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ALABAMA ELECTION NEWS

SECRETARY OF STATE
ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130



VOL. 1 NO. 1

March 1988



March 4, 1988

State of Alabama

Glen Browder
Secretary of State
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-7701
(205) 261-7200

Dear Friends,

I am both excited and optimistic in writing this message for the initial *Alabama Election News* of my administration.

It's really impossible to express how excited I am to be your new Secretary of State. A hectic first year is now turning into a full-scale election cycle featuring the Super Tuesday Presidential Preference Primary, Democratic and Republican party primaries and, November's general election.

My optimism is based on some unprecedented progress being made toward improving our election system. The Alabama Elections Commission (which I appointed soon after taking office) has worked on several assignments which will bear fruit in the near future. But the most exciting development is that Alabama's election improvements are now coming from other political leaders--legislators, probate judges, registrars, party officials, and many others.

Thanks for your help! Let me hear from you; and drop by to see me when you're in the State House.

Sincerely yours,

Glen Browder
Secretary of State

Mark These Important Dates

1988 ELECTIONS CALENDAR

MARCH

- 8 Presidential Preference Primary

APRIL

- 8 *Last day to qualify to seek the nomination of either the Democratic or Republican party for the June 7 primary election. (§17-16-11(a))
Independent candidates for state, district, or county office must file petition for ballot access by 5 p.m. this date. (§17-7-1(a))
- 13 Candidates must appoint a campaign committee no later than five days after qualifying for primary election. Thus, earlier qualifiers must file prior to this date. (See "Glossary of Terms.")
- 18 Candidates for state office must file a statement of economic interests no later than 10 days after becoming a candidate. Thus, early qualifiers must file prior to this date. (See "Glossary of Terms," and "Filing Requirements for State Office Candidates.")

MAY

- 23 Federal Elections Commission Report

JUNE

- 7 **PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**
- 13 Federal Elections Commission Report
- 22 Campaign finance disclosure for candidates for state office must be filed with the Secretary of State, and for candidates for county office must be filed with the Probate Judge. (§17-22-10)
- 28 **PRIMARY RUN-OFF**

JULY

- 13 Campaign finance disclosure for candidates for state office must be filed with the Secretary of State, and for candidates for county office must be filed with the Probate Judge. (§17-22-10)

AUGUST

- 31 Last day for independent candidates for president and vice president to file petitions for ballot access with the Secretary of State.
Last day for minor party candidates to submit certificates of nomination for president and vice president to the Secretary of State. (§17-19-2)

OCTOBER

- 24 Federal Elections Commission Report

NOVEMBER

- 8 **GENERAL ELECTION**

DECEMBER

- 8 Campaign finance disclosure for candidates for state office must be filed with the Secretary of State, and for candidates for county office must be filed with the Probate Judge. (§17-22-10)

*Because the party deadline for qualification may be set sooner than the April 8 date, please consult the appropriate party headquarters for its qualification deadline. (See "Important Addresses and Phone Numbers.")

BALLOT ACCESS: HOW YOU QUALIFY

TO BE A NOMINEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN PARTY* . .

Qualifying to be the nominee of the Democratic or Republican party means filling out what is called a declaration of candidacy, and usually paying a qualification fee set by the party. If you want to run for Congress, a state office, circuit, or district office, you should qualify with the state party of your choice. If you are running for a county office, you qualify with the county political party. All qualification papers must be filed on or before 5 p.m. on April 8, 1988. The beginning date for qualifying is set by the political party. Proper qualifying forms should be obtained from the state party office. (See "Important Addresses and Phone Numbers.")

TO BE THE NOMINEE OF ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY . . .

If you wish to seek the nomination of another political party, contact the chairperson of that political party. The political parties which received less than 20 percent of the vote in the last general election may nominate candidates for the general election only by mass meeting, beat meeting, or convention. These meetings must be held on or before April 8, 1988. Notice of the time and place of meetings should be filed with the Probate Judge in the county where the meeting is to be held at least five days in advance, and the time and place announced in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. If you are nominated by such a political party, your nomination will be certified to the Secretary of State, if it is a state office you are running for, or, to the Probate Judge for a county office, no later than 5 p.m. April 8, 1988. Attached to that certificate of nomination will be a certificate signed by you stating that you will accept your nomination.

(continued next page)

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Secretary of State
Glen Browder
Alabama State House
11 Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130
(205) 261-7200

Clerk of the U.S. House
Office of Records and Registration
119 D. Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20501

State Ethics Commission
817 South Court Street
Suite 2B Annex
Montgomery, AL 36104
(205) 261-2997

Federal Elections Commission
1325 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463
1-800-424-9530

POLITICAL PARTIES

See Ballot Access: How You Qualify

Alabama Democratic Party
John Baker, Chairman
4120 3rd Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35222
(205) 595-9090

Alabama Republican Party
Emory Folmar, Chairman
P.O. Box 31046
Birmingham, AL 35222
(205) 324-1984

Other Political Parties Qualified for General Election Ballot

Alabama Libertarian Party
Frank Monachelli, Chairman
1157 11th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205
(205) 322-2991

OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION

Offices up for Election	Minimum Age	State Resident	U.S. Citizen	Registered Voter	Years
U.S. House of Representatives	25	1 day	7 years	yes	2
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court	18	1 day	1 day	yes	6
Supreme Court Justices (4 places)	18	1 day	1 day	yes	6
Court of Criminal Appeals Judge (1 place)	18	1 day	1 day	yes	6
Court of Civil Appeals Judge (1 place)	18	1 day	1 day	yes	6
Circuit Judge (several circuits)	18	1 year	1 day	yes	6
District Judge (several districts)	18	1 year	1 day	yes	6
Circuit Clerk (all counties)	18	1 day	1 day	yes	6
Probate Judge	18	1 year	1 day	yes	6
County Commissioners (various counties)	18	1 day	1 day	yes	varies by county
Constables (various counties)	18	1 day	1 day	yes	4

ASSISTANCE IN VOTING INFORMATION GIVEN

A person who needs assistance at the polling place due to a physical handicap or illiteracy may receive help in applying for an absentee ballot and/or in the actual process of voting either in person or by absentee ballot. A person needing assistance may ask anyone of his choice, except his employer or agent of the employer on an officer or agent of the voter's union. If a voter does not request a specific individual to aid him, an election official may assist the voter. In either case, a poll worker must have a request for assistance form completed before assistance may be given. (§17-8-29, Code of Alabama and Section 208, Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.)

IF YOU ARE A REGISTERED VOTER, YOU MAY VOTE ABSENTEE IF:

1. You will be out of the county on election day; or
2. You are ill or have a physical disability which prevents you from going to the polls; or
3. 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.

WHEN TO APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:

The absentee election managers of the 67 Alabama counties will begin accepting applications for absentee voting for the 1988 presidential preference primary, primary and general elections at any time, and will continue to accept applications until five days prior to that election.

1988 DEADLINES FOR RECEIPT OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS:

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY: MARCH 3, 1988
 PRIMARY ELECTION: JUNE 2, 1988
 PRIMARY RUN-OFF ELECTION: JUNE 23, 1988
 GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 3, 1988

Since a voter is entitled to vote only in one political party's primary election, a voter must designate in which party's primary he chooses to vote when making an application to vote in primary elections. A voter who makes application for a primary ballot may at the same time apply for an absentee ballot for any subsequent run-off primary and/or general election.

HOW AND WHEN TO RETURN ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

Completed applications for absentee ballots and voted ballots must be returned to the absentee election manager by the voter in person or by U.S. mail.

Absentee ballots must be received by the absentee election manager by the time the polls close on election day.

BALLOT ACCESS

(continued from page 3)

TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE . . .

If you want to run as an independent candidate in the general election, you will have to file a petition on or before 5 p.m. April 8, 1988. If you are running for a county office, file a petition containing the names of not less than one percent of the registered voters of the county with the Probate Judge. If you are running for a state, circuit, or district office, your petition must contain the signatures of not less than one percent of the total number of registered voters in the state, circuit, or district, and must be filed with the Secretary of State.

TO RUN AS A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE . . .

If you wish to run as a write-in candidate, you do not have to qualify with anyone, but you must get voters to write your name on the ballot on election day. Election officials may instruct the voter how to write-in a person's name which is not printed on the general election ballot. You may not run as a write-in candidate in a primary election.

*Because the party deadline for qualification may be set sooner than the April 8 date, please consult the appropriate party headquarters for its qualification deadline. (See "Important Addresses and Phone Numbers.")

FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE OFFICE CANDIDATES (WHO MUST FILE, WHAT, AND WHERE)

Public Office Sought	Appointment of Campaign Committee		Campaign Finance Disclosure		Statement of Economic Interests
	Secretary of State	Probate Judge	Secretary of State	Probate Judge	Ethics Commission
Chief Justice, Supreme Court	Yes		Yes		Yes
Assoc. Justice, Supreme Court	Yes		Yes		Yes
Court of Criminal Appeals	Yes		Yes		Yes
Court of Civil Appeals	Yes		Yes		Yes
President, Public Service Comm.	Yes		Yes		Yes
Circuit Judge	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
District Judge	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Probate Judge		Yes		Yes	
Circuit Clerk	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Constable		Yes		Yes	
County Commissioner		Yes		Yes	

FEDERAL FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES FOR U.S. CONGRESS

What to File	Where to File		When to File	
	Clerk of U.S. House	Secretary of State	Election Year	Off Year
Statement of Organization (FEC Form 1)	Yes	Yes	Within 10 days after filing statement of candidacy	
Statement of Candidacy (FEC Form 2)	Yes	Yes	Within 15 days after raising \$5,000	
Appointment of Campaign Committee (Supplement to Qualification)		Yes	Within 5 days after qualifying	
Report of Receipt and Disbursements by Authorized Committee (FEC Form 3)			Primary: May 23 Primary Run-Off: June 13 General: Oct. 24	
Financial Disclosure Statement*	Yes	Yes	*	*
Post General Election Report (FEC Form 3)	Yes	Yes	Dec. 8	
Quarterly Reports (FEC Form 3)	Yes	Yes	April 15, July 15, Oct. 15	
Year-end Reports (FEC Form 3)	Yes	Yes	January 31	
Semi-Annual Reports (FEC Form 3)	Yes	Yes		July 31 Jan. 31

*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL CANDIDATES, WRITE TO THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION. (SEE "IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS.")

TRAINING SEMINAR FOR BOARDS BIG SUCCESS!

The Office of the Secretary of State joined with the Alabama Association of Boards of Registrars on December 2, 1987, in holding a comprehensive training seminar for all Boards of Registrars at the Governor's House Motel in Montgomery.

Approximately 70 percent of all the members of the Boards of Registrars from across the state attended the seminar. Topics covered in the workshops included Voter Re-identification--How to Work Within the Guidelines of Act 84-389; Setting Up Filing Systems, Manual or Computer; Filling Our Applications/ID Cards; Using Deputy Registrars Effectively; Effective Office Communication; and Voting Accessibility for Elderly and Handicapped Citizens.

Secretary of State Glen Browder greeted the registrars at the opening session. Throughout the day, members of the Appointing Board (Governor Guy Hunt, State Auditor Jan Cook, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries Albert McDonald)

spoke to the group.

Secretary of State Browder stated, "I am very pleased to see the tremendous turnout of registrars from across the state for this type of training conference. I hope that seminars such as this can be held on a regular basis in order to increase the professionalism of our registrars and keep them abreast of the latest changes in our registration laws and procedures."

The workshops were conducted by Dr. Robert Montjoy of Auburn University, Anita Tatum of Montgomery County, Ethel Knapp of Elmore County, JoAnne Anderson of Morgan County, Brenda Riley of Madison County, Inez Martin of Chilton County, Anita Petrey and Wondal Whitt of the State Department of Education, Barbara Crozier of the Attorney General's Office, Lois Morris of Lamar County, Billy Compton, Administrator of Elections, and Jerry Henderson, Elections Specialist, both of the Secretary of State's Office.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDACY

Courts have held that the announcement of candidacy is actually the point at which you qualify to run for the nomination of a political party or as an independent candidate with the Secretary of State or Probate Judge.

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

A campaign committee is sometimes referred to as a political committee. Within five days after you qualify (announce your candidacy), you must file a list of the names and addresses of the people you have selected to be your campaign or political committee. You may have from one to five persons serving as your campaign committee, or you may decide to serve as your own campaign committee. Forms may be obtained by writing to the Secretary of State's office. Your committee is responsible for all money received and expended for the purposes of the campaign. If you run for a state office, you file with the Secretary of State. If you run for a county office, you file with the Probate Judge. Each person serving on a campaign committee must indicate in writing his acceptance or consent to serve on the committee.

BALLOT ACCESS

Ballot access is the procedure to make sure your name is printed on the ballot. You may be the nominee of a political party, an independent candidate, or a write-in candidate. (See "Ballot Access ..." for details.)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE

State law and the rules of some political parties require each candidate (and/or your campaign committee) to file a list of your contributors and your expenses for the campaign. You should contact your political party if you are going to run in a primary election to see what rules it has regarding campaign finance disclosure.

Under state law if you have opposition in a primary election, you must file a campaign finance disclosure statement within 15 days after the primary or primary run-off election and within 30 days after the general election. This disclosure statement must be subscribed and sworn to by the treasurer of the campaign committee or you, if you are serving as your own committee, stating that the information given in the statement is in all

respects true and correct. If you are not your own committee, then you must attach an affidavit to the disclosure filed by your committee subscribed and sworn to by you as the candidate stating that the statement is to the best of your knowledge and belief in all respects true.

Under state law you must disclose the following: names of all contributors of amounts in excess of \$10, listing the amount; a list of all gifts, loans or contributions; an itemized list of all expenditures in excess of \$5 stating who the expenditure was paid to, the nature of the expenditure, and the purpose of the expenditure.

Forms for filing may be obtained from the Secretary of State.

GENERAL ELECTION

The general election will be between the party nominees and any independent or write-in candidates.

PRIMARY ELECTION

The primary election is held by the political parties to select each party's nominee for an upcoming general election. In the primary, Democrats run against other Democrats, and Republicans run against other Republicans.

PRIMARY RUN-OFF ELECTION

Sometimes this is referred to as the second primary. If there are three or more candidates in your race, and if no one receives a majority, 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 election will be the party nominee (or party officer if it is a party office which is being sought).

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS

Within 10 days after you become a candidate for state office you are required to file a statement of economic interests with the State Ethics Commission. You may obtain copies of the form by writing to the Ethics Commission. This statement is a public record of your personal finances. Should you fail to file the form, your name may be removed from the ballot. If you have any questions, the State Ethics Commission staff will be pleased to assist you. (See "Important Addresses and Phone Numbers.")

TO VOTE YOU MUST REGISTER

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
- is not convicted of a disqualifying offense
- has not been legally declared mentally incompetent

When may I register to vote?

Year round, except:

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

Where may I register to vote?

Register in person at the board of registrars located at the county seat of your county of residence. You may also contact the board for the nearest deputy registrar who can accept your application and return it to the board.

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

(continued next page)



Shoppers Register at 'Red Light Special'

Secretary of State Glen Browder (right) is shown assisting during the "Red Light Special" Voter Registration Drive which was held in Wal-Mart stores across the state January 22 and 23. During the two-day event, Secretary Browder visited with shoppers in Montgomery, Birmingham, Prattville, Wetumpka, Tallassee, Tuskegee, Auburn, and Opelika. The registration drive, which required the assistance of nearly 300 volunteers, was a joint project of the Alabama League of Women Voters, the Alabama Association of Boards of Registrars, the Office of Secretary of State, and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Nearly 10,000 Alabamians took this opportunity to register.

Something Not Quite Right?

We're in the process of updating our mailing list. If your address label contains an error, or if you received more than one copy of *Alabama Election News*, please send the correct information to us at the address given below. If you wish, you may use the form below, or duplicate it, and send us the name and address of a friend who would like to receive a copy of *Alabama Election News*.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Clip and mail to:

Office of Secretary of State
Alabama State House
Montgomery, AL 36130

TO VOTE YOU MUST REGISTER

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- persons absent because of attendance at institutions of higher learning
- the 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 your 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 for your residence jurisdiction.

**MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT
REGISTER, THEN VOTE!**

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.



When Are The Polls Open?

Polls must open no later than 8 a.m. and close no earlier than 6 p.m. and not later than 8 p.m. Polls must stay open at least 10 consecutive hours. Contact your local probate judge or board of registrars for the hours your county's polls will be open on election day.



STATE OF ALABAMA

GLEN BROWDER
SECRETARY OF STATE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

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