Local polls should be busy

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Some rain is forecast today, but that shouldn't keep voters away from polls as a contentious presidential election and some key local contests seem to have piqued interest in Oconee and Pickens counties.

Polls open at 7 a.m. and stay open until 7 p.m. Citizens should check their voter registration cards to confirm where they should cast ballots.

Precincts should begin filing results electronically shortly after the polls close. Visit www.upstatetoday.com to follow the votes as they come into Oconee County election officials tonight.

The three-way battle to be Oconee County Sheriff ends today, with petition candidates Terry Wilson, Mike Crenshaw and Donnie Fricks all vying to succeed retiring five-term incumbent James Singleton.

The race between President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney tops this year's ballot, followed by the U.S. House Dist. 3 election featuring first-term GOP incumbent Jeff Duncan and Democratic challenger Brian Doyle.

County Council incumbents Joel Thrift, Wayne McCall and Reg Dexter are up for re-election, with McCall running unopposed and Thrift and Dexter each facing two challengers.

In addition to the local, state and federal offices up for grabs, there are three questions on today's ballot:

• A referendum to amend Oconee law and allow the county to build and operate its own sewer lines and treatment facilities. The county could sell bonds, raise existing taxes or create new levies to pay for sewer projects. There are no taxes or fees spelled out in the referendum.

• All state voters will be asked whether or not they want to amend the state's constitution to elect governors and lieutenant governors together on the same slate and change state Senate rules to allow senators to elect their own leader. In case of a vacancy, the governor would be able to appoint a new lieutenant governor.

• Seneca voters will vote whether or not to allow Sunday alcohol sales within the city's limits. Bars and restaurants would be allowed to serve beer, wine and mixed drinks, and stores could sell beer and wine.

GENERAL ELECTION FAQs

Q. What candidates and/or offices are on the ballot today?
A. Visit www.scVOTES.org and click "General Election Candidates by County," or call the Oconee County Election Commission at (864) 638-4196.

Q. Where do I vote?
A. At the polling place in your precinct. Your precinct and polling place are listed on your voter registration card. To ensure your polling place hasn't changed since your card was issued, check your voter registration by visiting www.scVOTES.org and clicking "Check Your Voter Registration." This feature will allow you to pull up a map from your house to your polling place.

Q. What hours will the polls be open?
A. Polling places are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Anyone in line at 7 p.m. will be allowed to vote.