

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



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 <u>Online Voter registration tool</u>, 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** <u>http://bit.ly/AL Online Voter Reg</u>
 - 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 <u>don't</u> have an a valid, unexpired Alabama drivers license or nondriver ID (issued by the Alabama DMV) you need to use the <u>Paper Form</u> download form at <u>http://bit.ly/Fillable_VR_Form</u>
 - 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

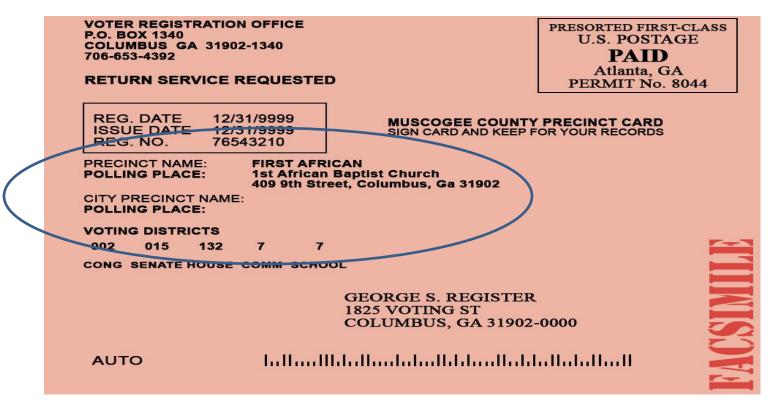
Alabamavotes.gov

Alabamavotes.gov



What Happens Once I Register to Vote?

Once the voter's registration form has been reviewed and approved. The Board of Registrars office will send you a white postcard that will inform you where your polling location is located in Huntsville. The example below is from Columbus, Georgia. This is close to the format Madison County uses.





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 you Social Security number
- You have to send a copy of a photo ID with the application



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he voter may hand this application to the Absentee Election Manager. The voter may also forward this application to the Absentee Election Manager I Mail or commercial carrier [§17-11-3 and §17-11-4, Code of Alabama, 1975].

READ PENALTIES ON BACK

Absentee Ballot Application

Download absentee ballot <u>application</u> at <u>http://bit.ly/Absentee_voting</u>

Absentee ballot completion instructions "how to" video:

https://youtu.be/ mn1Y88 wIA

Return application and ballot to:

For General Election - Mail to the County's Circuit Clerk who is responsible for absentee voting <u>http://bit.ly/list_of_circuit_clerks</u>



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 10th.

- Once ballots are available, registered voters can go in person to vote in person at the Absentee Elections Manager
 - General Election on November 3rd 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

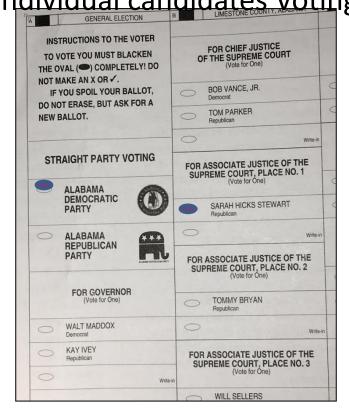


Completing A Ballot in Alabama

"Straight Ticket" Voting

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"Straight Ticket" plus individual candidates Voting





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
"Shail the lolewing Amendments to the Constitution of Alabima to adopted?" PROJOSED AMENDMENTS BALLOTSTATEWIDE MANUMERT ONC (1) PROPOSED STATEWIDE MANUMERT ONC (1) Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, providing for certain Participant the display of the property and property owned or administrated by a public school or public body, and prohibiling the expension of this amendment. (Proposed by Act 2016-309)	PEOPOSED STATEWDE AMERIMANT NUMBER FOUN(A) 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 quadrennum, the seat would remain vacat until a successor is elected at the next succeeding generat election. (Proposed by Act 2018-276) YES-Statewide Amendment No. NO-Statewide Amendment No.
VES - Statewide Amendment No. 1 No - Statewide Amendment No. 1 PROPOSED STATEWIDE AMEXIMUENT NUMBER TWO (2) Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended; to declare and otherwise afirm that it is the public policy of this state to recognize and support the sancity of unborn thildren, most	
importantly the right to life in all appropriate and lawful; and to provide that the constitution of this state does not protect the right adaption or require the funding of abortion. (Proposed by Act 2017-188) VES - Statewide Amendment No. NO - Statewide Amendment No.	



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.