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VOTE

YOUR CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN ALABAMA'S FUTURE



ELECTION 1992

Information provided in compliance with state election laws, federal laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984, and the federal court order issued in *Harris v. Siegelman*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE BILLY JOE CAMP

ELECTIONS DIVISION (205) 242-7210

TDD SERVICE FOR HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRED (205) 242-5748

ELECTION DATES

PRIMARY JUNE 2, 1992
PRIMARY RUN-OFF JUNE 30, 1992
GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 1992

OFFICES ON THE BALLOT

United States President and Vice President (as well as presidential delegates and alternates to the national conventions of the major political parties)
 United States Senate (1 seat)
 United States House of Representatives (7 seats)
 Supreme Court Associate Justice (3 seats)
 Court of Civil Appeals Judge (1 seat)
 President Public Service Commission
 Circuit Judge
 District Judge
 District Attorney
 County Commissioner (some areas)
 County Revenue Commissioner (some areas)
 County Superintendent of Education
 County School Board Member
 Constable
 Mayor (some areas)
 City Council Member/Commissioner (some areas)
 City School Board Member (some areas)

VOTER REGISTRATION

ANY UNITED STATES CITIZEN MAY REGISTER . . .

Provided that he/she

- ✓ 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.

CITIZENS MAY REGISTER YEAR AROUND EXCEPT . . .

REGISTRATION cuts off 10 days prior to any election.

REGISTRAR SCHEDULES can vary from county to county since some boards of registrars do not work full time. Contact the local board for the days and hours that the registration office is open.

VOTER REGISTRATION IS PERMANENT IN ALABAMA . . .

A CITIZEN NEEDS ONLY TO REGISTER TO VOTE ONCE

However, a voter should immediately notify the board of registrars of any changes such as name or address, and registrars do periodically request updating information to keep the voters list current and accurate.

IF A VOTER MOVES TO ANOTHER COUNTY

within the state, he/she must re-register with the board of registrars in the new county of residence.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE . . .

In order to register to vote, a citizen may

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

The citizen should be able to

- ✓ give a Social Security number, if possible, and names and addresses of two persons living in the county who can identify him/her
- ✓ provide another means of identification such as a driver's license or birth certificate.

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION . . .

Alabama does not have a party registration law; therefore, a citizen does not have to declare party preference when registering.

REGISTRATION 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 the three groups listed above.

ABSENTEE VOTING

ELIGIBILITY . . .

A registered voter may vote absentee if he/she:

- ✓ will be out of the county on election day
- ✓ is ill or has physical disability which prevents a trip to the polling place
- ✓ is a member of the armed forces, is employed outside the United States, is away at college, or is the spouse or child of such a person.

BALLOT APPLICATION . . .

To obtain an absentee ballot, write or visit the local absentee election manager (in city hall for municipal elections; in the county courthouse for other elections) and request an absentee ballot, giving the following information:

- ✓ name and resident address (or other such information in order to verify voter registration)
- ✓ election for which the ballot is requested
- ✓ reason for absence from polls on election day
- ✓ party choice, if the election is a party primary (It is not necessary to give party choice for a general election; however in a party primary a voter may participate in only one political party's primary; thus a choice must be designated so that the appropriate ballot can be provided.)
- ✓ address to which the ballot is to be mailed
- ✓ voter signature (or if a mark is made, it must be witnessed).

The absentee ballot application must be returned to the absentee election manager by the voter in person or by United States Mail.

APPLICATION DEADLINES . . .

PRIMARY MAY 28, 1992
PRIMARY RUN-OFF JUNE 25, 1992
GENERAL ELECTION OCTOBER 29, 1992

BALLOT RECEIPT/RETURN . . .

If the absentee ballot application is approved, the absentee election manager may either:

- ✓ forward the absentee ballot by United States Mail, or
- ✓ personally hand the absentee ballot to the voter.

BALLOT PROCEDURE

The absentee ballot comes with two envelopes--one plain and one with an affidavit, or oath, printed on the outside.

Once the voter has cast the ballot, the following procedure should be followed:

- ✓ seal the ballot in the plain envelope
 - ✓ place the plain envelope inside the accompanying affidavit envelope
 - ✓ complete the affidavit that is on the outside of the envelope
 - ✓ sign the affidavit and have the signature witnessed by either a notary public or two witnesses 18 years of age or older.
- The voter has only two legal ways to return the absentee ballot:
- ✓ send the absentee ballot to the absentee ballot election manager by United States Mail or
 - ✓ personally deliver the ballot to the absentee election manager.

VOTING DEADLINE

An absentee ballot should be received by the absentee election manager by noon on election day.

AT THE POLLING PLACE

ASSIGNMENT . . .

A voter may learn to which polling place he/she has been assigned by contacting the county board of registrars, or if the registrars are not in session, checking with the probate judge's office. For municipal elections, check with the city clerk.

HOURS . . .

Alabama polling places must be open at least from 8 AM to 6 PM. Polls may open earlier or close later, depending on the jurisdiction and type election being held. Local polling hours are set by the county commission or by the municipal governing body (in municipal elections).

BASIC VOTING PROCEDURE . . .

- ✓ 1. A poll worker checks the citizen's name against the registered voters list for that precinct.
- ✓ 2. The voter signs a poll list.
If the election is a party primary, the voter must state in which party primary he/she wishes to vote and then must sign that party's poll list; if constitutional amendments appear on the ballot in a party primary, the voter will be asked to sign an additional poll list.
- ✓ 3. The vote is cast.

VOTING PROCEDURES VARY

according to the type equipment used in the county. For more specific information, look for instructions printed in large type that must be conspicuously displayed at each polling place.

Also, poll workers will provide information on voting procedures if the voter requests it before entering the voting machine or marking the paper ballot. Poll workers are not allowed to tell a citizen how to vote, nor may they attempt to influence a voter in any way.

NAME NOT ON THE VOTERS LIST . . .

If a registered voter finds that his/her name does not appear on the list of registered voters for the polling place, the voter should immediately contact either the local probate judge or the board of registrars for verification of eligibility to vote at that polling place. If the voter is unable to contact either office, he/she may still vote a "challenge" ballot, which is a paper ballot that will be counted. However, the voter must notify the polling place inspector of his/her desire to cast the challenge ballot.

BALLOT HELPS . . .

Voters may take such ballot helps as marked ballots or pencils into the polling place provided they are used only for personal assistance and are not distributed to others in the polling place. Also, any voter using such helps should not leave them in the polling place.

CAMPAIGNING ON ELECTION DAY . . .

Campaigning is allowed on election day so long as it is done at least 30 feet from the door of the building in which the polls are located.

VOTER ASSISTANCE

Any voter who wishes to have assistance is entitled to help. The voter may ask anyone (except his/her employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union) to give that assistance. If the voter does not have a specific individual in mind, a poll worker will be available upon request.

TIME IN THE BOOTH . . .

A voter remaining in a voting machine booth (or in the polling place where paper ballots are used) for four minutes or longer may be asked by a poll worker if he/she needs assistance.

IF THE VOTER DOES NOT DESIRE ASSISTANCE

he/she shall be permitted to remain for not less than one additional minute. At the end of this minute, if individuals are waiting to vote, the voter may be informed that time is up and be asked to leave. If there is no line, the voter shall have as much time as necessary to finish voting.

IF THE VOTER DOES REQUEST ASSISTANCE

he/she may have no less than an additional five minutes to vote. At the end of the time if others are waiting to vote, the assisted voter may be informed that time is up and be asked to leave the polling place. However, if there are no voters waiting, the assisted voter shall have as much time as necessary to finish voting.

ELECTION DAY PROCEDURES

ELECTION TYPE DETERMINES LAWS THAT APPLY . . .

Primary elections are different from general elections, and the laws governing each type of election do vary.

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 is 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.

GENERAL ELECTION

is between party nominees and any independent or write-in candidates. The general election determines which candidates will occupy the office that is up for election. It is in a general election and only in a general election that a voter may split his/her ticket to select candidates from all columns on the ballot. The only restraint against selection in a general election is that the voter may choose only one candidate per office.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

When constitutional amendments appear on a primary ballot, if a voter does not wish to participate in one of the party primaries, he/she may vote only on the amendments. The voter should simply tell the poll worker of the desire, and the poll official will then give procedural instructions.

FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

Voters who have speech or hearing impairments may receive information about state elections by calling the TDD service (205) 242-5748, located in the Elections Division of the Office of Secretary of State. Staff members answer the line each working day from 8 AM to 5 PM.

POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY

If an elderly or handicapped voter is assigned to a polling place that is not accessible, he/she has two options:

- ✓ request that the local board of registrars change the voting assignment to an accessible polling place, or
- ✓ request that an alternate method for casting a ballot be made available.

After contacting the local board of registrars and/or the county commission, if a voter believes that a polling place is still inaccessible and that no acceptable alternate arrangement has been made, he/she should contact the Office of Secretary of State (205-242-7210), or fill in a complaint/evaluation form that is available at every polling place on election day. The form should be mailed to: Office of Secretary of State, P.O. Box 5616, Montgomery, AL 36103-5616.



I hope you plan to exercise your right to vote in the 1992 elections because your vote does represent a capital investment in the future of our state and nation.

If you have additional questions about 1992 state elections, please call the Elections Division 205-242-7210 or the TDD service for the hearing or speech impaired, 205-242-5748.

Billy Joe Camp
Secretary of State