Proclamation

On a motion from Councilor Liz Seman
Members of Greenville County Council wish to honor
The Greenville County Voter Registration and Election Staff on

Election Hero Day

WHEREAS, Election Hero Day, observed annually on October 20, recognizes the dedicated public servants and volunteers across our nation who work tirelessly to ensure fair, accessible, and efficient elections; and

WHEREAS, the Greenville County Voter Registration and Elections staff exemplified the very best of public service throughout 2026, navigating an extraordinarily demanding election cycle with professionalism, resilience, flexibility, and an unwavering commitment to the citizens of Greenville County; and

WHEREAS, the department experienced a significant leadership transition in April, when its longtime Director, Conway Belangia, departed to serve in Columbia, requiring the staff to maintain continuity and carry out their responsibilities during a period of organizational change; and

WHEREAS, the team successfully administered the June 9 Republican and Democratic primaries, including early voting from May 26 through June 5, followed by Republican and Democratic primary runoffs on June 23, with early voting June 17 and 18; and

WHEREAS, these midterm primaries brought substantially higher voter participation than in the previous midterm election cycle, with turnout reaching approximately 25 percent in 2026 compared to 14 percent in 2022, placing additional demands on the department's personnel, facilities, and election operations; and

WHEREAS, the department subsequently faced the unexpected responsibility of administering a Special Republican Primary for the United States Senate on August 11, followed by a special primary runoff on August 25, with early voting required for both elections; and

WHEREAS, because the special primary was unforeseen and coincided with the first day of school, the staff was required, on extremely short notice, to secure alternate voting locations for approximately half of Greenville County's 151 precincts for both the primary and runoff, while also recruiting and organizing the poll managers and clerks necessary to staff those locations; and

WHEREAS, throughout this demanding election cycle, department staff and poll clerks conducted mandatory, in-person training for approximately 1,300 poll managers, ensuring that those serving voters across Greenville County were prepared to carry out their responsibilities accurately, professionally, and effectively; and

WHEREAS, the department continued its extensive preparations for the November 3 General Election, including administering early voting from October 19 through October 31, Monday through Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at seven locations throughout the county, followed by Election Day operations at 151 precincts from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, behind every election are dedicated public servants who work long hours, solve unexpected problems, manage complex logistics, assist voters, and make countless personal sacrifices to uphold the integrity of our democratic process; and

WHEREAS, the Greenville County Voter Registration and Elections team has risen to each challenge with exceptional dedication, teamwork, and a steadfast commitment to serving the public, demonstrating that the success of our elections depends not only on the democratic process itself, but also on the people who work behind the scenes to make it possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Greenville County Council hereby recognizes and expresses its sincere appreciation to the entire Greenville County Voter Registration and Elections staff, including its leadership, employees, poll managers, poll clerks, and election volunteers, in recognition of Election Hero Day and their extraordinary service throughout 2026.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that Greenville County Council commends this team for its resilience, professionalism, adaptability, and unwavering dedication to the citizens of Greenville County, and extends its gratitude for the essential role each member plays in protecting one of our most fundamental democratic rights: the right to vote.

Signed this 1st day of December, 2026

Benton Blount, Chairman
Greenville County Council