



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 20, 2019**

## **FAYETTE COUNTY PREPARED FOR PRIMARY ELECTION**

**Uniontown, PA** – More than 260 candidates across 222 local, county and state elections are gearing up for Tuesday's primary.

With 75,637 registered voters, Fayette is always an exciting place to be during election season, as thousands flock to the polls to take part in changing the county's political landscape.

For some candidates, securing a Democratic or Republican nomination on May 21 will mark the beginning of an even more rigorous, 6-month campaign heading into November's General Election.

Fayette County Democratic Party Chairman George Rattay represents the county's 41,108 registered Democrats, while Bill Kozlovich heads the county's GOP Party, which includes 27,428 registered voters.

More than 7,000 remaining Fayette County voters are registered for third-parties. In Pennsylvania, election laws require citizens to register either Democrat or Republican to be permitted to vote in primaries.

The Fayette County Election Bureau, spearheaded by Director Larry Blosser, is located in the Public Service Building at 22 East Main St. in Uniontown. Each year, its staff members provide thousands of residents with exemplary voter services.

According to its mission statement, the election bureau administers the voter registration process and maintains the integrity of the election process as prescribed by state and federal law.

Election bureau clerk Cheryl Karol said polling places across the county use a combination of paper ballots and dialing machines to ensure constituents are confident when casting their votes.

As the number of candidates vying for office grows each year, the number of volunteer poll workers shrinks.

"I think we've got everyone placed where we need them for Tuesday, but it's been a very difficult thing to do this election," Karol said. "We've got a severe shortage of poll workers. It just doesn't seem like anything we do to recruit does much good, and we utilize just about everything we can think of."

Although Primary Election volunteers are set, Karol said citizens can get involved now to help prepare for November. The next round of poll worker classes will be held between Sept. 30 and Oct. 5, with class options of 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Karol said it "just takes one class" to fulfill the essential duties of poll workers and judges.

“We’re always recruiting, but we’re always short,” she said. “We almost always have a place for you, whether you want to be a judge of elections or just help out at the polls. You only have to be a registered voter in Fayette County to get involved.”

Another thing Karol said residents should prepare for before heading to the polls Tuesday is identifying their polling place.

“It’s one of our biggest problems on Election Day,” she said. “If people don’t update their records, they could go to what they believe is their polling place and find out it’s not where they’re supposed to be.”

All changes to county voter records close out 30 days prior to the election. To find your polling place, visit [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com).

“If you find your polling place online, you have to make sure you type your name exactly as it appears in our county voting records. If you use ‘Dave’ instead of ‘David’ or have a ‘Jr.’ after your name, it has to match,” Karol said. “Otherwise, the state website is going to say you’re not registered, which isn’t the case.”

Today is the last day to submit military and overseas absentee ballots for all votes to be counted.

Fayette County polls open at 7 a.m. Tuesday and close at 8 p.m. The Fayette County Election Bureau is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To reach Rattay or Kozlovich with party questions, call 412-554-1917 or 412-582-2926, respectively.

For all other election questions, contact Karol at 724-430-1289 or visit [www.FayetteCountyPA.org](http://www.FayetteCountyPA.org) for more information and access to online voter services.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.FayetteCountyPA.org](http://www.FayetteCountyPA.org).

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