

● AUGUST - 2008

▶ WCTA ANALYSIS OF THE
WALTON COUNTY 2007-
2008 BUDGET 2

▶ COMMUNITY TAX REFORM
SURVEY ANALYSIS .. 4-5

▶ FINAL MILLAGE RATES
FOR EACH TAXING
AUTHORITY 6

The Tax Beacon

focus on

Election 2008

WWW.WALTONTAXPAYERS.ORG

THE WALTON COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION, INC
'THE EYES AND EARS FOR WALTON COUNTY TAXPAYERS'

ELECTION 2008

EARLY VOTING BEGINS AUGUST 11TH

PRIMARY ELECTION - AUGUST 26TH

"THE PUBLIC CANNOT BE TOO CURIOUS CONCERNING THE CHARACTERS
OF PUBLIC MEN".
SAMUEL ADAMS

THIS IS A SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER. THESE SAMPLE
BALLOTS WILL LET YOU GET A HEAD START ON CHOOSING YOUR CAN-
DIDATE. THERE ARE FOUR DIFFERENT BALLOTS ENCLOSED. MAKE CER-
TAIN YOU SELECT THE BALLOT THAT APPLIES TO YOU.

**REPUBLICAN VOTERS IN EVERY PRECINCT SOUTH
OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY**

**REPUBLICAN VOTERS IN ALL PRECINCTS NORTH
OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY**

DEMOCRAT VOTERS IN ALL PRECINCTS COUNTY-WIDE

NONPARTISAN VOTERS IN ALL PRECINCTS COUNTY-WIDE

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

BONNIE MCQUISTON

ALBERT EINSTEIN ONCE OBSERVED THAT "IN THE MIDDLE OF DIFFICULTY LIES OPPORTUNITY". WALTON COUNTY IS IN THE MIDDLE OF A SIGNIFICANT DOWNTURN IN OUR LOCAL ECONOMY. WITH THE REAL ESTATE BUBBLE BURST AND NEW DEVELOPMENT MERELY CREEPING ALONG, THE COUNTY'S NUMBER ONE ECONOMIC ENGINE HAS COME TO A STANDSTILL.

THE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION HAS SEIZED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE COUNTY OFFICIALS WITH A CALL FOR LEADERSHIP. A CALL FOR LEADERSHIP TO ENSURE THE LONG TERM FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS OF WALTON COUNTY WAS SENT TO COUNTY OFFICIALS ASKING THEM TO REDUCE SPENDING IN THEIR 2008/2009 BUDGETS TO REFLECT THE ECONOMY. OLD MODELS NEED TO CHANGE. RECURRING COSTS CAN BE REDUCED TO CUT BUDGETS PERMANENTLY. WE NEED NEW SOLUTIONS, INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY TO BREAK THE MOLD IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WE FOCUSED ON CUTTING PROPERTY TAXES. THE REAL ESTATE BOOM THROUGH 2005 GENERATED TAX REVENUES EQUIVALENT TO WINNING THE LOTTERY. COUNTY GOVERNMENT SPENDING GREW IN SYNC WITH REVENUES. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO "CATCH UP" WITH

NEW BUILDINGS INCLUDING SCHOOLS, INCREASED PERSONNEL, MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE. LARGE RESERVES WERE AMASSED FOR COUNTY PROJECTS, SCHOOLS, EMERGENCIES AND UNDEFINED NEEDS.

WITH BUDGET SHORTFALLS THIS YEAR, OUR FOCUS IS ON SPENDING, LIMITING, REDUCING AND ELIMINATING EXPENSES WHEREVER POSSIBLE. THERE ARE RECORD NUMBERS OF FORECLOSURES IN OUR COUNTY AND PEOPLE ARE STRUGGLING TO PAY FOR HOUSING, FOOD AND GASOLINE. COUNTY LEADERS MUST STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND REFLECT THESE DIFFICULT



ECONOMIC TIMES WITH A HEFTY DOSE OF FISCAL DISCIPLINE IN THEIR 2008/2009 BUDGETS.

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS VOTERS IN A "GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE" TO ELECT THE BEST QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO RUN OUR GOVERNMENT. WE PLACE IN THEIR HANDS THE POWER TO SPEND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON OUR BEHALF. WE MUST CHOOSE PEOPLE WHO WILL GIVE US THE BEST RETURN ON OUR MONEY. ARE WE GETTING THE VALUE IN SERVICES EQUIVALENT TO THE REVENUE GOVERNMENT RECEIVES?

THE PRIMARY ELECTION IS AUGUST 26TH. CAMPAIGNS ARE IN FULL SWING WITH CANDIDATES VYING IN HEATED RACES FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICTS 1 AND 5, FOR SHERIFF, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND TWO SCHOOL BOARD SEATS, DISTRICTS 1 AND 4. IT IS A MARVEL OF OUR REPUBLIC, OUR REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT, WHEN SO MANY CITIZENS WANT TO SERVE IN PUBLIC OFFICE.

CANDIDATE FORUMS ARE ABUNDANT SO THAT VOTERS IN WALTON COUNTY CAN MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS. CHOOSING A CANDIDATE REQUIRES EXCEPTIONAL CARE. EDUCATE YOURSELF ON THE CANDIDATES AND VOTE WISELY.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FREEDOMS IN OUR COUNTRY IS THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

VOTE!

BONNIE MCQUISTON
WCTA PRESIDENT



SAMPLE BALLOT

**OFFICIAL PRIMARY BALLOT
REPUBLICAN PARTY
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
AUGUST 26, 2008**

SAMPLE BALLOT

- **INSTRUCTIONS: TO VOTE, COMPLETELY FILL IN THE OVAL NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE.**
- Use only the marking device provided or a black or blue ball point pen.
- If you make a mistake, don't hesitate to ask for a new ballot. If you erase or make other marks, your vote may not count.

CONGRESSIONAL

**REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS
DISTRICT 2
(Vote for One)**

- Eddie Hendry REP
- Mark Mulligan REP

STATE

**PUBLIC DEFENDER
1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
(Vote for One)**

- James Owens REP
- Kelly Merritt Richards REP

COUNTY

**SHERIFF
(Vote for One)**

- Michael A. Adkinson, Jr. REP
- Richard (Rick) Brown REP
- Thomas M. "Tom" Cooper REP
- Tony Comman REP
- Ralph L. Johnson REP
- Jimmy L. Macon REP
- Dennis Wise REP

**SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST
(Vote for One)**

- Carlene H. Anderson REP
- Trisha Porter Hutchison REP

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 3
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST
(Vote for One)**

- Larry D. Jones REP
- Johnny Smith REP

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 5
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST
(Vote for One)**

- Sidney A. "Sid" Braunstien REP
- Robert "Bob" Hudson REP
- Cecilia Jones REP
- Alan Osborne REP
- George Wallace Smith REP

PARTY

**STATE COMMITTEEMAN
(Vote for One)**

- Randy Herring REP
- M. Lee Perry REP
- Lane Rees REP

**STATE COMMITTEEWOMAN
(Vote for One)**

- Zuma L. Banks REP
- Candice Kaushagen REP
- Brenda Rees REP

NONPARTISAN

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 1
(Vote for One)**

- Robert Nelson
- Mildred T. Wilkerson
- Tim Yandell

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 4
(Vote for One)**

- Mark D. Davis
- Marsha S. Winegarner

THIS BALLOT IS FOR
REPUBLICAN (REP) VOTERS
IN EVERY PRECINCT
SOUTH OF THE
CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY
AND
INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY
(ALL OF PRECINCTS 15, 18, & 29)
(PART OF PRECINCT 34)

SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

**OFFICIAL PRIMARY BALLOT
REPUBLICAN PARTY
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
AUGUST 26, 2008**

SAMPLE BALLOT

- **INSTRUCTIONS: TO VOTE, COMPLETELY FILL IN THE OVAL NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE.**
- **Use only the marking device provided or a black or blue ball point pen.**
- **If you make a mistake, don't hesitate to ask for a new ballot. If you erase or make other marks, your vote may not count.**

STATE

**PUBLIC DEFENDER
1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
(Vote for One)**

- James Owens REP
- Kelly Merritt Richards REP

LEGISLATIVE

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 5
(Vote for One)**

- Sherry Campbell REP
- Brad Drake REP

COUNTY

**SHERIFF
(Vote for One)**

- Michael A. Adkinson, Jr. REP
- Richard (Rick) Brown REP
- Thomas M. "Tom" Cooper REP
- Tony Comman REP
- Ralph L. Johnson REP
- Jimmy L. Macon REP
- Dennis Wise REP

**SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST
(Vote for One)**

- Carlene H. Anderson REP
- Trisha Porter Hutchison REP

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 3
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST
(Vote for One)**

- Larry D. Jones REP
- Johnny Smith REP

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 5
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST
(Vote for One)**

- Sidney A. "Sid" Braunstien REP
- Robert "Bob" Hudson REP
- Cecilia Jones REP
- Alan Osborne REP
- George Wallace Smith REP

PARTY

**STATE COMMITTEEMAN
(Vote for One)**

- Randy Herning REP
- M. Lee Perry REP
- Lane Rees REP

**STATE COMMITTEEWOMAN
(Vote for One)**

- Zuma L. Banks REP
- Candice Kaushagen REP
- Brenda Rees REP

NONPARTISAN

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 1
(Vote for One)**

- Robert Nelson
- Mildred T. Wilkerson
- Tim Yandell

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 4
(Vote for One)**

- Mark D. Davis
- Marsha S. Winegarner

**THIS BALLOT IS FOR
REPUBLICAN (REP) VOTERS
IN ALL PRECINCTS
NORTH OF THE
CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY
AND RIVER
(PRECINCTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,
9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19,
20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,
30, 32, & 33)**

SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

**OFFICIAL PRIMARY BALLOT
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
AUGUST 26, 2008**

SAMPLE BALLOT

- **INSTRUCTIONS: TO VOTE, COMPLETELY FILL IN THE OVAL ● NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE.**
- **Use only the marking device provided or a black or blue ball point pen.**
- **If you make a mistake, don't hesitate to ask for a new ballot. If you erase or make other marks, your vote may not count.**

COUNTY

NONPARTISAN

**SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST**
(Vote for One)

- Carlene H. Anderson REP
 Trisha Porter Hutchison REP

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 1**
(Vote for One)

- Robert Nelson
 Mildred T. Wilkerson
 Tim Yardell

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 3
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST**
(Vote for One)

- Larry D. Jones REP
 Johnny Smith REP

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 4**
(Vote for One)

- Mark D. Davis
 Marsha S. Winegarner

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 5
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST**
(Vote for One)

- Sidney A. "Sid" Braunslien REP
 Robert "Bob" Hudson REP
 Cecilia Jones REP
 Alan Osborne REP
 George Wallace Smith REP

**THIS BALLOT IS FOR
DEMOCRAT (DEM) VOTERS
IN ALL PRECINCTS
COUNTY-WIDE**

SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

**OFFICIAL NONPARTISAN BALLOT
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
AUGUST 26, 2008**

SAMPLE BALLOT

- **INSTRUCTIONS: TO VOTE, COMPLETELY FILL IN THE OVAL NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE.**
- **Use only the marking device provided or a black or blue ball point pen.**
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COUNTY**NONPARTISAN**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST
(Vote for One)**

Carlene H. Anderson REP
 Trisha Porter Hutchison REP

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 1
(Vote for One)**

Robert Nelson
 Mildred T. Wikerson
 Tim Yandell

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 3
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST
(Vote for One)**

Larry D. Jones REP
 Johnny Smith REP

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 4
(Vote for One)**

Mark D. Davis
 Marsha S. Winegarner

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 5
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST
(Vote for One)**

Sidney A. "Sid" Braunstien REP
 Robert 'Bob' Hudson REP
 Cecelia Jones REP
 Alan Osborne REP
 George Wallace Smith REP

THIS BALLOT IS FOR
NONPARTISAN (NPA) VOTERS
IN ALL PRECINCTS
COUNTY-WIDE

SAMPLE BALLOT

VOTE NOTES



BY: BOBBY BEASLEY - WALTON CO. SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

DEAR VOTERS OF WALTON COUNTY:

WITH THE PRIMARY ELECTION COMING UP ON AUGUST 26, 2008, I WANT TO REMIND VOTERS OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT DATES AND ISSUES:

JULY 28, 2008—BOOK CLOSING FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION. YOU MAY NOT REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION OR CHANGE YOUR PARTY AFFILIATION FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION AFTER THIS DATE. YOU MAY STILL UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS, NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, SIGNATURE, AND REGISTER FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS AFTER THIS DEADLINE.

AUGUST 11 THROUGH AUGUST 23, 2008—EARLY VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE IN BOTH WALTON CO. SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICES, MONDAY-SATURDAY, 8:30AM-4:30PM. EARLY VOTING HAS BECOME VERY POPULAR WITH THE PUBLIC; IT GIVES VOTERS MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR SCHEDULES AND TAKES THE PRESSURE OFF OF GETTING TO A PRECINCT TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY.

FLORIDA IS STILL A CLOSED PRIMARY STATE. THIS MEANS YOU MUST BE REGISTERED IN A RECOGNIZED PARTY TO VOTE THAT PRIMARY BALLOT. THERE IS AN EXCEPTION TO THIS IN THAT A UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST IS WHEN ONLY ONE PARTY QUALIFIES CANDIDATES IN A RACE. WHEN THIS OCCURS, THAT RACE WILL APPEAR ON ALL BALLOTS IN THE COUNTY. WE HAVE 3 UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTESTS ON THE AUGUST 26TH PRIMARY BALLOT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3, AND COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5. THESE 3 RACES WILL APPEAR ON THE DEMOCRATIC, REPUBLICAN, AND NONPARTISAN BALLOTS IN THE PRIMARY. NONPARTISAN RACES WILL BE ON ALL COUNTY BALLOTS.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF VOTERS TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES, ISSUES, AND KEEP VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION UP TO DATE. SAMPLE BALLOTS, VOTER REGISTRATION, AND MUCH MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.VOTEWALTONCOUNTY.COM. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF OUR 2 OFFICES IF WE CAN ASSIST YOU WITH ANY VOTING REGISTRATION ISSUES OR INFORMATION AT 892-8112 (DFS) OR 622-0744 (SOUTH ANNEX). WE CAN NOT GIVE OPINIONS OR ADVISE ON PARTY AFFILIATION, CANDIDATES, OR ISSUES. REMEMBER, DEMOCRACY WORKS BEST WHEN EVERYONE PARTICIPATES, SO BE SURE TO VOTE EARLY OR VOTE ON AUGUST 26TH. YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!



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