

# City of Elberton

## MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION



### PUBLIC NOTICE CALL FOR ELECTION & NOTICE OF QUALIFYING

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Notice is hereby given that on November 8, 2011, a general municipal election will be held in the City of Elberton, Georgia, at which time there will be submitted to the qualified voters of said City for their determination the successors for the expired terms of Council Member, Ward 2, and Council Member, Ward 3.

Those interested in qualifying for said offices should be advised that the respective qualification period shall run from Monday, August 29, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. through Friday, September 2, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall, located at 203 Elbert Street. Individuals intending to qualify shall remit the sum of \$266.64 for Council Member. All forms required to be filed by a candidate will be provided at that time.

A run-off election, if necessary, shall be held on December 6, 2011.

The last day to register to vote in this election is October 11, 2011. To find out if you are registered to vote, please go to <http://sos.georgia.gov/cgi-bin/Locator.asp>

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### 2011 Election Important Dates

August 29, 2011 8:30 A.M.	Earliest day for a candidate for municipal office to file a Notice of Candidacy to have his/her name placed on the Municipal General Election Ballot. O.C.G.A. §21-2-132(d)(3)
September 2, 2011 4:30 P.M.	Last day for a candidate for municipal office to file a Notice of Candidacy to have his/her name placed on the Municipal General Election Ballot. O.C.G.A. §21-2-132(d)(3)
September 9, 2011	Last day to file and publish a notice of intention to be a write-in candidate in the November Municipal General Election O.C.G.A. §21-2-133 (a)
September 14, 2011	Last day to file affidavit stating the notice of intention to be a write-in candidate has been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. §21-2-133 (b)
October 11, 2011	Last day a person may register and be eligible to vote in the Municipal General Election and Runoff. O.C.G.A. §21-2-224(a)

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### **Voting Information:**

All City of Elberton's general municipal elections are held every two years in odd numbered years at City Hall, 203 Elbert Street, Elberton, Georgia 30635. City Hall is located next to the Elberton Police Department and in front of the Elberton Fire Department.

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### **Absentee / Advance Voting:**

The Application for Official Absentee/Advance Ballot is a FILLABLE form available in Adobe Acrobat PDF format.

Click [http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/elections/voter\\_information/absentee\\_ballot\\_app.pdf](http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/elections/voter_information/absentee_ballot_app.pdf) to download the form. The absentee ballot application was recently updated and is now two pages - please make certain both pages are printed to ensure timely processing.

Mail, fax, or present the form in person to the City Clerk's Office at PO Box 70, 203 Elbert Street, Elberton, Georgia 30635, fax: 706-213-3125.

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### **About our Government:**

The City of Elberton government consists of a Mayor and five Council Members. The term of office is four years. The elections are staggered every two years.

In a City of Elberton Municipal Election a candidate must obtain the majority of votes to win. You must declare which ward you are running for when you qualify as a candidate.

Council Members from Wards 2 and 3 terms end in 2011. The Mayor and Council Members from Wards 1, 4 and 5 terms end in 2013.

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### **Ethics in Government Act:**

The Ethics in Government Act requires candidates and officers to keep clear records of all contributions in cash or by other sources as well as all distributions or expenditures. Anonymous donations are prohibited. Funds received from unknown sources must be turned in to the State. Records are to be kept for three (3) years and be them available for inspection upon request. Please refer to the Ethics in Government Act for additional information or questions pertaining to the "Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report" and Financial Disclosure Statements (O.C.G.A. Title 21) All forms are to be filed with the State of Georgia. Information on filing can be found at [http://www.sos.ga.gov/Elections/candidate\\_information.htm](http://www.sos.ga.gov/Elections/candidate_information.htm)

## **Campaign Contributions**

The Ethics In Government Act As It Applies To Candidates and Public Officers states anyone who is not already a public officer and who plans to run for public office must file a Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions card BEFORE accepting such contributions. No such declaration is required of persons who are already public officers and who plan to run for public office again.

**Candidate for Public Office:** A Financial Disclosure Statement covering the period of the preceding calendar year shall be filed no later than the fifteenth day following the date of qualifying as a candidate. Candidates for state wide office file not later than seven days after qualifying for office. Only one Financial Disclosure Statement is required per calendar year.

Please refer to the Ethics in Government Act for additional information or questions pertaining to the "Financial Disclosure Statements". (O.C.G.A. Title 21)

## **Campaigning**

The O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-414 states no person shall solicit votes in any manner or by any means or method, nor shall any person distribute any campaign literature, newspaper, booklet, pamphlet, card, sign, or any other written or printed matter of any kind, nor shall any person conduct any exit poll or public opinion poll with voters on any ... election date: The provisions prohibit such conduct:

1. Within 150 feet of the outer edge of any building within which a polling place is established.
2. Within any polling place; and
3. Within 25 feet of any voter standing in line at such polling place.

## **Penalty**

The Ethics in Government Act provides that any person who knowingly fails to comply with, or who knowingly violates the provisions of the ACT shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

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### **To Qualify for Candidacy:**

To be eligible for office you must be 18 years old, a citizen of the United States of America and a resident of Elberton in the ward in which you are qualifying for.

You must file a Notice of Candidacy and Affidavit at the City Clerk's office. The qualifying fee for Council Members \$266.64. All forms required to be filed by a candidate will be available in the City Clerk's office August 28, 2011 through September 2, 2011.

If you are planning to run for office and accept campaign funds, please see the City Clerk as there are forms to fill out before campaign funds are accepted. There are also Campaign Disclosure reports to fill out. These reports are required by the Ethics in Government Act of the State of Georgia. The State Ethics Commission can be reached at 770-920-4385 or the website is [www.ethics.state.ga.us](http://www.ethics.state.ga.us).

Candidates elected to office in the November election take office in the month of January of the following year. They will be sworn in at the first Council meeting of the year.

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#### **Registering to Vote:**

You may register to vote at City Hall, the Elbert County Board of Registrar's office or to through the Secretary of State's website at <http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/VRinfo.htm> . The same form is also used to change your address or name. The deadline to register to vote in the November Municipal General Election is October 11, 2011.

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#### **Contact Information:**

Cindy Churney, City Clerk. You may contact the clerk by email [cchurney@cityofelberton.net](mailto:cchurney@cityofelberton.net), or by calling 706-213-3100.

Candidates may go to the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.ga.gov/elections/candidates.htm> for more information.

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#### **See Democracy in Action, Become a Poll Worker:**

You can become an integral part of assisting the citizens of Elberton as well as providing a service to your community by becoming a poll worker. As a poll worker you would help fulfill the important process by which we Americans select our leaders and have a voice in government.

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#### **Poll Worker Qualifications:**

You must be a U.S. Citizen, a resident of Elbert County, 16 years of age or over, able to read, write and speak the English language, and have no prior felony convictions for at least 10 years. A poll officer is not eligible to run for public office and cannot hold a public office, other than a political party office, while serving as a poll worker. A parent, spouse, child, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law of a candidate cannot serve as a poll worker in any precinct where that candidate is listed on the ballot. All poll workers will be compensated for their services. All poll workers are required to attend training sessions. After successful completion, a certificate stating that you are qualified to work in an upcoming primary or election will be issued. To become a poll worker, please call Cindy Churney for more information.

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#### **More Information:**

Elections are monitored by the Secretary of State's Office. They have a very informative website at <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/elections/>.