

**MT. AIRY, Ga.,** — Fresh off her January trip to the White House to support President Trump’s Phase 1 trade deal with China, Habersham County Commissioner and Vice Chairman Natalie Crawford moves to officially announce her intent to run for a third term.

“Representing and serving the citizens of Habersham is one of my greatest passions,” said Crawford. “These past seven years, we’ve accomplished far too much to lose our momentum.”

Elected to her first term in 2012, Crawford was one of the youngest serving county commissioners. Crawford’s true conservative leadership was evident almost immediately. One of her first accomplishments after taking office was to begin work on ISO improvements that have helped reduce home insurance premiums, putting money back in the pockets of unincorporated residents. Crawford is currently working on a new plan that will help further reduce insurance premiums in other areas of the county.

Crawford has been unapologetic in her efforts to push for a shift and commitment to forward-thinking, proactive governance versus a reactionary approach. As a result of her conservative yet innovative efforts, Habersham conducted its first-ever corridor overlay studies to understand and inform economic growth.

“Making sure that economic development opportunities serve our community instead of putting further pressure on our limited resources and infrastructure has been at the heart of all my decisions,” said Crawford. “Those studies directed our focus and efforts to build-out the industrial park and will drive job growth in our county.”

While Crawford has worked tirelessly for Habersham, her leadership beyond county borders through her work on the Board of Managers for ACCG, the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, and service on the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission has helped ensure Habersham is top-of-mind across North Georgia, throughout the state, and on Capitol Hill.

In addition, Crawford through her work on the Archway Partnership executive committee was instrumental in the creation of an economic development council, and the significant expansion of the airport over the last 6 years. She also took a leading role in the negotiation efforts with Northeast Georgia Health System, securing local health care access and saving taxpayer dollars.

Over the last three years, Habersham has seen record grant funding with awards totaling more than \$20 million and more than \$27 million in total between 2016–2019. Included in those totals is a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant from the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission for the new Habersham County Senior Center—the single largest disbursement for a Georgia county at that time. These additional dollars help the county maximize its current financial resources and provide opportunities for enhanced services to taxpayers.

During Commissioner Crawford’s time on the commission, new county facilities have opened—the courthouse in 2013, and the new county administration building, senior center, and airport terminal all opening in 2019.

“These facilities demonstrate my commitment to our County, our people, and some of our community’s greatest resources—our seniors, the County’s dedicated staff, and our area businesses,” said Crawford. “Our strategic growth has injected an additional \$150 million into the tax digest over the last four years.”

#### *About Natalie Crawford*

Natalie is a Habersham County native, graduating from Habersham Central High School in 1999 and attending Piedmont College where she received her B.A. and M.B.A. She has also attended UGA for several post graduate courses.