to elect officials that will work in their interest and to have current information to see that our representatives do as they promise to do. That focus has not changed and we hope to provide quality information for our subscribers. There are many changes taking place with the RCA Newsletter at this time. We are moving to an all digital format, which means we are going to

discontinue using our graphic artists, printing company, and postage company to mail individual newsletters to each member. This will save money of production and allow us to focus more on the content. Without the cost of design, print and mail, we no longer have significant expenses, and this allows us to provide the newsletter for no charge to our subscribers going forward. Our goal is to grow our subscriber list and fill this county with informed voters that want to have their elected officials fulfill their promises and be honest and open with their constituents. We are putting together a team of concerned citizens to have conversations with our various officials (School Board, Police and Sheriff, Commissioners, Zoning etc.) who can ask some hard questions, check on progress, and provide answers through our newsletter. We are

completely renovating our Rabuncountyalliance.com website. It will have current and past editions of the newsletter. But it will also be a site for easy access to important county information, links to city and county government sites, and general resources and information regarding the county. We are about to Step Up Our Game. Upcoming newsletters will include articles on SPLOST (is it working for our property owners?), Big Changes in Clayton and how they affect our property values, city projects, School Systems and more. We hope you continue to subscribe to our newsletter and perhaps tell a friend, as we try to increase our value to our readers. Thanks for being a subscriber and helping in our effort to better our Incredible County.

Ken



## **Chad K. Nichols**

**Sheriff, Rabun County**

25 Courthouse Square • Suite 301

Clayton, Georgia 30525

706-782-3612 • Fax: 706-782-7754



2021 Sheriff's Office Annual Report As always, the Rabun County Sheriff's Office is proud to provide an annual report of our services and activities to the community. The Patrol Division, which is our most visible division, responded to a total of 8,684 calls dispatched through Rabun County 911. Sheriff's deputies completed 1,131 incident reports and 322 accident reports. The Georgia State Patrol investigated 50 accidents in Rabun County. Deputies issued 973 citations paired with 1,541 warnings. Deputies provided an array of services that include; 65 vehicle unlocks, 7,998 local business checks, escorted 119 funerals or other traffic details. Likewise, the deputies responded to 421 business/residential alarms county-wide. To protect and serve the community effectively and efficiently, our deputies proactively prevent crime by making themselves accessible, available and by patrolling 267,690 miles during 2021. Our school resource deputies completed 14 incident reports and 10 accident reports. School Resource Deputies also taught 130 classes on various safety topics to the students. These deputies participated in 234 security details, special events, administrative meetings, and conferences. They did all of these duties along with maintaining security of the entire school campus while school was in session or during the occurrence of extracurricular activities. Go Cats! As a result of the vigilant drug and dealer interdiction, deputies made 111 drug arrests during 2021. The K-9 Unit was deployed 66 times to assist in searching

for drugs and missing/wanted people. The Criminal Investigations' Division, opened 201 cases and reported successfully closing 145 cases during 2021. The Rabun County Detention Center processed a total of 832 people. A daily average population of 86 inmates were housed in the detention center. Our detention officers transported 376 inmates to court and 38 others to various mental health facilities across the state or even surrounding states when necessary. I, along with our Command Staff and our employees are extremely proud of the continued success and efforts of our goals towards reducing incarceration, increasing education and supporting rehabilitation. We have and will continue to offer powerful courses to inmates that are designed to equip them with skills and knowledge to be able to make better life choices upon their release. The Courthouse Security Division has maintained the security of the courthouse during business and after hours during 2021. These deputies along with the other offices in the courthouse have done a fantastic job in maintaining the safety of staff and citizens while keeping our courthouse open daily. The deputies provided security for 237 sessions of court and 25 Commissioners and/or Planning and Zoning meetings. The courthouse welcomed 31,084 visitors during 2021. In addition, 886 civil papers were served. The Training Division not only conducted in-house trainings, but also coordinated trainings with other agencies as well. Our deputies and detention staff received a total of 5,297 training hours during 2021. In keeping aligned with our mission statement of "empowering our members and the community to work in partnership to improve the quality of life within Rabun County," we conducted numerous events for the public. Our Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy was a success and is used to educate the public on the Office of the Sheriff here in Rabun County. Participants learn the history of the office and learn about each division within the Sheriff's Office. Our other popular educational and safety event, the citizens' firearms courses, were held several times throughout the year. Be on the lookout for information on attending both of these events in 2022. Developing partnerships both nationally and locally-led to our second Faith and Blue Weekend activities. The mission of this nationwide project is to create and build stronger bonds between law enforcement, the community, and the faith-based programs in communities. More than 100 families received food during this particular initiative. Another opportunity that the Sheriff's Office participated in was Operation Watchful Eye VI. This Georgia Sheriff's Association initiative focused on every Sheriff in the state checking in on all the registered sex offenders in their counties simultaneously. Our deputies worked tirelessly to verify the status of the 33 sex offenders living and/or working in Rabun County. We were also thrilled to partner with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to host the Hands Across the Border Safety Check Event in Dillard. This event partners agencies from Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee to do high visibility enforcement events to promote highway safety initiatives. Sheriff Nichols also traveled to Macon to do the invocation for the GOHS Governor's Award Banquet. Our office also received a high visibility enforcement grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to purchase needed radars, lidars, and a speed display trailer. This grant also pays for enforcement hours for deputies to utilize the equipment. The Rabun County Detention Center Captain Beth Darnell and her staff organized the second annual Christmas toy drive for the children of the facility's inmates. We partnered with Tabernacle Baptist Church again to carry out this program. The entire agency could get into the spirit of Christmas and provide some holiday cheer to children. The Rabun County Sheriff's Office submitted a grant proposal to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) for V.A.W.A funding to develop and implement a Patrol Division DV Victim Unit. This is a three-year award and was just renewed for the second year. The Sheriff's Office also received American Recovery Funds from the CJCC that allowed us to expand our victims' services to include all victims, not just domestic violence victims. The CJCC and Governor Kemp also made grant monies available for law enforcement agencies to utilize in the area of Use of

Force. This grant awarded our office with approximately \$205,000 to purchase a scenario-based use of force simulator and upgrade our range with turning targets to do scenariobased training with live ammunition. This will enhance our deputy's decision-making in those tense and rapidly evolving use of force situations. The Sheriff's Office received a grant from the AAA Auto Club for safety equipment for the deputies. Also, through a partnership with our local health department renewed a grant that provides car seats to our community. In total, the Rabun County Sheriff's Office has received over \$400,000 for various positions, initiatives, and equipment. This past summer, we had our Second Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament benefitting the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes (GSYH) at the Waterfall Club. Thanks to our participants, we raised \$20,000 for the GSYH We had a year filled with so many awards and positives. However, we also, unfortunately, had a loss that will never be replaced on September 1, 2021, Cpl. Courtney Zajdowicz was struck by a suspected drunk driver while on her way to work at the Rabun County Detention Center. Please keep her family, work family, and friends in your thoughts and prayers while we are all still adjusting to life without Kourtney. RIP Courtney Zajodowicz #537 Visit our website at rabunsheriff.org or download our free smartphone app from your app store.

### **Rabun County Voting Information:**



Time Line for the **May 24th** General Primary Election

**March 7, 2022** - First day to apply for an absentee ballot

**April 5, 2022** - UOCAVA only

**April 25, 2022** - Last day to register and 1st day to mail out Absentee Ballots

**May 2, 2022** - Early voting begins

**May 7, 2022 & May 14, 2022** - Saturday Voting

**May 13, 2022** - Last day to submit absentee ballot application

**May 20, 2022** - Last day of early voting

**May 24, 2022** - General Primary Election



**Coming Editions:**

Election Information and Sample Ballots

City Projects and Plans: Clayton, Dillard, Mountain City, Rabun Gap, Tallulah Falls

County Projects Updates

SPLOST

New School Agriculture Center

***AND HOW THESE AFFECT OUR PROPERTY VALUES!***

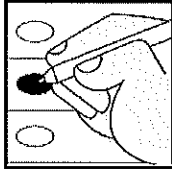


# OFFICIAL ABSENTEE / PROVISIONAL / EMERGENCY BALLOT

Rabun County, Georgia

Precinct: 001-Rabun County, 002-Rabun County, 003-Rabun County, 004-Rabun County, 005-Rabun County, 006-Rabun County, 007-Rabun County

**Republican** General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election - May 24, 2022



### To Vote:

1. Use Black or Blue Ink to mark the ballot.
2. Completely fill in the empty oval to the left of the candidate name or choice in all races you wish to vote.
3. If voting for a Write-In candidate, completely fill in the oval to the left of the Write-In selection, then write the name of the Write-In candidate in the space provided.

### Warning

- Do NOT use red ink or felt tip pen to mark ballot.
- Do NOT circle, underline or mark through choices.
- Do NOT use check marks or X to mark ballot.
- Do NOT mark more choices per race than allowed.
- Do NOT sign, cut, tear or damage the ballot.

### If you make a mistake or change your mind on a selection:

- A. Do not attempt to mark through the selection or attempt to erase. Write "Spoiled" across **the ballot AND across the return envelope.**
- B. Mail or return the spoiled ballot and envelope to your county board of registrars; a new official absentee ballot will be mailed to you.

**If you decide to vote in-person:** Surrender the ballot to the poll manager at an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

*"I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law." [O.C.G.A. 21-2-284(e), 21-2-285(h) and 21-2-383(a)]*

### For United States Senate (Vote for One)

- Gary W. Black
- Josh Clark
- Kelvin King
- Jonathan "Jon" McColumn
- Latham Saddler
- Herschel Junior Walker

### For Governor (Vote for One)

- Catherine Davis
- Brian Kemp  
(Incumbent)
- David A. Perdue
- Kandiss Taylor
- Tom Williams

### For Secretary of State (Vote for One)

- David C. Belle Isle
- Jody Hice
- T.J. Hudson
- Brad Raffensperger  
(Incumbent)

### For Attorney General (Vote for One)

- Chris Carr  
(Incumbent)
- John Gordon

### For Commissioner of Agriculture (Vote for One)

- Tyler Harper

### For Commissioner of Insurance (Vote for One)

- Ben Cowart

### For Public Service Commissioner District 2

(To Succeed Tim Echols)  
(Vote for One)

- Tim Echols  
(Incumbent)

### For Public Service Commissioner District 3

(To Fill the Unexpired Term of Chuck  
Eaton, Resigned)  
(Vote for One)

- Fitz Johnson  
(Incumbent)

### For United States House of Representatives - District 9 (Vote for One)

- Michael Boggus
- Andrew Clyde  
(Incumbent)
- J. Gregory Howard
- John London
- Ben Souther

<p><b>For County Commission Post 5</b> (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Scott Crane</b> (Incumbent)</p>	<p align="center"><b>- 7 -</b></p> <p>Absentee drop boxes are vulnerable to illegal ballot trafficking. Should absentee ballot drop boxes be eliminated?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>No</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>For Justice</b> <b>Supreme Court of Georgia</b> (To Succeed Carla W. McMillian) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Carla McMillian</b> (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>For Board of Education Post 1</b> (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Curtis Haban</b> (Incumbent)</p>	<p align="center"><b>- 8 -</b></p> <p>Crime has dramatically increased throughout the country including in our capital city of Atlanta. Should the citizens of residential areas like the Buckhead community of Atlanta be allowed to vote to create their own city governments and police departments?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>No</b></p>	<p>Write-in</p> <p align="center"><b>For Judge</b> <b>Court of Appeals of Georgia</b> (To Succeed Anne Elizabeth Barnes) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Anne Elizabeth Barnes</b> (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>For Board of Education Post 3</b> (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Mark Beck</b> (Incumbent)</p>	<p align="center"><b>- 9 -</b></p> <p>Do you agree with Democrat Stacey Abrams that the historical memorial carving on Stone Mountain should be sandblasted away?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>No</b></p>	<p>Write-in</p> <p align="center"><b>For Judge</b> <b>Court of Appeals of Georgia</b> (To Succeed Christopher McFadden) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Chris McFadden</b> (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p align="center"><b>- 1 -</b></p> <p>The Biden administration has stopped building the border wall and illegal border crossings have dramatically increased. Should securing our border be a national priority?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>No</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>- 10 -</b></p> <p>When Democrat Stacey Abrams criticizes careers in Hospitality and Agriculture, do you think that negatively impacts Rabun County if she becomes Governor?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>No</b></p>	<p>Write-in</p> <p align="center"><b>For Judge</b> <b>Court of Appeals of Georgia</b> (To Succeed Trea Pipkin) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Trea Pipkin</b> (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p align="center"><b>- 2 -</b></p> <p>Education is the largest line item in the state budget. Should education dollars follow the student to the school that best fits their need, whether it is public, private, magnet, charter, virtual or homeschool?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>No</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>- 11 -</b></p> <p>Should Rabun County have a binding referendum to decide whether to have a senior homestead property tax exemption for school taxes?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>No</b></p>	<p>Write-in</p> <p align="center"><b>For Judge - Superior Court</b> <b>Mountain Judicial Circuit</b> (To Succeed Russel W. Smith) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Russell W. Smith</b> (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p align="center"><b>- 3 -</b></p> <p>Florida has passed a law to stop social media platforms from influencing political campaigns by censoring candidates. Should Georgia pass such a law to protect free speech in political campaigns?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>No</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>- 12 -</b></p> <p>Should the Georgia legislators adopt proposals to make all Georgia School Board and County</p>	<p>Write-in</p>

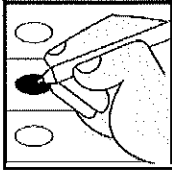


# OFFICIAL ABSENTEE / PROVISIONAL / EMERGENCY BALLOT

Rabun County, Georgia

Precinct: 001-Rabun County, 002-Rabun County, 003-Rabun County, 004-Rabun County, 005-Rabun County, 006-Rabun County, 007-Rabun County

Democratic General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election - May 24, 2022



### To Vote:

1. Use Black or Blue Ink to mark the ballot.
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*"I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law." (O.C.G.A. 21-2-284(e), 21-2-285(h) and 21-2-383(a))*

### For United States Senate (Vote for One)

- Tamara Johnson-Shealey
- Raphael Warnock  
(Incumbent)

### For Governor (Vote for One)

- Stacey Abrams

### For Lieutenant Governor (Vote for One)

- Erick E. Allen
- Charlie Bailey
- Tyrone Brooks, Jr.
- Tony Brown
- Kwanza Hall
- Jason T. Hayes
- Derrick L. Jackson

### For Secretary of State (Vote for One)

- Dee Dawkins-Haigler
- John Eaves
- Floyd Griffin
- Bee Nguyen
- Michael Owens

### For Attorney General (Vote for One)

- Jennifer "Jen" Jordan
- Christian Wise Smith

### For Commissioner of Agriculture (Vote for One)

- Winfred Dukes
- Nakita Hemingway
- Fred Swann

### For Commissioner of Labor (Vote for One)

- William "Will" Boddie, Jr.
- Thomas Dean
- Nicole Horn
- Lester G. Jackson III
- Nadia Surrency

### For Public Service Commissioner District 2 (To Succeed Tim Echols) (Vote for One)

- Patty Durand
- Russell Edwards

### For Public Service Commissioner District 3 (To Fill the Unexpired Term of Chuck Eaton, Resigned) (Vote for One)



- 2 -

Should all Georgians have access to paid parental leave following the birth or adoption of a child?

- Yes
- No

- 3 -

Should every three- and four-year-old in Georgia be given the opportunity to attend a high-quality preschool free of charge?

- Yes
- No

- 4 -

Should Georgia voters have the right to gather signed petitions to directly place questions on the ballot, whether to change the law or poll the public?

- Yes
- No

- 5 -

Should families earning less than \$150,000 per year receive an expanded tax credit to help cover the costs of raising children?

- Yes
- No

- 6 -

Should the State of Georgia expand access to health care for over half a million Georgians by utilizing federal funds to expand Medicaid?

- Yes
- No

- 7 -

Should the State of Georgia expand voter access by increasing early voting opportunities, allow same-day voter registration, removing obstacles to voting by mail, and installing secure ballot drop boxes, accessible at all times, through Election Day?

**NONPARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION**

**For Justice  
Supreme Court of Georgia  
(To Succeed Verda M. Colvin)  
(Vote for One)**

- Veronica Brinson
- Verda M. Colvin  
(Incumbent)
- 

Write-in

**For Justice  
Supreme Court of Georgia  
(To Succeed Shawn LaGrua)  
(Vote for One)**

- Shawn Ellen LaGrua  
(Incumbent)
- 

Write-in

**For Justice  
Supreme Court of Georgia  
(To Succeed Carla W. McMillian)  
(Vote for One)**

- Carla McMillian  
(Incumbent)
- 

Write-in

**For Judge  
Court of Appeals of Georgia  
(To Succeed Anne Elizabeth Barnes)  
(Vote for One)**

- Anne Elizabeth Barnes  
(Incumbent)
- 

Write-in

**For Judge  
Court of Appeals of Georgia  
(To Succeed Christopher McFadden)  
(Vote for One)**

- Chris McFadden  
(Incumbent)
- 

Write-in