

Yes, your vote does make a difference

Every four years or so, we find ourselves right smack in the middle of another long, hot summer in South Mississippi. We all know every summer is hot, but county election years tend to turn up the heat for a few months.

Along with that heat comes political signs by the dozens, dotting our roadways and intersections, even a few in the yards of our families and supporters. Our social media is flooded with invitations to follow candidate pages, and our mailboxes are filled with campaign flyers from the well-funded state candidates. It's an exciting time for some, anxious days for others.

The 2019 political season, as tame as it has been thus far, still has the potential to become interesting in the next few weeks. Our county has historically had a one-party electoral system, meaning all our local leaders ran on

the same ticket (Democrat) and the winners were chosen in the August primary. However, the past few election cycles have resulted in local officials being elected from both the Democratic and Republican parties. This year finds every single contested local race with a Democratic, Republican and/or Independent candidate, meaning no single, contested race will be decided in the August primary. The winners of the Democratic and Republican primaries will be placed on the General Election ballot in November, along with Independent and third-party candidates.

While all of that may sound Greek to you, it makes for interesting dialogue when deciding which ballot, Democratic or Republican, to vote in August. Discussions over coffee at the cafe or family supper table can get heated when we bring up political

parties and candidates.

Across our county, there are 16 different ballots available on Election Day (8 Democratic and 8 Republican). The ballot you vote on Election Day is determined by your physical address, and it may not be the same ballot your neighbor across the street votes. Depending on the party chosen, some precincts will only find contested state races on their ballots as all the local races are uncontested in the primary. Other precincts will find a notable slate of local candidates. This will all depend on the party ballot you choose to vote on August 6. The easiest way to determine what party ballot you want to choose is to use the polling place locator provided by the Secretary of State at www.sos.ms.gov/pollingplace or study the ballots printed in this special edition.

Choosing which party ballot

to vote can be a bit daunting, as well. For instance, you may have a candidate that you wish to vote for in a Justice Court Judge race on the democratic ballot, and another candidate in a legislative race that is on the republican ballot.

Since we have closed primaries in Mississippi, you are not able to cross party lines in a primary election, and you must choose to vote for one or the other. You may even find that your candidate is unopposed in the primary, meaning that candidate will automatically be nominated and will be placed on the November General ballot. My recommendation is that you study your ballot for your specific precinct, choose the one person on that ballot you are most interested in seeing elected, and choose the party ballot on which that candidate

Guest Column

By **Cecelia Bounds**

Greene County Circuit Clerk



with any Independent and third-party candidates, are all listed on the same ballot, a person can choose whatever candidate they want, regardless of party label.

No matter what party ballot you choose on August 6, the important thing is that you participate. I speak for all candidates when I encourage you to get to the polls on Election Day, not just this year, but every chance you get. Democracy only works for us when we do our part. Leaders are chosen by the majority of the folks who show up on election day. So if you fail to vote, you've allowed another person to choose your leaders.

Yes, the weather is hot, but not as hot as politics. This summer just happens to be when the local candidates sweat it out.

is listed. Yes, depending on your specific ballot, you will likely be limited in the number of other county or state offices you may wish to vote, but at least you know you have voted for that one person you chose.

Choosing political parties in a primary, otherwise called "closed primaries", is not anything new for Mississippi. We've always had to choose a party in a primary election and follow that same primary to any run-off three weeks later. In November, when both the Democratic and Republican candidates, along

choose on August 6, the important thing is that you participate. I speak for all candidates when I encourage you to get to the polls on Election Day, not just this year, but every chance you get. Democracy only works for us when we do our part. Leaders are chosen by the majority of the folks who show up on election day. So if you fail to vote, you've allowed another person to choose your leaders. Yes, the weather is hot, but not as hot as politics. This summer just happens to be when the local candidates sweat it out.

Basic responsibilities and duties of elected county government officials

To follow is a listing of the duties for various elected officials at the county government level. It is not intended to be a complete list of every duty and responsibility of the elected official while in office, but should provide a basic idea of their primary roles and responsibilities. Each of the offices outlined here are elected to 4-year terms and may run for re-election without term limits.

Sheriff: The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of the county. The Sheriff is the chief officer of the Chancery and Circuit Courts and maintains the county law library. The Sheriff is in charge of the county courthouse, jail and protection of prisoners.

Supervisor: Supervisors shall have the power to adopt, modify, alter or repeal orders, resolutions or ordinances in their respective county and district not inconsistent with law. In general, Supervisors have jurisdiction over roads, ferries, bridges, tax levies, courthouses, jails, county-owned real property, appropriation of funds, contractual powers of the county, as well as other powers expressly-authorized by law.

Chancery Clerk: The Chancery Clerk is the clerk of the Board of Supervisors and of the Chancery Court. The Clerk is responsible for maintaining the records of both the Board and the Court.

Circuit Clerk: The Clerk is the chief officer of the Circuit Court and chief elections officer of the county. The Clerk maintains the voter rolls and assists the Election Commissioners in purging the voter rolls and assists elections officials in conducting primary and general elections.

County Attorney: The County Prosecuting Attorney represents the state in all investigations for felony in Justice Court and County Court and in all criminal cases appealed to the Circuit Court from County Court. The county prosecutor may assist the district attorney, present matters to the grand jury and in some youth court proceedings.

Tax Assessor/Collector: The Tax Assessor/Collector may serve in both capacities in all counties. The Assessor's role is to maintain the personal, real and ad valorem tax rolls of the county. The Collector is responsible for keeping the records of tax payments and depositing the money in the county treasury.

Justice Court Judge: Justice Court Judges shall have civil and criminal jurisdiction of all actions where the principal of the debt, amount of the demand or the value of the property sought to be recovered shall not exceed \$2,500.

Constable: County Constables shall keep and preserve the peace within his county by aiding and

assisting in executing the criminal laws of the state for the Justice Courts of his district. Constables shall obey all lawful orders and execute all judgments for Justice Courts within this district.

Coroner: The Coroner is the chief county medical examiner and/or county medical examiner investigator. This official is responsible for issuing declarations of death and performing or reporting results of autopsies in cases requiring such action.

Election Commissioners: An Election Commissioner's general duties include conducting elections, certifying election results and purging voter rolls.

VOTE FOR & HELP ELECT EFIRD EUBANKS DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR

HERE FOR THE PEOPLE OF DISTRICT 3 AND GREENE COUNTY



I would like to thank the voters that I have had the privilege of visiting with thus far for their hospitality.

I look forward to visiting with more of you in the weeks ahead. My formal announcement will come at a later date.

Please vote and help elect me, **EFIRD EUBANKS,** your new **DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR.**