IndependentMail.com
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Election Day to be cloudy, cool

By Jennifer Crossley Howard

Monday, November 1, 2010

Weather for Election Day may turn out to be more predictable than final results from the polls. Tuesday's forecast calls for clouds and a high of 56 degrees.

There's a 20 percent chance of rain, but any showers will likely fall after polls close at 7 p.m., said Pat Tanner, hydrologist at the National Weather Service in Greer. Voters lining up around 7 a.m. may need a jacket for expected temperatures of around 47 degrees. Wind from Monday continues into Tuesday at 10 to 15 mph, Tanner said. The cold front from the north should last the rest of the week.

The chance of rain continues the rest of the week, with a 50 percent chance Wednesday and a 40 percent chance Thursday. The lowest temperature in the next four days is forecast to be 39 degrees Friday morning shortly before sunrise.

Rain and snow historically affect voter turnout, discouraging people from turning out. On Nov. 4, 1954, temperatures fell to a record low of 24 degrees.

"That was probably one of the most extreme election days," said Scott Krentz, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Greer. "We normally never get snowfall at the beginning of November."

In 1988, when George H.W. Bush was elected to his first presidential term, 2 inches of rain fell in Anderson on election day.

Rainfall is needed to raise lake levels that dropped because of a low-level draught in the Upstate. Duke Energy reported Lake Jocassee at 86 feet, 13 feet below its target level of 99 feet. Lake Keowee is only three feet below its target of 98 feet. Hartwell Lake has stayed at 655 feet in the last few weeks, according to the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers.



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