**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. Counties in the Eastern Time Zone must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 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. 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. The voter registration deadline for 2020 elections are Monday, February 17 for the March 3 primary, June 29 for the July 14 runoff election, and Monday, October 19 for the November 3 general election.

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.

Valid forms of photo identification include:

- Valid Alabama Driver’s License;
- Valid Alabama Non-driver ID;
- Valid Alabama Photo Voter ID Card;
- Valid State ID (Alabama or any other state);
- Valid Federal ID;
- Valid U.S. passport;
- Valid Employee ID from any branch/entity of the federal government or 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, they must submit a proper identification, as well as their address and telephone number, to the Board of Registrars by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday following Election Day. Only if the proper identification is submitted by this deadline will the voter’s provisional ballot be counted.

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 here: [http://sos.alabama.gov/city-county-lookup](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:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moved within the same precinct</th>
<th>Moved to a different precinct but within the same county</th>
<th>Moved to a different county</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The voter should vote at the polling place associated with their 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.</td>
<td>If the voter has not updated their address within the county, they will be able to cast a provisional ballot at the polling place associated with the new address. The provisional ballot will be counted if the county clerk can determine that the voter is registered to vote in the state and resides in the area covered by that polling place. A voter moving within the same county does not need to register again.</td>
<td>The voter must register to vote again, no later than 15 days before Election Day. If the voter has not updated their registration, the voter cannot cast a ballot in this election.</td>
</tr>
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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. Voters must deposit their ballots in a ballot box or other suitable container as directed. 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 their assigned precinct. If a voter chooses to vote outside of their assigned precinct, their ballot will not be counted.

9. **My name isn’t showing 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, that individual may vote by provisional ballot. A voter who is listed as “inactive” or who appears on an “inactive list” should still be included as part of the list of eligible voters and is eligible to vote a regular ballot after filling out an update/re-identification form. 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.

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 by a court, was convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude or was otherwise disqualified.
Any voter whose name was removed from a county’s voter registration list on the basis of a determination of ineligibility, but subsequently becomes eligible to vote, must reregister.\textsuperscript{16}

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

- Check the voter’s registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure the voter is registered to vote and at the right place. (See \textit{Question \#1})
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See \textit{Question \#1})
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they 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 \textit{Question \#1})
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Did they register before the deadline?

I0. \textbf{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 they obtain a pardon that specifically restores the right to vote, or if they are granted a Certificate of Eligibility to Vote by the Board of Pardons and Paroles.\textsuperscript{17} Crimes involving “moral turpitude” are enumerated in Section 17-3-30.1(c) (text available at \url{http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/CodeOfAlabama/1975/17-3-30.1.htm}) of the Alabama Code and include many crimes, such as murder, manslaughter, assault, kidnapping, sexual assault, sodomy, human trafficking, terrorism, possession or distribution of a destructive device or weapon, burglary, aggravated child abuse, and robbery.\textsuperscript{18} Any offense not included in the list is not a crime involving “moral turpitude.”

A person may apply to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for a Certificate of Eligibility to Vote if their conviction was for a felony involving moral turpitude other than treason, impeachment, murder, rape, or various sexual offenses; they have no criminal felony charges pending against them; they have paid all fines, court costs, fees, and victim restitution associated with the conviction; and they have completed their sentence, including any period of probation and parole.\textsuperscript{19}

If a person has been convicted of a felony that does not involve “moral turpitude,” they remain eligible to vote and do not need to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility to Vote or receive a pardon.

11. \textbf{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 they are seeking to vote, and their 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 they are 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. Specifically, a voter identified as “inactive” or appearing on an “inactive list” is entitled to vote a regular ballot after filling out an update/re-identification form. On its own, neither inactive status nor an “NVRA flag” in the voter’s file should relegate them to a provisional ballot. However, if the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, an inspector at the polling place should give them written information regarding how to check the status of their provisional ballot by telephone, by letter, or online (https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/VoterView/ProvisionalBallotSearch.do), and if their provisional ballot was not counted, the reason why.20

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.21

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, they should contact the county Judge of Probate.22

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 their 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 their choices on the ballot.23

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.24

Also, poll workers may provide information on voting procedures at a voter’s request. However, poll workers are not allowed to tell a voter for whom to vote or to attempt to influence the voter’s choices in any way. A 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 at least an additional five minutes to vote.25

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:

- expected to be 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;
• expected to work 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;
• a member of or a dependent of a member of the United States armed forces;
• appointed as an election officer or named as a poll watcher at a polling place other than their regular polling place;
• a caregiver for a family member to the second degree of kinship who is confined to home; or
• incarcerated in prison and have not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude.26

***IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE JULY 2020 RUNOFF ELECTION***: Due to the declared states of emergency, any qualified voter who determines it is impossible or unreasonable to vote at their polling place shall be eligible to check the box on the absentee ballot application that is most applicable to that individual. In the case none of the boxes are appropriate, voters can check the box which reads as follows:

“I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls.”

To vote absentee, the voter must submit an application, along with a copy of photo identification, at least five days before Election Day to their county’s Absentee Election Manager, who shall be the county’s circuit clerk unless another person is appointed.27 If a voter submits an absentee ballot application without a copy of photo identification but is otherwise qualified to vote, the voter should be issued the absentee ballot as a provisional ballot.28 A voter who has a permanent disability preventing their attendance at the polls can ask to be placed on an absentee voter list and have a ballot automatically mailed to them before each election.29

An absentee ballot returned by mail must be postmarked no later than the day before Election Day 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 no later than 5 p.m. on the last business day before Election Day.30

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.31

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.32

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 a voter’s right to vote, and if poll workers refuse to provide the challenged voter with a regular ballot, the voter should cast a provisional ballot. If the voter casts a provisional ballot, the poll workers should provide the voter with information to learn whether the voter’s ballot was ultimately counted.33

21. Can I vote in the primary election?

The presidential primary in Alabama is “open”, meaning that voters may select one party ballot from any party. There is no party registration in Alabama. However, in a primary, the voter must sign a poll list stating which party primary the voter wishes to vote. Voters in a primary election cannot vote more than one party’s ballots.34

If there are 3 or more candidates in a primary race and no one receives a majority of the votes, then a runoff primary election is held between the two candidates who receive the highest number of votes in the first primary. Alabama prohibits anyone who voted in one party’s primary from voting in another party’s primary runoff.35 However, if a person does not vote in the primary election, that person is permitted to vote in any party’s runoff primary election.36

1 Ala. Code § 17-9-6.
2 Ala. Code § 17-12-1.
3 Ala. Code § 17-3-50.
5 Melissa Brown, Election Day: What ID to bring and other things to know before you go to the polls, Montgomery Advertiser (Nov. 5, 2018), https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/politics/2018/11/05/what-photo-id-do-need-vote-and-how-do-find-my-polling-place-alabama/1833823002/ (“The address on your photo voter ID does not have to match the address you registered to vote with, Secretary of State Chief of Staff John Bennett confirmed.”).
7 Id.
8 Ala. Code §§ 17-3-56, 17-9-10, 17-10-2(a), (f).
9 Ala. Code § 17-3-56.
10 Id.
11 Ala. Code § 17-12-4.
12 Ala. Code § 17-10-3.
13 Id.
15 Ala. Code § 17-4-3.
16 Ala. Code § 17-3-31; Ala. Const. art. II, § 177.
17 Ala. Const. art. VIII, § 177; Ala. Code § 17-3-31.
18 Ala. Code § 17-3-30.1(c)
24 Ala. Code § 17-6-46.
31 Ala. Code § 17-10-2.
33 Ala. Code § 17-10-2.