

# Raffensperger certifies election awarding Biden state electors

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger certified Georgia's Nov. 3 General Election results Friday, and Gov. Brian Kemp made the certification official by signing off on the results the same day.

At stake were 16 presidential electors, who have now been pledged to candidate Joe Biden over rival Donald Trump, though the president has asked for a machine recount due to the difference in the race being a mere 0.26%.

"Because the margin is still less than 0.5%, the President can request a

recount after certification of the results," the Secretary of State's Office said in a release Thursday. "That recount will be conducted by rescanning all paper ballots."

The certification came on the heels of a statewide hand recount to detect any voting irregularities, an effort that was undertaken by local elections

boards Nov. 13-18.

According to a Nov. 19 audit report, "Georgia's original machine count resulted in a margin of 0.3% between candidates Joe Biden and Donald Trump, requiring a full manual count of just over 5 million ballots to complete an efficient risk-limiting audit."

"Audit boards from all 159 Georgia counties examined 41,881 batches, hand-sorting and counting each ballot as part of the process, which was the largest hand count of ballots in United States history."

Ultimately, several counties found ballots that ended up adding nearly 500 votes to Trump's totals, but it was not enough to overcome the more than 12,000-vote Biden lead.

"The audit process also led to counties catching mistakes they made in their original count by not uploading all memory cards," the release said Thursday. "Those counties uploaded the memory cards and re-certified their results, leading to increased accuracy in the results the state will certify."

Here in Union County, the complete hand recount turned up a single additional vote for Trump, who won the county with 81.3% support. The Secretary of State kept the county's previously certified vote total in Friday's statewide certification.

"The audit confirmed that the original machine count accurately portrayed the winner



Brad Raffensperger

of the election," the release said, with Raffensperger adding that the statewide audit "reaffirmed that the state's new secure paper ballot voting system accurately counted and reported results."

"This is a credit to the hard work of our county and local elections officials, who moved quickly to undertake and complete such a momentous task in a short period of time," Raffensperger said.

Currently, it appears that Biden has enough Electoral College votes to be named the next president of the United States. Most national news agencies have already dubbed him "president-elect," but unless Trump concedes, Biden will earn that title only if at least 270 electors vote for him

on Dec. 14.

Trump is waging multiple legal battles in several states to try to prove widespread fraud and/or irregularities in the overall result, and it remains to be seen whether his efforts will be successful in overturning Biden's apparent victory.

The state runoff for District 4 Public Service Commissioner will coincide with Georgia's two U.S. Senate race runoffs on Jan. 5, 2021.

Dec. 7 is the registration deadline to vote in the Jan. 5 runoff elections, and there will be three weeks of early voting set to begin Dec. 14, with no Saturday voting for the runoffs.

## Air Force Veteran James Postell receives Quilt of Valor



Mr. and Mrs. Postell and family celebrated Mr. Postell's Quilt of Valor.

On October 29th Homestead Hospice of Blairsville presented James Postell of Blairsville with a Quilt of Valor for his service in the Air Force. The Quilt and Pillowcase were donated by the Quilt of Valor Foundation and locally made

by the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild. The ceremony was held at his home in Blairsville surrounded by his family.

Shannon Larsen of Homestead Hospice read about the Quilts of Valor, sharing their meaning and their history

and quilted Mr. Postell. David Feathers of Homestead Hospice blessed the room and performed the pinning ceremony.

Congratulations to Mr. Postell and we thank him deeply for his service!

N(ov)25,Z(6)SH

## Christmas Lights...from Page 1A

in boosting morale around the city, helping people focus on more cheerful things and not linger on the negativity that seems to have infected 2020.

"Even though this terrible time with the COVID has it to where we can't mix and mingle, it is the least we can do to help brighten everybody's spirits by getting the Christmas lights out early and before Thanksgiving in order for people to enjoy them," Conley said.

Christmas events such as the annual parade have had to be canceled, though the mayor does not want people in the community getting their spirits down.

"This year it is more important than ever," Conley said. "Some of the other things that we had planned for Christmas we won't be able to have this year because of the virus."

"But I understand that Darren Harper is going to have Christmas Caroling on the Courthouse lawn (Dec. 5), because they will be able to socially distance to do that. Of course, it is really all about the kids."

"The Police Department has their Shop with a Cop, where they take underprivileged kids to Walmart and let them shop every Christmas. It is just a small-town celebration."

City Maintenance Supervisor Ottis Franklin has been working in the city for 35 years, and he puts all the decorations up in just a few short days with the help of his crew. Detainees usually assist, but they were unable this year due to COVID-19.

"The decorations we are putting up are really a couple of years old," Franklin said. "We have got two of the old soldiers that are still up, but those are in pretty good shape and we had those redone. It is just me and my crew that is putting them up this year."

Added Franklin, "It does make you feel good to get everything put up and all the lights going. It inspires everyone else to get started, too. If you'll notice, when



Patrick Stancil and Bruce Nichols pose for a photo after topping the big tree on the Old Courthouse lawn Nov. 18.

Photo by Darren Harper

we get these up, people start decorating their yards, and it gets everyone in the holiday spirit."

The city crew includes Franklin, Kenny Duckworth, Patrick Stancil, Kane Hill and Bruce Nichols, with help from Darren Harper of Visit

Downtown Blairsville, all in the name of helping this small town have a big Christmas.

Mayor Conley encourages the community to be festive in the coming season and to remember the real reason for Christmas while staying safe.