



The good citizens of Lafayette who didn't take advantage of early voting will get a chance to choose a mayor and three city council members this coming Thursday, May 29.

The election will be held at City Hall, also known as the Will T. Colter Building, beginning at 9 a.m. in the morning and lasting until 7 p.m.

Early voting, according to Election Commissioner Diane Cline, was slow; with only 331 votes cast by last Thursday morning, May 22. Of those 331, five votes were paper ballots and nine came from nursing homes.

Jack P. Butrum and J.Y Carter will be running the race for Mayor against incumbent Bill Wells. Wells has served as Lafayette City Mayor for four years, since he won the election in 2004 with 417 votes.

Wells, a native of Indiana, has lived in Lafayette since 1960. He served on the city council and the Lafayette Planning Commission for 12 years prior to becoming mayor.

Butrum, a Macon County native, served 35 years in the Army before coming back home, opening a business, and serving a term as county commissioner. Butrum also served as Election Commissioner for a number of years.

Carter, a Lafayette native, worked part-time for the city while in high school. He later taught at Macon County High School for 36 years, teaching over 4,000 students. Carter has worked as a Lafayette mayoral assistant in past years.

The race for three open council seats, that of Loryn Atwell, Tim Morgan, and Jerry Wix, will be run by Richard Bransford, Robert Hodges, and Steve Turner against incumbents Atwell and Wix, who are both running for re-election. Morgan, who is not seeking re-election, is out of the running.

Atwell, who was former Lafayette Fire Chief, has served on the council for the past several years; and has worked with the city in some manner for most of his adult life.

Wix, whose name doesn't appear on the ballot due to tornado-related difficulties, is seeking re-election by paper ballot. He has served on the council for the past four years.

Bransford is currently the manager at Ace Hardware. Born and raised in Lafayette, Bransford served a term as 7th district county commissioner.

Hodges has lived in Lafayette for more than 40 years. He has served the city in various capacities, including a stint with the Fire Department.

Turner, too, has lived and worked in the Lafayette area for the past 40 years, with the exception of two years that he served in the military. Turner is a former Lafayette councilman.

"Voting isn't free," Diane Cline once again reminds voters. "Our taxes pay for the election office and the election; and our veterans paid for our voting rights. It's heartening to see a good

turnout for an election.”