

Some election precincts in Burke County change

Voter registration ends Oct. 11

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The General Election is approaching. People who aren't registered to vote can register before and on Oct. 11.

Some Burke County voters may vote in a new location as some precincts have changed this year, according to the county board of elections.

New voter precincts in Burke County

The Burke County Board of Elections says those precinct locations are:

- Icard 1 has permanently moved from Friendship Methodist to Ray Childers Elementary.
- Lovelady 1 has permanently

moved from the Old Rock School to Valdese Elementary School.

■ Quaker Meadows 2 has permanently moved from the Burke County Fairgrounds to Faith Presbyterian Church.

■ Lovelady 4 has temporarily moved from Valdese Town Hall to the Valdese Park and Rec Splash Pad due to temporary housing of the police department at the town hall.

Register to vote in Burke County

To check your voter registration, visit www.vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLKup.

People can register to vote online or in person at the DMV or the Burke County Board of Elections, located at 2128 S. Sterling St., Morganton.

People will also be able to register and vote on the same day during the early voting period.

Early voting dates and locations

Early voting starts Oct. 17 and ends Nov. 2, with weekday hours from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Saturday hours from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. No voting will take place on Sundays, according to the Burke County Board of Elections.

- Early voting sites are:
- Burke County Elections Office in Morganton
 - Glen Alpine Town Hall
 - Burke County Senior Center in Morganton
 - Rutherford College Town Hall
 - East Burke Senior Center Library in Hildebran

The deadline to request an absentee-by-mail ballot is 5 p.m. Oct. 29.

Election Day is Nov. 5.

What's on the ballot?

On the ballot for the General Election for Burke County voters, in

addition to state and national races, is a question whether to increase the county sales tax by a quarter of a percent. If approved, it would take the sales tax in the county from 6.75% to 7%. The quarter-percent sales tax would not be applied when buying food or gas.

Proponents say Burke residents already pay that quarter-percent tax if they shop in Catawba, Alexander, Lincoln or Rutherford counties.

The Burke County races are: **Burke County Board of Commissioners (two seats)**

Democrat Wesley E. Hendrix and Republicans Mike Stroud, Brian Barrier and Jeff Brittain

Burke County Board of Education

- At-large seat, Democrat Sharon Ivester Everhart and Republican Jamey Wycoff
- Central District seat, Unaffiliated Don Hemstreet and Republican Sonya Rockett

■ Eastern District seat, Republican Jeffrey Reid Beck

■ Western District seat, Republican Brad Camp

Burke County Register of Deeds

Republican Stephanie A. Norman

Burke County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor (nonpartisan, one seat)

Bruce A. Randall and Evan Crawley

Rutherford College Town Council (three seats)

Carroll Hoyle, Mark J. Stinson and James Huffman Jr.

Hildebran Town Council (two seats)

Michael Stroupe, Vicky A. Carpenter, Terry Weaver and Christopher Noah Gilbert

For more information on registering to vote or about this year's election, call the Burke County Board of Elections at 828-764-9010.

Catawba County deputies help with rescues in Yancey, McDowell and jails in Burke, Buncombe

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The Catawba County Sheriff's Office sent deputies to help with rescue and recovery efforts in western North Carolina following the flooding caused by Hurricane Helene on Sept. 27.

A small group of Catawba County deputies were sent to Yancey County with a Bearcat armored vehicle on Sept. 27 during the storm, Maj. Aaron Turk said on Thursday.

As of Thursday, 15 deputies were still in Yancey County to assist with rescues, recoveries and cleanup. Turk said the largest number of deputies in Yancey County was 25 on Monday.

Catawba County Sheriff Don Brown also went to Yancey County to help, Turk said.

The deputies are scheduled to be in Yancey County until at least Oct. 9, Turk said.

Five Catawba County deputies are helping in McDowell County.

The Catawba County Detention Facility sent 11 staff members to Buncombe County to assist with the county jail there, Turk said.

Currently around 90 inmates from Burke County are being housed at the Catawba County Detention Facility due to the major flooding that hit Morganton, Turk said.

A helicopter pilot volunteering with Operation Airdrop at the Hickory Regional Airport helped fly some of the Catawba County Sheriff's Office staff to areas in Yancey County, Turk said.

Other responses from Catawba County

The town of Maiden has sent out police officers, electrical crews and public works crews to western North Carolina to assist in relief efforts, Maiden police Chief Tracy



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CATAWBA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
A volunteer helicopter pilot helps the Catawba County Sheriff's Office with rescue and recovery efforts in Yancey County.

Ledford said on Thursday. Ledford said Maiden crews have been working since Saturday to assist. The police officers were deployed to Marion and Asheville. Public works crews were sent to Morganton, he said.

Maiden is also accepting donations at the fire department, police department and town hall. Donations will be taken to Asheville by the fire department, Ledford said.

The Long View Police Department is focusing their efforts on helping local people in Catawba County and Burke County since the town is on the county line, Long View Public Information Officer Heather Minor said.

Long View police have been delivering meals to the Hickory Regional Airport for volunteers and first responders helping with Operation Airdrop, Minor said.

Long View police have also helped Christ United to deliver supplies to Hildebran. On Tuesday, officers will deliver supplies to Burke County, Minor said. Donations can be delivered to the Long View Town Hall.

Long View police officers are also delivering supplies

to Long View residents without power. Minor said some areas of Long View were still without power on Thursday.

School resources officers with the Hickory Police Department went to Boone to help with traffic since Hickory City Schools did not have classes on Monday and Tuesday, Hickory Police Department Media & Community Services Coordinator Kristen Hart said. Other Hickory officers are part of the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. Those officers have been deployed to serve, Hart said.

The city of Conover is coordinating with municipalities in Catawba County. Conover will send out public works crews to help with clean up as well as water and sewer restorations, Conover Public Information Officer Madeleine Epley said. Donations can be brought to the Conover Fire Station #3 on Village Square Northwest.

The Brookford Police Department is accepting donations at 1700 South Center St. in Hickory, according to a post on the department's Facebook page.

Eric Church to donate royalties

Granite Falls native moved by flooding

LISA O'DONNELL
Staff Reporter

Country star Eric Church said Thursday that he is giving away the publishing rights to a new song to help with relief efforts in North Carolina.

A native of Granite Falls in Caldwell County, Church said in a social media post that he felt helpless after seeing the widespread devastation in the North Carolina mountains.

"I spend half my year in the mountains of North Carolina. It's a refuge for me," Church said in a post on Instagram. "It's a place where I've always said my



AL WAGNER, INVISION/AP

Eric Church performs at Willie's Life & Songs Of An American Outlaw at Bridgestone Arena on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, in Nashville, Tenn.

soul is at rest."

Church has organized some supply efforts but wanted to do more.

"I was in the studio, working on a project for

next year, and I had a song that I had just finished that just fit the moment, it fit right now," he said.

The song, "Darkest Hour," features Church singing in falsetto, with strings, horns and gospel-like backing vocals. It was released on streaming platforms on Friday.


Church is a graduate of Appalachian State University.

Another North Carolina country star with ties to App State, Luke Combs, said on social media that he has "something really special lined up to help the Carolinas as much as we can." He said details would be coming soon.


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