



*Informational Presentation*

# **Own Your Vote in 2020**

***League of Women Voters  
of The Tennessee Valley  
Voter Services***

September 3, 2020



# **Vote 2020**

## **Mark Your Calendars**

**October 6, 2020**  
Municipal Runoff

**November 3, 2020:**  
General Election

# Offices on the ballot in the 2020 General Election

- **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

# Amendments on the ballot in the 2020 General Election

Title	Subject	Description
<a href="#"><u>Judicial System Restructuring Amendment</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>State judiciary</u></a>	Makes changes to judicial law and court systems and procedures
<a href="#"><u>Authorize Legislature to Recompile the State Constitution Amendment</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Constitutional language</u></a>	Authorizes the state legislature during the 2022 regular session to recompile the Alabama Constitution and provide for its ratification
<a href="#"><u>Citizen Requirement for Voting Amendment</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Suffrage</u></a>	States that only a citizen can vote in Alabama
<a href="#"><u>Judicial Vacancies Amendment</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>State judiciary</u></a>	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

[https://ballotpedia.org/Alabama\\_2020\\_ballot\\_measures](https://ballotpedia.org/Alabama_2020_ballot_measures)

# ***Be Ready To Vote In 2020***

- Confirm Your Voter registration status at **AlabamaVotes.gov**

If you have moved since the last election you need to update your voter registration ASAP (no later than 10/19/20)

- Confirm your Voter Identification is Unexpired
- If you plan to vote absentee, request your Absentee Ballot for the General Election ASAP.



# Voter Registration and Voter Identification

# Who Can Register to Vote?

Any person may apply to register to vote, provided that he or she:


- Is a citizen of the United States
- Resides in Alabama
- Is at least 17 ½ years old (although you will not be registered until you turn 18 years old)
- Has not been barred from voting due to a disqualifying felony conviction (One of 40 Moral Turpitudes)
- And has not been declared mentally incompetent by a court

# Registration Application

## *Paper or Online*

- To use the Online Voter registration tool, you must have a valid, unexpired Alabama drivers license or non-driver ID (issued by the Alabama DMV).
- If you have access to the internet (phone or computer), the *online* voter registration form is very handy. **Go to** [http://bit.ly/AL Online Voter Reg](http://bit.ly/AL_Online_Voter_Reg)
  - You can't submit unless *required fields* are completed
  - It will give you a confirmation number and a confirmation/receipt emails immediately upon submittal
  - Application gets transmitted directly to the County Registrar who processes the application.
- If you don't have an a valid, unexpired Alabama drivers license or non-driver ID (issued by the Alabama DMV) you need to use the Paper Form download form at [http://bit.ly/Fillable VR Form](http://bit.ly/Fillable_VR_Form)
  - If the application is illegible, unsigned or incomplete, the applicant won't get registered.
  - If there is a problem, applicant *is supposed to get* a mailed application to correct.
  - You will need to have the last 4 digits of your social Security Number



<b>VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE</b> <b>P.O. BOX 1340</b> <b>COLUMBUS GA 31902-1340</b> <b>706-653-4392</b>		<b>PRESORTED FIRST-CLASS</b> <b>U.S. POSTAGE</b> <b>PAID</b> <b>Atlanta, GA</b> <b>PERMIT No. 8044</b>
<b>RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED</b>		
<b>REG. DATE</b> 12/31/9999 <b>ISSUE DATE</b> 12/31/9999 <b>REG. NO.</b> 76543210	<b>MUSCOGEE COUNTY PRECINCT CARD</b> <b>SIGN CARD AND KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS</b>	
<b>PRECINCT NAME:</b> <b>POLLING PLACE:</b>	<b>FIRST AFRICAN</b> <b>1st African Baptist Church</b> <b>409 9th Street, Columbus, Ga 31902</b>	
<b>CITY PRECINCT NAME:</b> <b>POLLING PLACE:</b>		
<b>VOTING DISTRICTS</b>		
002 015 132 7 7		
<b>CONG SENATE HOUSE COMM SCHOOL</b>		
<b>GEORGE S. REGISTER</b> <b>1825 VOTING ST</b> <b>COLUMBUS, GA 31902-0000</b>		
<b>AUTO</b>		



# Voting By Absentee Ballot



# Applying for an Absentee Ballot

- You must be a Registered Voter in Alabama
- You have to know what County you live in
- You have to know the Name and Location of your Precinct
- You have to know your Driver's License number or last four numbers of your Social Security number
- You have to send a copy of a photo ID with the application



# Absentee Ballot Application

**APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT**

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

COUNTY, ALABAMA FORM AV-R1 Date Revised 09/03/2019

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	
( )		( )	
STATE		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

☐ Primary Runoff Election  
Select one: ☐ Democratic Party ☐ Other ☐ Republican Party ☐ Amendments Only

☐ 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**

Download absentee ballot application at

[http://bit.ly/Absentee\\_voting](http://bit.ly/Absentee_voting)

Absentee ballot completion instructions "how to" video:

[https://youtu.be/mn1Y88\\_wlA](https://youtu.be/mn1Y88_wlA)

Return application and ballot to:

For General Election - Mail to the County's Circuit Clerk who is responsible for absentee voting

[http://bit.ly/list\\_of\\_circuit\\_clerks](http://bit.ly/list_of_circuit_clerks)

# This year you have an excuse!

## *You Will Have to Check One Reason Why You Are Voting Absentee*

- You will be absent from the county on election day
- **You are ill, or have a physical disability, that prevents a trip to the polling place**
- You are a registered Alabama voter who is temporally living outside the country (such as a member of the Armed Forces, a voter employed outside of the United States, a college student, or a spouse or child of such person)
- You are an appointed elections officer or poll watcher at a polling place other than your regular polling place
- You work a required shift – 10 hours or more – that coincides with polling hours

# Make sure your ballot gets to the Absentee Elections Manager On Time

*Hand Delivery Your Completed Mailed Absentee Ballot Application is a good idea after about October 10<sup>th</sup>.*

- Once ballots are available, registered voters can go in person to vote in person at the Absentee Elections Manager
  - *General Election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Go Starting in Late September*
- If you requested your Absentee Ballot through the mail, you can hand deliver the Ballot to the Absentee Elections Manager
- Mailing your Completed Absentee Ballot costs \$1.20 USPS postage.
- Make sure the Affidavit Envelope is properly completed.
- All mailed Absentee ballots are picked up from post office box at noon on election day. Ballots still in the mail will not be counted.





# On Election Day

# Completing A Ballot in Alabama

## “Straight Ticket” Voting

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**

A	GENERAL ELECTION	B
<p><b>INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER</b></p> <p>TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY! DO NOT MAKE AN X OR ✓.</p> <p>IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.</p>		
<p><b>STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING</b></p>		
<input type="radio"/>	ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY	
<input type="radio"/>	ALABAMA REPUBLICAN PARTY	

## “Straight Ticket” plus individual candidates Voting

A	GENERAL ELECTION	B	LIMESTONE COUNTY, ALABAMA
<p><b>INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER</b></p> <p>TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY! DO NOT MAKE AN X OR ✓.</p> <p>IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.</p>		<p><b>FOR CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT</b> (Vote for One)</p>	
		<input type="radio"/>	BOB VANCE, JR. Democrat
		<input type="radio"/>	TOM PARKER Republican
		<input type="radio"/>	Write-in
<p><b>STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING</b></p>		<p><b>FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE NO. 1</b> (Vote for One)</p>	
<input type="radio"/>	ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/>	SARAH HICKS STEWART Republican
<input type="radio"/>	ALABAMA REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/>	Write-in
<p><b>FOR GOVERNOR</b> (Vote for One)</p>		<p><b>FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE NO. 2</b> (Vote for One)</p>	
<input type="radio"/>	WALT MADDOX Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	TOMMY BRYAN Republican
<input type="radio"/>	KAY IVEY Republican	<input type="radio"/>	Write-in
<input type="radio"/>	Write-in	<input type="radio"/>	Write-in
		<p><b>FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE NO. 3</b> (Vote for One)</p>	
		<input type="radio"/>	WILL SELLERS



# 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:

## **Scenario:**

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.

## **Here is an example:**

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

***NEED TO BECOME KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT  
BALLOT AMENDMENTS! They Can Have Long  
Lasting and Significant Impacts***

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 2016-389)  
☐ 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 provide that the constitution of this state does not protect the right to abortion or require the funding of abortion. (Proposed by Act 2017-188)  
☐ YES - Statewide Amendment No. 2  
☐ NO - Statewide Amendment No. 2

**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

# Some Ways You Can Make A Difference!

- *Sign up to be a poll worker!*
- *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.**