**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**122 W. Water Street P.O. Box 7428**

**Bainbridge, GA 39818**

**(229) 243-2087 Office (229) 248-3743 Fax**

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**For Immediate Release Contact: Joyce Coddington, Elections Supervisor**

 **Linda Walton, Assistant Elections Supervisor**

 **(229) 243-2087**

**Municipal qualifying begins Aug. 21, 2023**

Qualifying will begin on Monday, Aug. 21, at 8:30 a.m. at the Decatur County Board of Elections and Voter Registration’s office located at 122 W. Water St., which is in the Courthouse Annex across the street from the Firehouse Gallery. It will end on Friday, Aug. 25, at 4:30 p.m.

Bainbridge, Climax, Attapulgus, and the Town of Brinson are scheduled to hold municipal elections on Nov. 7. Persons seeking to run for office must qualify and pay the qualifying fee to be on the ballot.

Among some of the qualifications for running for office in those municipalities are you must be a registered voter and you must be a resident of the city or within the district in which you intend to run.

Candidates must also pay the qualifying fee outlined by each municipality, or a candidate may file a pauper’s affidavit in lieu of paying the qualifying fee. No cash will be accepted for the qualifying fees; please pay by check or money order.

The following are the seats and qualifying fees for each municipality in Decatur County:

**Bainbridge** – There are four councilman seats up for election this year: Seat 3, District B, which is the late Councilmember Phil Long’s seat; Seat 4, District A, currently held by Kregg Close; Seat 5, District B, currently held by Roslyn Palmer, and Seat 6, District B, currently held by Don Whaley. The qualifying fee for a council member seat is $90.

**Brinson** – Mayor and two Council seats are up for election this year. The mayor seat is currently held by James Earp and the council seats are currently held by Hubert “Monty” Bullock and Joe Belvin. The qualifying fee for Mayor is $72.00 and council seat fees are $43.20.

**Climax** – Two council seat is up for election this year. The council seat is currently held by Vanessa Martin and Matthew Combs. The qualifying fee for the Council seats is $20.

**Attapulgus** – The mayor and four City Councilpersons are up for election. The mayor seat is currently held by Johnny Medley and the four council members up for re-election are Cheryl Godwin, John D “Jack” Hale II, Lamar Maxwell, and Steve Vines Jr. The qualifying fee for Mayor is $35.00 and the fee for a city council seat is $18.00.

The voter registration deadline for the Nov. 7 election is Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Advance voting will be from Monday, Oct. 16, through Friday, Nov. 3, at the Courthouse Annex at 122 W. Water St from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 21st, and 28th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Precincts are scheduled to be open on Election Day, Nov. 7, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To have a ballot mailed to you, you must first request an absentee ballot application. To request an absentee ballot application here are the following options: contact the Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration office at 229-243-2087 or stop by 122 W Water St Bainbridge, online applications are available on the Decatur County’s webpage at [www.decaturcountyga.gov](http://www.decaturcountyga.gov) and follow the Elections office page under “Making an application for by mail absentee ballot”, and at the Georgia Secretary of State’s My Voter Page at mvp.sos.ga.gov.

Absentee ballot applications will be accepted beginning August 21, 2023.

For more information, please call the Board of Elections and Voter Registration at (229) 243-2087.

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