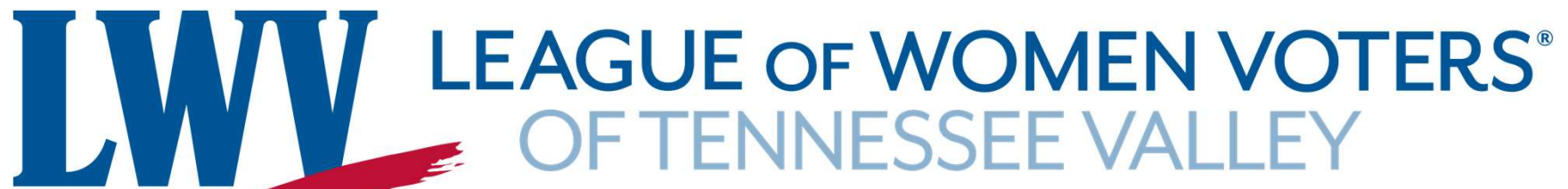


# Own Your Vote in 2020

Contact us at [voter-services@lwvtnv.org](mailto:voter-services@lwvtnv.org)



## Agenda

- Voting in 2020
- Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA)
- Voter Rights Restoration
- #VoteSafeAL

# Offices on the Ballot in 2020

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- **FEDERAL**
  - President/Vice-President
  - U.S. Senate (1 seat)
  - U.S. House of Representatives (7 seats)
- **STATE**
  - Supreme Court — Associate Justice (2 seats)
  - Court of Criminal Appeals (2 seats)
  - Court of Civil Appeals (2 seats) STATE
  - Public Service Commission — President
  - State Board of Education (4 seats; Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7)
  - Circuit Court Judges (various seats)
  - District Court Judges (various seats)
- **COUNTY**
  - Various County Offices

# Important dates for 2020 Elections

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- **PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION (IF NECESSARY) – JULY 14, 2020**
  - June 29 Voter registration deadline.
  - July 9 Last day for voter to make application for an absentee ballot.
  - July 13 Last day for voter to hand-deliver or postmark an absentee ballot.\*
- **GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 3, 2020**
  - October 19 Voter registration deadline.
  - October 29 Last day for voter to make application for an absentee ballot.
  - November 2 Last day for voter to hand-deliver or postmark an absentee ballot.\*

**\*Except for persons casting absentee ballots pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA voters).**

# How to Register – Pick One: Online or on Paper

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- Do you have an **Unexpired Alabama Drivers License or Non-Driver ID** (issued by the Alabama DMV)?
  - **YES → You can register on line**
    - Go to [http://bit.ly/AL\\_Online\\_Voter\\_Reg](http://bit.ly/AL_Online_Voter_Reg)
      - **COMPLETE ALL THE REQUIRED FIELDS** or it will not submit
      - You will immediately receive a confirmation number and a confirmation/receipt emails
  - **NO → You need to mail in the paper form**
    - Download form at [http://bit.ly/Fillable\\_VR\\_Form](http://bit.ly/Fillable_VR_Form)
      - **YOU WON'T BE REGISTERED:** If your application is **illegible, unsigned or incomplete**
      - **IF THERE IS A PROBLEM:** You should get an application to correct by mail
      - You will need to have the last 4 digits of your social Security Number
-

# How Do I Check My Registration Status? And other good stuff

<https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/VoterView/Home.do>

Am I  
Registered?

Alabama Secretary of State | VoterView

Alabama VOTES.gov  
The State of Alabama's Official Election Center  
A Public Service of Secretary of State John H. Merrill  
Toll Free: 1-800-274-8683

HOME REGISTRATION INFORMATION POLLING PLACE PROVISIONAL BALLOT ABSENTEE BALLOT

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

DATE	NAME
2020-07-14	2020 PRIMARY RUNOFF
2020-08-04	HD49 SPECIAL PRIMARY
2020-09-01	HD49 SPC RUNOFF ELECTION
2020-11-03	2020 GENERAL ELECTION
2020-11-17	HD49 SPECIAL GENERAL

REGISTRATION INFORMATION  
Use the search function to view your polling place location and the districts where you're eligible to vote.

POLLING PLACE  
Locate the name and address of the polling location where you are registered to vote.

PROVISIONAL BALLOT  
View the status of your ballot to determine when your registration eligibility has been validated and your vote was counted.

ABSENTEE BALLOT  
View the status of your ballot to determine when your vote was counted.

[Registration Information](#) [Polling Place](#) [Provisional Ballot](#) [Absentee Ballot](#)

Where Do I  
Vote?

Was my Vote  
Counted?

# I Want to Vote Absentee

**APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT**

Return this application to: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY, ALABAMA **FORM AV-R1** Date Revised 08/13/2019

Please note that only one application may be placed in the same envelope.  
**Please note that a copy of your valid photo identification must be submitted along with this application.**

**General Voter Information - Please provide complete information so that we may verify your eligibility to vote.**

Last Name (Please print)	First Name	Middle or Maiden Name	E-mail Address
Street Address (address where you are registered to vote; do not use PO box)			City State ZIP
Mail my ballot to the address where I regularly receive mail, if different from the street address provided above			
Precinct where you vote (name and/or location of your polling place)			
Date of Birth	Month	Day	Year
Home Telephone Number	Work Telephone Number	Driver's License Number	IF NO DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER Last 4 digits of Social Security number

**For all registered voters**  
I hereby make application for an absentee ballot so that I may vote in the following election:

☐ Primary Election or Presidential Preference Primary  
Select one: ☐ Democratic Party ☐ Other ☐ Republican Party ☐ Amendments Only

☐ General Election ☐ Special Election (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
If a primary or runoff, check one: ☐ Democratic Party ☐ Republican Party

■ Absentee ballots for elections more than 42 days apart must be requested on separate applications, unless you are a member of the armed forces, or a spouse or dependent of such person, or you are a United States citizen residing overseas, or are permanently disabled.

■ An application submitted by a member of the armed forces, or a spouse or dependent of such person, or a United States citizen residing overseas is valid for all county, state and federal elections in the current calendar year. An application submitted by a citizen with a permanent disability is valid for all municipal, county, state, and federal elections in the current calendar year.

**I am applying for an absentee ballot because (check at least one box):**

☐ I expect to be out of the county or the state on election day.

☐ I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls. **[ID Required]**

☐ I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls. I am unable to access my assigned polling place due to a neurological, musculoskeletal, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, or other life-altering disorder that affects my ability to perform manual tasks, stand for any length of time, walk unassisted, see, hear or speak and:

a) I am an elderly voter aged 65 or older; or

b) I am a voter with a disability.

**\*[ID Not Required]**

☐ I expect to work a shift which has at least ten (10) hours that coincide with the polling hours at my regular polling place.

☐ I am enrolled as a student at an educational institution located outside the county of my personal residence, attendance at which prevents my attendance at the polls.

☐ I am a member of, or a spouse or dependent of a member of, the Armed Forces of the United States or am otherwise similarly qualified to vote absentee pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. § 20302. **[ID Not Required]**

This application for an absentee ballot will be valid for all county, state, and federal elections held during this calendar year unless you specify an earlier expiration date here: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I have been appointed as an election officer at a polling place which is not my regular polling place.

☐ I am a caregiver for a family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity and the family member is confined to his or her home.

☐ I am currently incarcerated in prison or jail and have not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude. (See back for felonies involving moral turpitude.)

When I apply for this absentee ballot, I understand that my name will be stricken from the list of qualified electors and, when I cast this absentee ballot, I understand that I will not be entitled to vote at my regular polling place.

Voter's Signature	Complete this section if voter signs by mark	Witness Signature	Print Witness Name
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The voter may hand this application to the Absentee Election Manager. The voter may also forward this application to the Absentee Election Manager by U.S. Mail or commercial carrier [§17-11-3 and §17-11-4, Code of Alabama, 1975].

**READ PENALTIES ON BACK**

## 1. Get your Absentee Ballot

- Download the application at
- [http://bit.ly/Absentee\\_voting](http://bit.ly/Absentee_voting)
- Mail to the County's Circuit Clerk
- [http://bit.ly/list\\_of\\_circuit\\_clerks](http://bit.ly/list_of_circuit_clerks)

## 2. Complete your Ballot

- Helpful "how to" video:
- <https://youtu.be/Ej9DMU5auvQ>

## 3. Return your Ballot to your County's Circuit Clerk



# A Reliable Tool For Doing Your Voting Homework



## PERSONALIZED VOTING INFORMATION

- ✓ See What's On Your Ballot
- ✓ Check Your Voter Registration
- ✓ Find Your Polling Place
- ✓ Discover Upcoming Debates In Your Area
- ✓ And Much More!

- VOTE411 is committed to **ensuring** voters have the **information** they need to successfully **participate** in every election.
- Whether it's **local, state or federal**, every election is important to **ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs** of our communities.





# What is the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA)?

- The **Voting Rights Act of 1965** prohibited discriminatory voting practices and **removed many barriers to voting**.
- That law was critical in **ensuring minority voting rights** and stood on the books for nearly half a century
- But in **Shelby County v. Holder** in June 2013, the Supreme Court **invalidated a key provision** of it.
  - Among the invalidated provisions was an enforcement mechanism that prevented states from making changes to voting laws and practices if they have a history of voting discrimination, unless they clear those changes through federal officials.
- Fortunately, the **Supreme Court's decision was limited** in scope and **recommended Congress create a new formula**

*The Voting Rights Advancement Act  
Restores the Protections of the Voting Rights Act*

# Postcard Campaign to Convince Senator Shelby to Support VRAA

- LWVUS **ADVOCATES** **PASSAGE** of the Voting Rights Advancement Act
- Passed in House; **Blocked in Senate**
- Several state LWV chapters organized to convince their senators to support the bill
- Postcard campaign in Alabama to mail citizen opinions to Senator Shelby
- 385 postcards distributed to volunteers so far

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF ALABAMA

**VOTING IS**  
people power

League Position Statement on the VRAA:

For decades, ensuring that all eligible Americans have equal access to the ballot is a long-standing value supported by all sectors of our country. It is a value that has united our nation for more than 50 years and is why the League of Women Voters urges you to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Dear Senator Shelby,

I endorse the League Position because:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*To join postcard campaign  
email [advocacy@lwvtnv.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvtnv.org)*

# Felony Related Disenfranchisement

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## 2016 Estimates of Disenfranchisement:

- **286,266 people disenfranchised → 7.62% of the state population**
- **143,924 African Americans disenfranchised → 15.11% of total state AA population**
- **Black people account for more than half of all disenfranchised Alabamians**

## Why are So Many Disenfranchised?

- The constitution says **you can lose your right to vote if you're convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude.**
- “Because there was **no codified list** or state law that said these are the crime for which you lose your right to vote, there was arbitrary application among the different registrar’s office,” said Shay Farley, Policy Council, Southern Poverty Law Center [SPLC].
- **Meaning up until this point, a felon’s right to vote varied county by county.**

***The 2017 Moral Turpitude Act Fixes this Problem!***

## 2017 Definition of Moral Turpitude Act

The Act limits the disqualifying convictions to around 40 crimes The list:

- Does not include **any drug-related** crimes except trafficking.
- Does **not include many 3<sup>rd</sup> degree** convictions (like burglary 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Does not include crimes prosecuted under the youthful offender statute.
- Does not include many white collar crimes, like fraud and embezzlement.
- Could re-enfranchise ~139k citizens.
- 72% of unregistered Alabamians w/ criminal convictions did not know that the law had changed

Email [voter-services@lwvtnv.org](mailto:voter-services@lwvtnv.org) for help or info!

- League of Women Voters of Alabama (LWVAL) filed a lawsuit **asking election officials to make common-sense modifications** to the voting process for all Alabama elections in 2020.
- These modifications **track the recommendations made by the CDC** to prevent the spread of COVID 19 during elections.

*“No one should have to choose between exercising their right to vote and protecting their health and that of their families.”*

Barbara Caddell, President LWVAL

## What We asked for in our Lawsuit: Regarding Absentee Voting

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- **Permit effective “no excuse” absentee voting for all elections in 2020.**
- **Amend the application for an absentee ballot to advise voters that they may lawfully obtain one if they are concerned about COVID 19.**
- **Suspend the requirement that a copy of the voter’s photo ID be included with the voter’s application for an absentee ballot.**
- **Suspend the statutory time deadlines for absentee voting so that a voter can apply for an absentee ballot up to the day of election and have that ballot counted if it is delivered or postmarked by election day.**
- **Allow canvassing boards to begin counting absentee ballots before election day.**



## What We asked for in our Lawsuit: Regarding In-Person Voting

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- Provide adequate personal protective equipment for clerks and poll workers as well as disinfection for polling equipment.
  - Provide in-person voters with masks and disposable pens.
  - Implement social distancing procedures and authorize early voting at least 14 days before election day.
  - Authorize drive-up voting.
  - Authorize local election officials to establish vote centers and relax restrictions on wrong-precinct voting.
  - Provide local election officials the financial resources to implement these emergency measures.
-

# Some Ways You Can Make A Difference!

- **Maintain your Voter registration! Keep it current whenever you move.**
- **Help others to get registered!**
- **Be informed, do your homework, and talk to others about the candidates and the ballot amendments/issues.**
- **Remind others about voter registration/absentee ballot deadlines before upcoming elections!**
- **Make sure you develop a voting plan.**
  - Know where your polling place is located.
  - If your Drivers license is close to expiring, get started with renewal ASAP!
  - If you are going to be unable to get to your polling place on election day, get an absentee ballot.
- **Help family and friends make their voting plans too!**
- **Give someone a ride to the polls.**
- **Take your children, friends, and family with you to the polls.**
- **ALWAYS VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION.**

# Backup

# Absentee Ballots

## ALABAMA DOESN'T HAVE EARLY VOTING

- If you will not be able to get to the polls on election day, you can apply to receive an absentee ballot.
- There are 6 different types of absentee ballots in Alabama
  1. *Single election absentee ballot for federal, state, county elections*
  2. *Single election absentee ballot for municipal elections*
  3. Multi-election “permanent” absentee ballot for federal, state, county elections (only good for 2020 election cycle)
  4. Multi-election “permanent” absentee ballot for municipal elections (only good for 2020 election cycle)
  5. Emergency absentee ballot
  6. UOCAVA absentee ballot for uniformed and overseas citizens

**In most cases, use the single election absentee ballot**

# Completing Your Ballot: Straight Ticket Voting Scenarios

## “Straight Ticket” Voting

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**

GENERAL ELECTION

**INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER**  
TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY! DO NOT MAKE AN X OR ✓.  
IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.

**STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING**

☒ ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

☐ ALABAMA REPUBLICAN PARTY

## “Straight Ticket” plus individual candidates Voting

GENERAL ELECTION

**INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER**  
TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY! DO NOT MAKE AN X OR ✓.  
IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.

**STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING**

☒ ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

☐ ALABAMA REPUBLICAN PARTY

**FOR GOVERNOR**  
(Vote for One)

☒ WALT MADDOX Democrat

☐ KAY IVEY Republican

**FOR CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT**  
(Vote for One)

☐ BOB VANCE, JR. Democrat

☐ TOM PARKER Republican

**FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE NO. 1**  
(Vote for One)

☒ SARAH HICKS STEWART Republican

**FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE NO. 2**  
(Vote for One)

☐ TOMMY BRYAN Republican

**FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE NO. 3**  
(Vote for One)

# Straight Party Voting – with selected individual candidates

In accordance with Alabama Election Law Title 17-6-35, 17-6-36, 17-6-37, 17-6-38, and 17-6-39 here is how straight party voting is handled for a General Election

A vote for a candidate in a partisan office will **void the straight party selection for that office only**. If more than one office is involved, the same rule applies to all offices involved. A partisan office is one in which the candidates have a party affiliation.

## Scenario:

A voter votes **STRAIGHT PARTY REPUBLICAN**, but in a **COUNTY COMMISSION RACE** he/she **VOTES FOR AN INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC, THIRD PARTY, OR WRITE-IN CANDIDATE**. All Republican candidates on the ballot would receive one vote EXCEPT the Republican candidate in the county commission race. **The Independent, Democratic, Third Party, or Write-In candidate would receive one vote.**

# Alabama Ballot Amendments

- The 1901 Constitution **retains authority at the state level** (Dillon Law State), unless specifically delegated.
- **Municipalities and Counties have no authority** except what has been specifically provided by the 1901 Alabama Constitution
- Changes to the AL Constitution are included as Amendments on the ballot which must be voted on by all Alabamians.
- County-specific ballot amendments are only voted on by citizens of that county

LIMESTONE COUNTY, ALABAMA      NOVEMBER 6, 2018

"Shall the following Amendments to the Constitution of Alabama be adopted?"

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT STATEWIDE**

**PROPOSED STATEWIDE AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE (1)**  
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, providing for certain religious rights and liberties; authorizing the display of the Ten Commandments on state property and property owned or administered by a public school or public body; and prohibiting the expenditure of public funds in defense of the constitutionality of this amendment. (Proposed by Act 2018-389)

☐ YES - Statewide Amendment No. 1  
☐ NO - Statewide Amendment No. 1

**PROPOSED STATEWIDE AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO (2)**  
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended; to declare and otherwise affirm that it is the public policy of this state to recognize and support the sanctity of unborn life and the rights of unborn children, most importantly the right to life in all manners and measures appropriate and lawful; and to

**PROPOSED STATEWIDE AMENDMENT NUMBER FOUR (4)**  
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that, if a vacancy in either the House of Representatives or the Senate occurs on or after October 1 of the third year of a quadrennium, the seat would remain vacant until a successor is elected at the next succeeding general election. (Proposed by Act 2018-276)

☐ YES - Statewide Amendment No. 4  
☐ NO - Statewide Amendment No. 4

***YOU NEED TO GET SMART ABOUT BALLOT AMENDMENTS!***  
***They Can Have Long Lasting and Significant Impacts***



# Ballot Amendments for 2020 (unofficial list)

## On the ballot

March 3, 2020:

Type	Title	Subject	Description
LRCA	Appointed Education Board Amendment	Education	Renames the State Board of Education the Alabama Commission on Elementary and Secondary Education; requires members to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate rather than being elected

November 3, 2020:

Type	Title	Subject	Description
LRCA	Judicial System Restructuring Amendment	State judiciary	Makes changes to judicial law and court systems and procedures
LRCA	Authorize Legislature to Recompile the State Constitution Amendment	Constitutional language	Authorizes the state legislature during the 2022 regular session to recompile the Alabama Constitution and provide for its ratification
LRCA	Citizen Requirement for Voting Amendment	Suffrage	States that only a citizen can vote in Alabama
LRCA	Judicial Vacancies Amendment	State judiciary	Provide that a judge, other than a probate judge, appointed to fill a vacancy would serve an initial term until the first Monday after the second Tuesday in January following the next general election after the judge has completed two years in office

[http://bit.ly/Alabama\\_Ballot\\_measures](http://bit.ly/Alabama_Ballot_measures)