

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2025

Election Notice

The next municipal election for the City of Garden City will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, to elect three (3) City Council Members: Councilmember District 1 (currently held by Marcia Daniel), Councilmember District 5 (currently held by Kim Tice), and Councilmember At-Large (currently held by Gwyn Hall).

Qualifying Dates & Fees

Qualifying for the 2025 Municipal Election will begin on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. and conclude on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., in the office of the Clerk of Council at Garden City City Hall, 100 Central Avenue. The qualifying fee is \$360 for the Office of City Council Member. The qualifying fee shall be paid to the Clerk of Council, who serves as the Municipal Election Qualifying Officer when the candidate files his/her Notice of Candidacy Affidavit at the time of qualifying. Qualifying fees can be paid by check, money order, or cash.

In the event a candidate for municipal office pays his or her qualifying fee with a check that is subsequently returned for insufficient funds, the superintendent shall automatically find that such candidate has not met the qualification for holding the office being sought. A written certification from the bank, credit union, or other financial institution returning the check that it erred in returning the check will prevent such an automatic finding so long as the certification is received by the superintendent within two weeks after the deadline for qualifying.

Reference: O.C.G.A 21-2-131(a)(1)(B) and O.C.G.A 21-2-6(d) SEB Rule 183-1-10.01

Voting

Current Garden City polling places designated by the Board of Elections for Chatham County:

7-01	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GARDEN CITY	35 NELSON AVENUE
7-05	WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	407 TALMADGE AVENUE
7-13	SOUTHSIDE FIRE TRAINING CENTER	1381 DEAN FOREST ROAD
8-03	SILK HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	4929 PINELAND DRIVE
8-15	COOPER CENTER	700 DAVIS AVENUE

To obtain detailed information on voter registration, absentee voting, or early in-person voting, contact: CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF REGISTRARS OFFICE, 1117 EISENHOWER DRIVE, SUITE E, P.O. BOX 13757, SAVANNAH, GA. 31416. TELEPHONE: (912) 790-1520 or www.voter.chathamcountyga.gov. The deadline for voter registration/change of address for the November 4th election is October 6, 2025.

For more candidate information or voter information, please visit the Georgia Secretary of State website at www.sos.ga.gov or the Board of Elections Chatham County, GA www.elections.chathamcountyga.gov.

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Running For Municipal Office

The Mayor and City Council serve four-year staggered terms. The purpose of this provision is to ensure that at no time is the City Council composed of a full panel of freshmen members. There are presently no term limits for these positions. All City elections are non-partisan (i.e., candidates do not run as members of a particular political party). To qualify for the position of Mayor or City Council, you must meet the following requirements.

Garden City Charter Requirements:

Eligibility - Section 2.02. (a)

- No person shall be eligible to serve as a council member unless he or she has been a resident of Garden City, Georgia, for a period of (1) one year immediately prior to the date of the election of the mayor or member of the council.
- Shall reside in Garden City during his or her period of service.
- Shall be registered and qualified to vote in Chatham County elections and qualified as required by law to vote in municipal elections in Garden City.
- Shall meet the qualifications required of a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, as they are now or may in the future be prescribed by the Constitution of Georgia.
 - Must be a citizen of the United States.
 - At least 21 years of age
 - A citizen of Georgia for at least two years.
 - A legal resident of the district, the representative was elected for at least one year.

Qualifications for Mayor and City Council Member:

- (a) No person shall be a member of the city council if that person is ineligible for such office pursuant to O.C.G.A. Code Section 45-2-1 of the O.C.G.A., any other general law applicable to that office, or any provision of this charter.
- (b) In order to be elected or appointed as mayor, a person must have resided in the city for at least one year prior to election or appointment thereto and, if elected, must receive a plurality of votes cast for that office in the entire city. The mayor must continue to reside within the city during that person's term of office, or that office shall become vacant.
- (c) In order to be elected or appointed as a member of the city council from a district, that person must have resided in that council district for at least (6) six months prior to the election or appointment thereto and, if elected, must receive a plurality of votes cast for that office in that district only and not at large. Only electors who are residents of the council district may vote for a member of the council for that district.

At the time of qualifying for election as a member of the city council for a council district, each candidate for such office shall specify the council district for which that person is a candidate.

A person elected or appointed as a member of the city council from a council district must continue to reside in that district during that person's term of office, or that office shall become vacant.

✦ *Reference the Garden City Council District Map www.gardencity-ga.gov to determine your district.*

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General Information

Council meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, and workshops on the second and fourth Monday. Special called Council meetings and workshops are called on an as-needed basis. Elected officials take office at the first council meeting in January following the election. Once elected, the Mayor and all members of the City Council must continue to reside in the City of Garden City during their periods of service and remain registered voters.

Effective January 1, 2024, the compensation for Mayor will increase from \$800 per month to \$1,300 per month, and the compensation for the City Council Members will increase from \$500 per month to \$1,000 per month.

Georgia Government Transparency & Finance Commission Forms & Reports

In Georgia, candidates for local office must file certain forms and reports to remain compliant with state campaign finance laws. The Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission, or GGTCFC (formerly known as the State Ethics Commission), coordinates the submission of filings.

The local government collects some reports and forms on behalf of the GGTCFC. The following forms are required to be filed with the City of Garden City's City Clerk:

Forms/Reports:

- 1) **Notice of Candidacy Affidavit (Form NOCA)** – Must be filed at the time of qualifying to run for public office.
- 2) **Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions (Form DOI)** – Must be filed PRIOR to accepting campaign contributions.
- 3) **Registration Form for a Candidate's Campaign Committee (Form RC)** – Must be filed if you have designated someone to file your reports or if anyone is collecting your contributions or expending your contributions, you have a campaign committee.
- 4) **Affidavit of a Candidate's Intent Not to Exceed \$2,500 in Contributions and/or Expenditures (Form CAO)** – Must be filed by a candidate who *does not* intend to accept during such election cycle a combined total of contributions exceeding \$2,500 for the campaign and not make combined total of expenditures exceeding \$2,500 for the campaign in such election cycle.
- 5) **Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report (Form CCDR)** – Must be filed September 30, October 25, and December 31 by a candidate who intends to exceed \$2,500 in Contributions and/or Expenditures in an election cycle.
- 6) **Two Business Day Report (Form TBD)** – Must be filed within two business days of receipt of all contributions (including loans) of \$1,000 or more.
- 7) **Personal Financial Disclosure Statement (Form PFD)** – Must be filed no later than the fifteenth (15th) day following the date of qualifying as a candidate.

Candidates should familiarize themselves with all forms, publications, and requirements of candidacy for public office. For more information, visit www.ethics.ga.gov or reach out to the GGTCFC at (404) 463 - 1980. The Commission is located at 200 Piedmont Avenue SE, Suite 1416 West Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334.