

Forsyth County Democrats Host Town Hall

'Local candidates are the ones that are going to get people out to vote.' Forsyth County Democrats host town hall.



Forsyth County Democrats gathered at Sharon Forks Library for a town hall meeting on Sunday, March 24 - photo by Daniel Dotson

The Forsyth County Democratic Party held a recent town hall meeting to introduce Democratic voters to several candidates running for federal, state and local office in 2024.

During the event, which was held at Sharon Forks Library on Sunday, March 24, eight candidates answered questions asked by Forsyth County residents about what issues they plan to focus on during the 2024 election cycle.

“As a member of the Democratic Committee, I am so thrilled that we are fielding a candidate for just about every local race,” said Forsyth County Democrats Vice Chair Becky Woomer. “It really is a testament, not just to the quality of people that we have in the Democratic Party, but to the growth of this county.”

The candidates that spoke during the town hall were:

- State House District 24 candidate Randye Dugan
- State House District 25 candidate Elaine Padgett
- State House District 100 candidate Jennifer Ambler
- District 5 County Commission candidate Cary Green
- District 2 Board of Education candidate Jessica Fleming
- State Senate District 27 candidate Hamza Nazir
- State Senate District 48 candidate Ashwin Ramaswami
- US House of Representatives Congressional 7th District candidate Bob Christian



Issues that were of concern to many of the candidates who spoke include expansion of Medicaid, opposition to school vouchers and access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) and abortion rights.

Dugan, a public school teacher, said that she is “adamantly opposed” to school vouchers, arguing that they take money from the public school system and redirect it toward private schools that do not have to accept all students that apply.

In addition to concern over school vouchers, several candidates addressed the issue of books being removed from school libraries over the past few years.

“I have been blown away by the school system here in the county,” said Fleming. “But I’m very concerned about a small, vocal minority that want to water down the topics that children can learn about in our school system and that prevent teachers from talking to their students about all different topics.”



Nazir drew on the experience of his family to argue in favor of Medicaid expansion. He told those in attendance about two cousins of his who died, one at the age of 25 and the other at the age of 11, due to mental health related illness and an allergic reaction, respectively.

According to Nazir, both families were unable to afford healthcare services in Georgia.

“The hospitals and healthcare systems should be working to save lives,” said Nazir. “Not to help fill the pockets of the rich.”

Many Democratic candidates face races in districts that are heavily Republican leaning, but Ramaswami, who says he chose to challenge Sen. Shawn Still over concerns of voting integrity, says he believes he can flip District 48.

“This district is actually not a long shot,” said Ramaswami. “It’s the most purple district in terms of state senate seats in Georgia this cycle.”

Ramaswami outlined his campaign approach, saying: “We need to follow integrity, not just what’s politically expedient.”

A theme repeated throughout the town hall event was the importance of local candidates in 2024.

“We’re the ones that drive voters to the polls,” said Padgett. “There’s going to be a lot of apathy for the presidential race, so the local candidates are the ones that are going to get people out to vote.”

The Forsyth County General Primary and Nonpartisan General Elections will be held on Tuesday, May 21, with relevant runoff elections taking place Tuesday, June 18, if necessary.

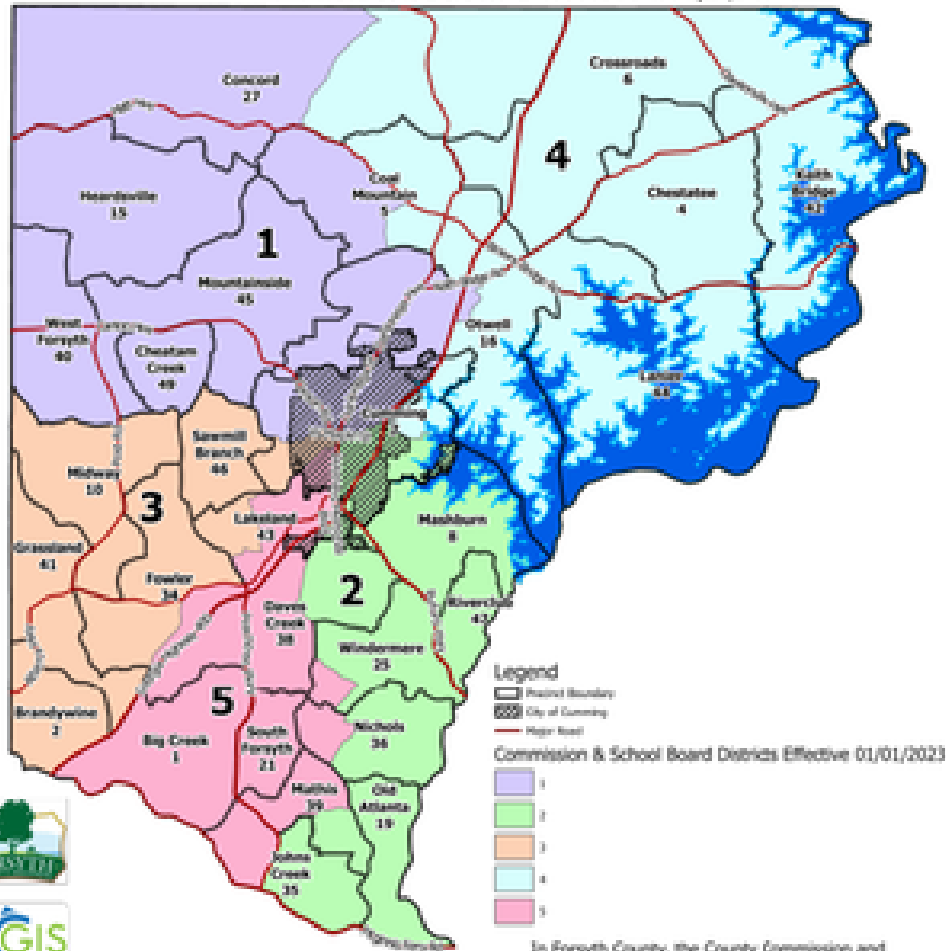
The general election will be held Tuesday, November 5.

Commission and Board of Education Districts

Forsyth County, GA

Precincts and Polling Places Effective for the 2022 Election Cycle

Commission & School Board Districts Effective January 1, 2023



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In Forsyth County, the County Commission and Board of Education District lines are the same.

Elections Office

1201 Sawtrey Cir
Cumming, GA 30040
(770) 781-2118
www.forsythco.com/vote

The Elections Office is open for Advance Voting for every countywide election.

Forsyth County district map. Courtesy of Forsyth County.