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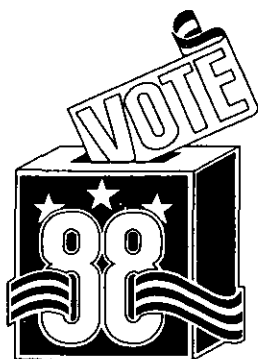
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ALABAMA VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE



prepared by
GLEN BROWDER
Secretary of State



The 1988 Elections

President and Vice President
Delegates and Alternates to the National
Conventions of the Major Political Parties
U.S. House of Representatives
Public Service Commission President
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
Supreme Court Associate Justices (four places)
Court of Criminal Appeals Judge (one place)
Court of Civil Appeals Judge (one place)
Circuit Judges (various circuits)
District Judges (various districts)
Circuit Clerks
Probate Judges
County Commissioners (various counties)
County Superintendents of Education
(various counties)
City/County School Board Members
(various cities, counties)
Constables (various counties)
Mayors (various municipalities)
City Commissioners (various cities)
City/Town Council Members
(various municipalities)

Election Dates

Presidential Preference Primary
Tuesday, March 8, 1988
Party Primary Election
Tuesday, June 7, 1988
Party Primary Run-off
Tuesday, June 28, 1988
Municipal Election
Tuesday, August 23, 1988
Municipal Run-off
Tuesday, September 13, 1988
General Election
Tuesday, November 8, 1988

Questions and Answers



Voter Registration

Who may register to vote?

Any U.S. citizen who:

- ★ resides in Alabama
- ★ is 18 years old or will be 18 years old by the next election
- ★ has not been convicted of a disqualifying offense
- ★ has not been legally declared mentally incompetent.

When may I register to vote?

Year around except:

- ★ registration cuts off 10 days prior to any election
- ★ since some boards of registrars are not full time, you should contact your local board of registrars to see when its office will be open.

Do I have to register for each election?

No. Registration is permanent, as long as you continue to live in your county of residence and keep your address current with the board of registrars.

Where may I register to vote?

You may:

- ★ register in person at the board of registrars located at the county seat of your county of residence
- ★ contact the board for the nearest deputy registrar who can accept your application and return it to the board.

Should I bring anything?

You should:

- ★ be able to give your Social Security number, if you have one, and the names and addresses of two persons living in the county who can identify you

- ★ provide another means of identification such as a driver's license or birth certificate.

Will I have to declare party affiliation when I register?

No. Alabama does not have a party registration law.

May I register to vote by mail?

Only the following individuals may register to vote by mail:

- ★ members of the armed forces
- ★ persons employed outside the United States
- ★ persons absent because of attendance at institutions of higher learning
- ★ spouses and children of such persons.

What should I do if I have changed my address or my name since the last election?

You should **immediately** notify the board of registrars in the county where you are registered.

What should I do if I move to another county within the state?

You must re-register with the board of registrars in your new county of residence.

Absentee Voting

Can I vote an absentee ballot?

If you are a registered voter, you may vote absentee if:

- ★ you will be out of the county on election day, or
- ★ you are ill or have a physical disability which prevents you from going to the polls, or
- ★ you are a member of the armed forces, are employed outside the U.S., are away at college, or are the spouse or child of such a person.

How do I receive a ballot?

In order to receive a ballot, you should:

- ★ write or go to the absentee election manager (in city hall for municipal elections, in county courthouse for other elections)

- ★ request an absentee ballot, giving the following information:
 - your name and voting residence
 - the election for which you are requesting a ballot
 - reason for absence from polls on election day
 - party choice if the election is a primary (Since a voter is entitled to vote in only one political party's primary, a voter must designate in which party primary he or she chooses to vote when applying for a ballot)
 - address to which the ballot is to be mailed
- ★ sign your name or make your mark (which must be witnessed) on the absentee ballot application.

How must I return the application?

The absentee ballot application must be returned to the absentee election manager by the voter in person or by U.S. mail.

What are the absentee application deadlines?

The application for the absentee ballot must be in the absentee election manager's office by the following dates:

- ★ Presidential Preference Primary: March 3, 1988
- ★ Primary Election: June 2, 1988
- ★ Primary Run-off Election: June 23, 1988
- ★ Municipal Election: August 18, 1988
- ★ Municipal Run-off: September 8, 1988
- ★ General Election: November 3, 1988

When must the ballot be returned?

Absentee ballots should be received by the absentee election manager by office closing time on election day.

Voting Procedure

Where do I vote?

If you do not know the location of your polling place, check with your county board of registrars, or, if they are not in session, with the probate judge's office. In the case of municipal elections, check with the city clerk.

What is the voting procedure?

The procedure, basically, involves three steps:

- ★ first, an election official checks your name against the list of registered voters for that precinct
- ★ second, you sign a poll list
- ★ third, you vote.

Procedures vary according to the type of equipment available in your county. Poll workers will provide information on voting procedures if you request it before you enter the voting machine or mark the paper ballot. Poll workers are not allowed to tell you how to vote, nor may they attempt to influence your vote in any way.

What should I do if my name does not appear on the list of registered voters at my polling place?

Try to contact either the probate judge or the board of registrars for verification of your eligibility to vote at the polling place. If you are unable to contact either office, you may still vote a "challenged" ballot, which is a paper ballot.

May I receive assistance when voting?

If you are physically handicapped or illiterate, you may ask anyone (except your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union) to give assistance. If you do not have a specific individual in mind, election officials will be available at your request. In either case, a poll worker must have a request for assistance form completed before help may be given.

May I take a marked ballot or pencil into the polling place?

Yes, as long as the articles are for your personal use, and you do not distribute them to other voters in the polling place. Also, do not leave the ballot and/or pencil in the polling place.

Election Day Procedures

Is there a difference between a primary and general election?

Yes:

- ★ A primary election is held by the political parties to select each party's nominee for an upcoming general election. In a primary, Democrats run against other Democrats, and Republicans run against other Republicans. If there are three or more candidates in a race, and if no one receives a majority, then a second, or run-off election, will be held between the two candidates who receive the highest number of votes in the first primary. The winner of this second election will be the party nominee.
- ★ A general election is between party nominees and any independent or write-in candidates. The general election determines which candidate will occupy the office that is up for election.

If constitutional amendments appear on a primary ballot, may I vote only on the amendments?

Yes, if you are a registered voter. Tell the election official that you wish to vote only in the amendment election, and you will then be given procedural instructions.

Is campaigning allowed at the polls on election day?

Yes, as long as it is done at least 30 feet from the door of the building in which the polls are located.

Election Law Resource

Is a single volume available containing Alabama's election laws?

Yes, a volume entitled **Alabama Election Laws** is available for \$10.50 through the Office of Secretary of State.

Glen Browder
Secretary of State
Alabama State House
Montgomery, AL 36130
205-261-7200



Dear Fellow Alabamians,

This year, 1988, is a very important time in our election cycle. In addition to selecting a new president for our country, you will have an opportunity to vote on several constitutional amendments, and many federal, state, and local officials.

Therefore, we have prepared the "Alabama Voter Information Guide" to answer some common questions about voter registration, absentee voting, and election day activities.

This brochure gives only general information. To receive more detailed explanations or legal citations, contact my Elections Division, or your local officials.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glen Browder".

Glen Browder
Secretary of State

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