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**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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## REGISTERING TO VOTE

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### 1. STATUS: 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. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?

Alabama offers online voter registration at the following website [https://www.alabamainteractive.org/sos/voter\\_registration/voterRegistrationWelcome.action](https://www.alabamainteractive.org/sos/voter_registration/voterRegistrationWelcome.action) You must have a valid Alabama driver's license or valid Alabama non-driver's identification card to submit an electronic voter registration application. If you do not have either type of identification, you must obtain an application to register and return a completed application to your local Board of Registrars. An application to register may be obtained at the same website. See [Question 21](#) for prescribed methods to return an absentee ballot application.

The address for your local Board of Registrars can you found at the following website: <https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/board-of-registrars-all-counties>

If you do not have access to a computer and/or printer you can register to vote in person at your local Board of Registrars.

You may also register in the following ways:

- call the Voter Hotline at 1-800-274-8683 to request an application to register be sent to you by mail, which application once received must be completed and returned to your local Board of Registrars;
- obtain a postcard voter registration form at any of the following locations to request that an application to register be sent to you by mail, which application once received must be completed and returned to your local Board of Registrars:
  - County Board of Registrars
  - Public 4-year universities
  - Select private 4-year universities
  - Driver's licensing office
  - County and select municipal public libraries
  - Department of Human Resources
  - WIC Program, Department of Public Health
  - Medicaid Agency
  - Department of Rehabilitation Services
- apply to register to vote when you renew your State of Alabama Driver's license or identification card;

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- apply to register to vote when you apply for services or recertify for services at any of the following offices:
  - Driver's licensing office
  - County and select municipal public libraries
  - Department of Human Resources
  - WIC Program, Department of Public Health
  - Medicaid Agency
  - Department of Rehabilitation Services.

**3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?**

You must have a valid Alabama Driver's License or valid Alabama Non-Driver's Identification card to register to vote online. If you do not have an Alabama-issued ID, you can still register by mail to vote by providing the last four digits of your social security number. If you do not have an Alabama ID or a social security number, you may write in "NONE" on the application and a unique identifier will be provided to you.

**4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?**

Voters must apply to register to vote 15 calendar days before an election they intend to vote in.<sup>1</sup> The voter registration deadline is October 19 for the November 3 general election. This means that the online or in person registration must be completed by October 19 or if you register by mail, the form must be postmarked by October 19, 2020.

**5. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration (i.e. I can register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?**

Alabama does not have same day registration.

**6. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?**

Refer to the table below. The answer to this question depends on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county.

<b>Moved within the same precinct</b>	<b>Moved to a different precinct but within the same county</b>	<b>Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Moved from a different state</b>
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	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 <u>new</u> address.	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. <sup>4</sup>	To vote in Alabama, the voter must register to vote, no later than 15 days before Election Day. If the voter has not registered in Alabama, the voter cannot cast a ballot in this election. <sup>5</sup> CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

polling place, see the Alabama Votes website from <a href="#">Question 35</a>	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. <sup>2</sup> A voter moving within the same county does not need to register again. <sup>3</sup>		
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**7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to Covid-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?**

You may register to vote using your temporary address if you have the present intention to remain at your temporary address for the time being and make it your principal home or you may remain registered at your permanent address and vote by absentee ballot by following the procedures for voting absentee where your permanent address is located.

**8. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?**

Students attending college may register at their campus address or choose to remain registered or register at their permanent or home address. 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.<sup>6</sup> You can identify your polling place if you are registered to vote in Alabama in response to [Question 1](#). If you are not located in Alabama but registered to vote in Alabama you may vote by absentee ballot.

**9. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or am serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?**

Military and other overseas citizens may use the standard procedure for absentee voting by mail. These procedures can be found at the following web page:  
<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/absentee-voting>

Military and other overseas citizens may also use the standard procedure for absentee voting by mail or use special provisions for such voters (called UOCAVA voters).

**Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot**

UOCAVA voters can use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote and to request an absentee ballot. Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) Alabama-specific FPCA page (<https://www.fvap.gov/Alabama>).

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UOCAVA voters may also register to vote and request an absentee ballot through the Alabama Military & Overseas Voting Services website (<https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm>) or by calling 1-800-274-VOTE (8683).

### **Receiving an Absentee Ballot**

UOCAVA voters may receive their blank absentee ballots by U.S. Mail or electronic transmission. To request election transmission of the blank ballot, UOCAVA voters must mark the appropriate box and provide an email address on the State of Alabama “UOCAVA Application for Absentee Ballot” (<https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm>) or on the FPCA (see Alabama-specific FPCA page: <https://www.fvap.gov/alabama>). Ballots must be returned via U.S. Mail, commercial carrier, or by hand delivery.

### **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**

The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is a back-up ballot that can be used by UOCAVA voters. You can use this FWAB whether you are located inside or outside the United States (including APO and FPO addresses), provided that you are away from your voting residence for service-related activities. You must apply for a regular ballot early enough for your local election officials to receive the request at least 5 days before Election Day. If you do not receive your regular ballot in time, you may use the FWAB. FWAB ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received within 7 days. They do not need to be received by noon on Election Day like other ballots. For specific instructions, visit the FVAP’s Alabama-specific FWAB page (<https://www.fvap.gov/Alabama>).

## **10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: 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.<sup>7</sup> Crimes involving “moral turpitude” are enumerated in Section 17-3-30.1(c) (text available at <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.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> A person obtaining a Certificate of Eligibility to Vote must still register to vote.

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. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?**

A person incarcerated for a felony that does not involve “moral turpitude” remains eligible to vote and may submit an absentee ballot.

**12. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?**

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.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup>

**13. THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED: My name isn’t on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?**

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.<sup>12</sup>

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.<sup>13</sup>

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 [Question #1](#))
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [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 [Question #1](#))
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Did they register before the deadline?

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## HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

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**14. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)? When is it?**

Alabama does not have an early voting period. But voters can simultaneously request and cast an absentee ballot in person at the office of their local election official. For a list of county election officials charged with handling absentee voting visit:

<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/city-county-lookup/absentee-election-manager>.

**15. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?**

For rules applicable to in-person absentee requirements, see Absentee Voting Section below.

**16. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?**

For the availability of in-person absentee voting, call the county election official.

**17. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?**

For the availability of in-person absentee voting, call the county election official.

**18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?**

n/a

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## HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

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**19. AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?**

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.<sup>14</sup> All other voters must request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballot applications for each county are available on this web page: <https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/absentee-ballot-applications> The voter will need to print and complete the application and either mail or hand deliver the application to the Absentee Election Manager's office in the voter's county.

**20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?**

Absentee ballot applications must be received no later than the 5th calendar day prior to the election, or October 29, 2020 for the general election.

**21. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?**

Absentee ballot applications must be **received** in the office of the Absentee Election Manager for the voter's county. See this web page for addresses for the Absentee Election Manager for each county. <https://www.sos.alabama.gov/city-county-lookup/absentee-election-manager>

The voter has only the following legal ways to return the absentee ballot:

- forwards the absentee ballot by U.S. Mail
- forwards the absentee ballot by commercial carrier
- personally hands their own absentee ballot to the absentee election manager (or delivers by a designee in the case of emergency absentee voting)

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.<sup>15</sup>

**22. DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?**

Absentee applications can be made after the absentee deadline but no later than 5 PM on the day before the election, if the voter:

- is required by an employer under unforeseen circumstances to be unavailable at the polls on the day of the election
- is a caregiver of a person who requires emergency treatment by licensed physician within five days before an election
- has a family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity die within five days before an election

Absentee voting applications can be made by a voter who has a medical emergency requiring treatment from a licensed physician within 5 days of an election. During that 5 day period, the medical emergency absentee ballot application and the voted absentee ballot must be returned no later than noon on the day the election is held. The medical emergency absentee ballot application requires that the attending physician describe and certify the circumstances as constituting an emergency. The voter may designate someone to turn in the medical emergency absentee ballot application, receive the absentee ballot on behalf of the voter, and return the voted absentee ballot to the Absentee Election Manager on behalf of the voter.

**23. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee ballot?**

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.<sup>16</sup>

\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL 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.”

**24. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?**

You may check the status of your registration and ballot at the following web page:

<https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/voterview>.

**25. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?**

Alabama notifies voters if their absentee ballot applications are rejected allowing voters to attempt to fix the issues. However, the state does not provide the same opportunity on absentee ballots during the voting process.<sup>17</sup> See [Question 24](#) for how you can check on the status of your ballot application.

**26. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?**

The absentee ballot comes with 3 envelopes -- one plain (the secrecy envelope), one with an affidavit, or oath, printed on the outside, and one plain pre-addressed envelope, (the outer envelope). CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Once the voter casts the ballot, the procedure is as follows:

- Seal the ballot in the plain envelope
- Place the plain envelope inside the accompanying affidavit envelope
- Seal the affidavit envelope and complete the affidavit that is on the outside of the envelope

Absentee ballot applications must be accompanied with a copy of the voter's photo identification. And ballot envelopes must be signed by two witnesses, or by a notary.

On September 30, 2020, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama issued a ruling that enjoins enforcement of existing requirements that (a) absentee ballots be signed by a notary or two witnesses and (b) absentee voters submit a copy of their photo ID with their absentee ballot application. For all ballots dated between September 30 and October 13, these rules will apply. However, the District Court's decision was ultimately overturned by the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit and the Supreme Court. Any ballots dated after October 14 must follow the original rules. That is voters must submit a copy of their photo ID with their absentee ballot application, and the ballot envelope must be signed by two witnesses. If the voter did not provide the requisite signatures and submitted their ballot after October 13, contact the local election office to determine how to remedy the issue.<sup>18</sup>The voter has only the following legal ways to return the absentee ballot:

- forwards the absentee ballot by U.S. Mail
- forwards the absentee ballot by commercial carrier
- personally hands their own absentee ballot to the absentee election manager (or delivers by a designee in the case of emergency absentee voting)

**27. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?**

As long as the voter has not already submitted an absentee ballot, the voter will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot in person.<sup>19</sup>

**28. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?**

As long as the voter has not already submitted the absentee ballot, the voter will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot in person.<sup>20</sup>

**29. IN PERSON OPTION: 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 in person.<sup>21</sup>

**30. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?**

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.<sup>22</sup>

**31. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a completed ballot (instead of mailing it)?**

A voter must personally hand their own absentee ballot to the Absentee Election Manager (or deliver by a designee in the case of emergency absentee voting). The addresses for the Absentee Election Manager is on this web page: <https://www.sos.alabama.gov/city-county-lookup/absentee-election-manager>

**32. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed ballot for me?**

A voter must personally hand their own absentee ballot to the office of the Absentee Election Manager unless the voter has a designee in the case of emergency absentee voting.

**33. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?**

A voter may hand in their own absentee ballot to the office of the Absentee Election Manager or if a ballot has not been submitted before election day, the voter may go to their assigned polling place and submit a provisional ballot. The voter may look up their polling place on this web page: <https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/voterview>

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## HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

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**34. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?**

The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Central Time on Election Day.<sup>23</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup> 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. **\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line by the time the polls closed from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

### 35. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

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 [Questions #6 and 7](#). **\*Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many polling places have been moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check the polling place listed on the Voter Notification Card they received from the local election authority a few days before the election.

### 36. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? 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.<sup>25</sup>

Valid forms of photo identification include:

- Valid Alabama Driver's License (not expired or has been expired less than 60 days);
- Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Digital Driver's License;
- Valid Alabama Non-driver ID (not expired or has been expired less than 60 days);
- Valid Alabama Photo Voter ID ;
- 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, State of Alabama , County Government, Municipality, Board, Authority, 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.<sup>26</sup> 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.<sup>27</sup>

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## POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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### 37. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What do I do?

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or is closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

### 38. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

See [Question 34](#) for answer if voter is in line when polls are closing.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of long lines, notify your hotline captain immediately.

### 39. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: 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.<sup>28</sup>

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.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

### 40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?

The Alabama Secretary of State has stated that (1) no voter will be required to wear a mask in order to vote and (2) specifics of polling places, such as distancing requirements, cleaning procedures and the locations of the polling places are up to local election officials at each polling site. He has also stated that his office will ensure that election officials are provided with enough personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies to “remove anxiety from them as well as voters by providing face masks, latex and non-latex gloves, hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, disinfectant wipes.” (<https://www.al.com/news/2020/08/masks-not-required-to-vote-in-alabama-merrill-says.html>)

**41. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: 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, at least three sets of instructions on how to use the voting equipment printed in large type are required to be posted in plainly visible locations at each polling place.<sup>29</sup>

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.<sup>30</sup>

**42. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?**

Yes. All polling places in Alabama should be accessible to people with disabilities, and polling officials are required to make available voting aids. 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. A polling official is permitted to allow a voter who is physically disabled or over the age of 70 to move to the front of the line at a polling place upon request of the voter. If a voter's specific disability is not accommodated, they should contact the county Judge of Probate.<sup>31</sup>

**43. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, have a physical disability, 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.<sup>32</sup>

**44. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?**

The Secretary of State of Alabama has determined that election officials ARE NOT permitted to offer curbside voting. While this option was temporarily made available in early October through a federal court decision, the Supreme Court of the United States ultimately reversed that ruling. As a result, voters will not be able to vote curbside.

**45. CAMPAIGNING: 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, the judge of probate, the sheriff or his or her deputy, the precinct election officials, and poll watchers are allowed within 30 feet of the door of the building of the polling place.<sup>33</sup>

**46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my 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 written information to learn whether the voter’s ballot was ultimately counted and, if the vote was not counted, the reason that the vote was not counted.<sup>34</sup>

**47. POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE: There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?**

See [Question 45](#) above.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

**48. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: 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.<sup>35</sup>

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## QUESTIONS

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### 49. Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

If you have further questions you may contact the Elections Division of the Secretary of State at 1-800-274-8683 or 334-242-7210.

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<sup>1</sup> Ala. Code § 17-3-50.

<sup>2</sup> Ala. Code §§ 17-3-56, 17-9-10, 17-10-2(a), (f).

<sup>3</sup> Ala. Code § 17-3-56.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Mitchell v. Kinney*, 242 Ala. 196, 203 (1942); Ala. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 2005-051 (Jan. 27, 2005), available at: <https://ago.alabama.gov/documents/opin/2005-051.pdf>; Ala. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 2012-071 (July 27, 2012), available at: <https://ago.alabama.gov/documents/opin/2012-071.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Ala. Const. art. VIII, § 177; Ala. Code § 17-3-31.

<sup>8</sup> Ala. Code § 17-3-30.1(c)

<sup>9</sup> Ala. Code § 15-22-36.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Ala. Code § 17-10-2.

<sup>12</sup> Ala. Code § 17-4-3.

<sup>13</sup> Ala. Code § 17-3-31; Ala. Const. art. II, § 177.

<sup>14</sup> H.B. 174, 2019 Leg., Reg. Sess. (Ala. 2019), available at: <http://arc-sos.state.al.us/PAC/SOSACPDF.001/A0013278.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Ala. Code § 17-9-30.

<sup>16</sup> Ala. Code § 17-11-3.

<sup>17</sup> Caroline Beck, *Alabama’s absentee voting system doesn’t allow voters to fix disqualified ballots*, Alabama Daily News (September 9, 2020), <https://www.wbr.com/2020/09/09/alabamas-absentee-voting-system-doesnt-allow-voters-fix-disqualified-ballots/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.al.com/news/2020/09/judge-rules-alabama-counties-can-offer-curb-side-voting-blocks-some-absentee-voting-laws.html>

<sup>19</sup> Ala. Code § 17-10-2.

<sup>20</sup> Ala. Code § 17-10-2.

<sup>21</sup> Ala. Code § 17-10-2.

<sup>22</sup> Ala. Code § 17-11-18.

<sup>23</sup> Ala. Code § 17-9-6.

<sup>24</sup> Ala. Code § 17-12-1.

<sup>25</sup> Ala. Code § 17-9-30.

<sup>26</sup> 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.”).

<sup>27</sup> Ala. Code § 17-10-2.

<sup>28</sup> Ala. Code § 17-12-4.

<sup>29</sup> Ala. Code § 17-6-46.

<sup>30</sup> Ala. Code § 17-9-13.

<sup>31</sup> Ala. Code § 17-2-4; 52 U.S.C. § 20102.

<sup>32</sup> Ala. Code § 17-9-13.

<sup>33</sup> Ala. Code § 17-9-50.

<sup>34</sup> Ala. Code § 17-10-2.

<sup>35</sup> Ala. Code § 17-10-2.