

Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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1. Am I registered to vote?

You can determine whether a voter is registered to vote by checking the Alabama Secretary of State’s “Alabama Votes” website (<https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do>).

2. Where do I vote?

You can determine a voter’s proper polling place by checking the “Alabama Votes” website (<https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/VoterView/PollingPlaceSearch.do>). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Question #6](#).

3. When do the polls open and close?

The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Central Time on Election Day.¹ Counties in the Eastern Time Zone will open and close at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Chambers and Lee Counties may operate on either Central Time or Eastern Time. If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place is not open at 7:00 a.m., advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center. A voter waiting in the voting room by 7:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.² If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place prohibits those who were in the voting room before 7:00 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

Voters must apply to register to vote 15 calendar days before an election they intend to vote in.³ For the 2018 General Election, this deadline is October 22.

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

No. To vote a regular ballot, an Alabama voter must either present a valid form of photo identification or be positively identified by two election officials by sworn affidavit.⁴

Valid forms of photo identification include:

- Valid Alabama Driver's License;
- Valid Alabama Non-driver ID;
- Valid Alabama Photo Voter ID Card;
- Valid State Issued ID (Alabama or any other state);
- Valid Federal issued ID;
- Valid US passport;
- Valid Employee ID from Federal Government, State of Alabama, County, Municipality, Board or other entity of the state of Alabama;
- Valid student or employee ID from a public or private college or university in the State of Alabama (including postgraduate technical or professional schools);
- Valid Military ID; and
- Valid Tribal ID.

Please note that the address on the photo identification does not have to match the address on the voter rolls. If a voter casts a provisional ballot because they do not have a valid form of photo identification, he or she must submit the proper identification, as well as his or her address and telephone number, to the Board of Registrars by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday following the election. Only if the proper identification is submitted by this deadline will the voter's ballot be counted.⁵

6. I have moved and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?

If a voter has moved within the same precinct or to another precinct in the same county, the voter should update their registration information with the county's Board of Registrars, a listing of which can be found on the Secretary of State's website <http://sos.alabama.gov/city-county-lookup>. If the voter did not update their registration information, the answer to this question depends on where the voter moved. Refer to the table below.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different county
The voter should vote at the polling place associated with his/her new/old address (the polling place will be the same for both addresses). To find the polling place, see the Alabama Votes website from Question 2 . ⁶	If the voter has not updated his/her address within the county, he/she will be able to cast a provisional ballot at the polling place associated with the <u>new</u> address. The provisional ballot will be counted if the county clerk can determine that you are registered to vote in the state and reside in the area covered by that polling place. ⁷	The voter must register to vote again, no later than 15 days before the election. If the voter has not updated his/her registration, the voter cannot cast a ballot in this election. ⁸

7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. A voter can use an emergency paper ballot, and should request one if it is not offered.⁹

If you are a hotline volunteer and learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain, who will notify a voting machine expert or speak with election officials.

If you are a field volunteer at a polling place and the equipment is not working properly, notify the command center, which will notify a voting machine expert.

8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the precinct where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?

A voter must vote in his or her assigned precinct. If a voter chooses to vote outside of his or her assigned precinct, the ballot will not be counted.¹⁰

9. My name isn't popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

If a voter's name does not appear on the list of registered voters for the polling place, the voter can present a certificate from the county Board of Registrars to cast a regular ballot, or the poll worker should contact the local Board of Registrars or Judge of Probate to determine if the voter is eligible to vote at that polling place. If the Board of Registrars or Judge of Probate is unable to verify the voter's registration, he or she may vote by provisional ballot.¹¹ The provisional ballot will be counted only if the county Board of Registrars is able to confirm, after the election, that the voter is a duly qualified elector of the polling place where the ballot was cast.¹²

A voter's name can be removed from the list of registered voters whenever the county Board of Registrars receives and confirms information that a voter died, became a non-resident of the state or county, was declared mentally incompetent, was convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude or was otherwise disqualified.¹³

Any voter whose name was removed from a county's voter registration list on the basis of a determination of ineligibility who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must reregister.¹⁴

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter's name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter's registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure he/she is registered to vote and at the right place. (see [question 1](#))
- Has the voter moved recently? Could he/she be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (see [question 1](#))

Has the voter changed her name recently, or could he/she be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter's name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (see [question 1](#))

- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

A person who has been convicted of certain felonies involving "moral turpitude," whether in state or federal court, may register to vote and vote only if he or she obtains a pardon that specifically restores the right to vote, or if he or she is granted a Certificate of Eligibility to Vote by the Board of Pardons and Paroles.¹⁵ A person may apply to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for a Certificate of Eligibility to Vote if his or her conviction was for a felony other than treason, impeachment, murder, rape, or various sexual offenses; he or she has no criminal felony charges pending against him or her; he or she has paid all fines, court costs, fees, and victim restitution associated with the conviction; and he or she has completed his or her sentence, including any period of probation and parole.¹⁶

If a person has been convicted of a felony that does not involve "moral turpitude," he or she remains eligible to vote and does not need to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility to Vote or receive a pardon. Specific crimes considered not to involve "moral turpitude" include assault, doing business without a license, violating liquor laws, aiding a prisoner to escape, possession of an illegal substance, and driving under the influence.¹⁷

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Inquire why the voter was offered a provisional ballot. A voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when:

- The voter's name is not on the list of eligible voters for the polling place in which he or she is seeking to vote, and his or her registration cannot be verified while at the polling place;
- An inspector has knowledge that the voter is not entitled to vote at the precinct at which he or she is attempting to vote, and challenges the voter;
- The voter does not have proper identification;
- A federal or state court order extends the time for closing the polls beyond that established by state law and the voter votes during the extended period of time; or
- The voter requested an absentee ballot, but either did not receive it or did not cast a vote with the absentee ballot.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. However, if the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, an inspector at the polling place should give him or her written information regarding how to check the status of his or her provisional ballot online (<https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/VoterView/ProvisionalBallotSearch.do>).¹⁸

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

If you attend school in Alabama, you can establish residency and vote in Alabama if you have a present intention to remain at your Alabama school address for the time being and to make it your principal home.¹⁹

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Yes. All polling places in Alabama should be accessible to people with disabilities. Additionally, there should be voting equipment at every polling place to accommodate voters with disabilities, including non-visual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired, so that they may vote without assistance. If a voter's specific disability is not accommodated, he/she should contact the county Judge of Probate.²⁰

14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have some person of his or her choice, other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union, mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking his or her choices on the ballot.²¹

15. I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Yes. Although voting procedures will vary depending on the type of equipment used at the polling place, instructions on how to use the voting equipment printed in large type should be visible at each polling place.²²

Also, poll workers may provide information on voting procedures at a voter's request. However, poll workers are not allowed to tell a citizen for whom to vote or to attempt to influence a voter's choices in any way. The voter may remain in a voting privacy booth for four minutes and after this time may be asked by a poll worker if assistance is needed. If the voter does not want assistance, and there is a line of individuals waiting to vote, the voter will have one additional minute to vote and then may be asked to leave. If there is no line of individuals waiting to vote, the voter may take as much time as necessary to finish voting. If the voter receives assistance, the voter is entitled to an additional five minutes (at least) to vote.²³

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?

Alabama does not have early voting. Voters can vote absentee if they have a valid excuse under state law. A voter can vote absentee if they are: out of the county or state (or municipality, for municipal elections) on election day, physically ill in a way that will prevent the voter from going to the polling place, working a shift on Election Day 10 or more hours of which coincide with polling hours, enrolled in an educational institution outside the county of their polling place and cannot return, or a member of or a dependent of a member of the United States armed forces.²⁴ To vote absentee, the voter must submit an application to his or her county's Absentee Election Manager, a position given to the county's circuit clerk (but may be filled by some other person).²⁵

An absentee ballot returned by mail must be postmarked no later than the day prior to the election and received by the Absentee Election Manager no later than noon on Election Day. If hand-delivered, the ballot must be in the office of the Absentee Election Manager by the close of business (but no later than 5 p.m.) on the day prior to the election.

17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

As long as the voter has not already submitted the absentee ballot, the voter will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot.²⁶

18. Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

No, Alabama does not have Same Day Registration.

19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

In Alabama, no one other than the person voting and persons assisting them, authorized law enforcement officials, election officials, and poll watchers are allowed within 30 feet of the door of the building of the polling place.

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

Private citizens are prohibited from challenging a voter’s right to cast a ballot in Alabama. If poll workers challenge your right to vote, and if poll workers refuse to provide you with a regular ballot, you should cast a provisional ballot. If you cast a provisional ballot, the poll workers will provide you with information to learn whether your ballot was ultimately counted²⁸.

1 Ala. Code § 17-9-6.
2 Ala. Code § 17-12-1.
3 Ala. Code § 17-3-50.
4 Ala. Code § 17-9-30.
5 Ala. Code § 17-10-2.
6 Ala. Code § 17-10-2.
7 Ala. Code §§ 17-3-56, 17-9-10, 17-10-2(a), (f).
8 Ala. Code § 17-3-56.
9 Ala. Code § 17-12-4.
10 Ala. Code §17-10-3.
11 Ala. Code §17-10-3.
12 Ala. Code §17-10-2.
13 Ala. Code § 17-4-3.
14 Ala. Code § 17-3-31; Ala. Const. II, § 177.
15 Ala. Const. Art. VIII, § 177; Ala. Code § 17-3-31. 16
Ala. Code § 15-22-36.
17 Ala. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 2005-092. 18
Ala. Code § 17-10-2.
19 *Mitchell v. Kinney*, 242 Ala. 196 (1942).
20 Ala. Code § 17-2-4; 52 U.S.C. § 20102.
21 Ala. Code § 17-9-13.
22 Ala. Code § 17-6-46.
23 Ala. Code § 17-9-13.
24 Ala. Code § 17-11-3.
25 Ala. Code § 17-11-2; Ala. Code § 17-11-4.
26 Ala. Code § 17-10-2.
27. Ala. Code § 17-9-50
28. Ala. Code § 17-10-2.

