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**YOUR VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE**



## **REGISTRATION OF VOTERS**

### **Does everyone have to register in order to vote?**

- Yes.

### **Who can register to vote?**

Anyone who:

- is 18 years of age or older by day of the next election
- is a citizen of the United States
- is a resident of Alabama
- has not been convicted of a disqualifying crime
- has not been declared mentally incompetent

### **Who is in charge of registration?**

- In each county there is a Board of Registrars appointed to register citizens to vote. The Board, at its discretion, may appoint interested citizens as deputy registrars to assist them.

### **How do I register?**

- The Board of Registrars will provide you with an application. This form is to be completed and signed in the presence of a Board member or deputy registrar. Be prepared to furnish the names, addresses, and phone numbers of two persons who live in the county, other than relatives, who can confirm that you do live in the county.

### **Where do I register?**

- The Board of Registrars conducts registration in the county courthouse. In addition, Boards may conduct special sessions outside the courthouse at such places as shopping centers, high schools, factories, fairs, etc. In each county with a four-year college the Board of Registrars visits that school at least once per year.

### **When do I register?**

- Exact dates and times vary from county to county so be sure to call the courthouse to get correct information. You should remember however that registration will not be accepted during the last ten days before an election, (21 days in Jefferson County).

### **What if registration is denied?**

- If you are refused registration you will receive a notice within 10 days stating the reason (s) for refusal. You have 30 days from the date of that denial to appeal by filing with the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

### **Must I register more than once?**

- Registration is required only once with some exceptions: (a) when you move to another county you must register again; (b) if you were convicted of a disqualifying crime but have had your civil rights restored, you must register again; (c) if you previously have been declared mentally incompetent but have had such disabilities removed, you must again register.
- If you move within the county, you don't have to register again but you must notify the Board of Registrars of your new address so you can be assigned to the proper polling place. Also, notify the Board if you change your name.

### **Who may register by mail?**

- Members of the armed forces, persons employed outside of the United States, persons away at college and the spouses and children of such persons, all may register to vote by mail if they are otherwise qualified. Persons wishing to register by mail must have previously resided in Alabama and may only register in the county where they were residents prior to entering the status which makes them eligible for such registration.

## **VOTING PROCEDURES**

### **Where do I vote?**

- Once registered, your name will be placed on the list of registered voters for the polling place which serves the area in which you live. The Board of Registrars should provide you with a voter identification card which states the name and location of your voting place. If you do not have a card, or are still unsure of your voting place, contact the Board of Registrars or Probate Judge.

### **When are polls open?**

- The polling place must be open from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The county governing body may open the polls earlier and keep them open as late as 8:00 p.m. Call the courthouse or consult a local newspaper for exact hours in your county.

### **Is voting difficult?**

- No. The election officials at the polling place will instruct you as to the proper procedures for voting, either by paper ballot or by voting machine. You may take a marked sample ballot with you inside the voting booth.

### **Who may receive special assistance in voting?**

- Those who are physically handicapped or who are unable to read or write may receive help in actually voting. A person needing assistance may ask anyone of his or her choice, except a candidate or a pollwatcher, into the voting booth to provide help.

### **What is the difference between a primary election and a general election?**

- A primary election is held by the political parties to select the party's nominee for an upcoming general election. In the primary Democrats run against other Democrats and Republicans run against other Republicans. Sometimes a runoff is necessary to determine which candidate will carry the party banner in the general election.
- A general election is a contest between the parties. Voters must choose the Republican nominee, the Democratic nominee, the nominee of another party, or an independent candidate.

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### **May I “split my ticket” in a primary election?**

- No. You must declare a preference for either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. You are not permitted to vote in both primaries.

### **May I “split my ticket” at a general election?**

- Yes. You may choose any of the candidates on the ballot or you may vote a straight party ticket if you desire. Independents and minor party candidates may appear on a general election ballot, also. For example, you may choose a Republican in one race, a Democrat in another, an independent in another, or the nominee of another party in still another.

### **Who may vote absentee?**

- You may vote an absentee ballot if you will be out of the county on election day or if you are ill or have a physical disability.

### **How is an absentee ballot obtained?**

- You must apply for an absentee ballot by writing to: Absentee Election Manager, County Courthouse, (your county seat) Alabama (Zip Code).

### **When should I apply?**

- Applications for absentee ballots will be accepted as early as 60 days before the election, but must be received no later than 5 days before the election. You must make a separate application for each election in which you desire to vote.

*If you wish additional information  
regarding Alabama elections,  
please contact:*  
Don Siegelman  
Secretary of State  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
*or*  
your County Board  
of Registrars:



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Name

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Address

City

Zip

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Telephone

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**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**DON SIEGELMAN**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130**