Today's election to give



Jessica Nelms/Staff

Su Hannon, left, and her husband, Jim, are assisted by Secretary Kristin Munson while taking advantage of early voting on Monday in Walhalla for today's special election to determine the District 1 County Council representative.

Council a full deck

Special District 1 race between Collins, Corbeil will fill the seat vacated by George Blanchard

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WALHALLA — The Oconee County Council will be at full power again following today's special election to fill the District 1 seat that has been vacant for the past four months.

Approximately 10,000 registered voters in the district must choose between Democrat Jack Collins, of Madison, and Paul Corbeil, of Keowee Key.

Polls open at 7 a.m. at each of the nine precincts that make up the vast District 1 geographic area that stretches from the mountains of the Salem-Tamassee area in northeast Oconee to Madison near the Georgia border on Highway 123 in the northwest reaches of the county. Polls close at 7 p.m.

The winner will be pressed into service almost immediately. A swearing-in ceremony is set for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at Council Chambers, 415 S. Pine St., in Walhalla. Family Judge Timothy Cain will administer the oath of office.

Planning to vote today?

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. in the District 1 County Council special election between Democrat Jack Collins and Republican Paul Corbeil.

The new councilman comes aboard at a critical time. County Council is juggling several important issues, including the search for a new administrator, a compete review of the county's finances and pivotal decisions related to economic development.

Joy Brooks, director of Oconee Voter Registration and Elections Office, said early voting and absentee ballots were lagging compared to the July 7 GOP primary race in District 1, which had a low turnout. Brooks expected a similar turnout, if not less.

Corbeil's strength is centered on the Stamp Creek and Keowee precincts. In the primary against rivals Robbie Lee and Steven Moore, Corbeil garnered 1,110 votes, or 80 percent of the 1,383 total votes he received in the district.

According to the Voter Registration and Elections Office, the Stamp Creek and Keowee precincts have more registered voters than the other seven precincts combined.

If campaign contributions are any indication, Corbeil appears to have the race in the bag.

According to a campaign report filed with the state July 14, Corbeil had nearly $5,000 in contributions. Collins reported no contributions to his campaign.

The special election was required after sitting District 1 Councilman George Blanchard resigned on April 21.