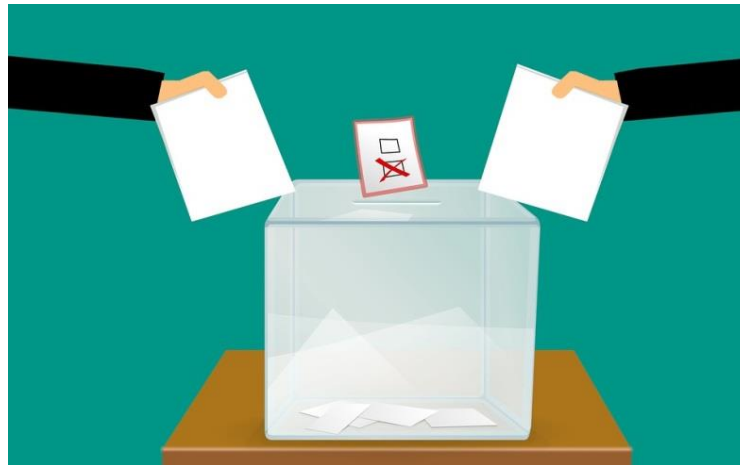


2020 Election Alabama Ballot Access

A Roadmap for Independent Candidates



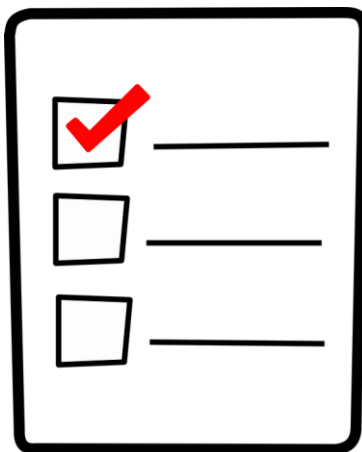
by the Office of the Alabama Secretary of State



Introduction

Candidates who choose to not run as a political party candidate may obtain ballot access by submitting a petition to the Secretary of State, if seeking a state or federal office, or to the Judge of Probate, if seeking a county office. There is no qualifying fee.





1

Step By Step...



Federal Offices

Submit petition

- Contact the Alabama Secretary of State's Elections Division at (334)-242-7210 for the required number of signatures

Follow the Federal Elections Commission filing deadlines

- Federal candidates must follow reporting guidelines and deadlines administered by the FEC at www.fec.gov or 1-(800)-424-9530.



Statewide Offices

Submit petition

- Must contain at least 51,588 signatures of registered voters in the State of Alabama
- Submit to the Secretary of State

File Statement of Economic Interests

- File with Alabama Ethics Commission (www.ethics.alabama.gov or (334)-242-2997) no more than 5 days after filing your petition

File Appointment of Principal Campaign Committee Form

- File with Alabama Secretary of State [here](#) within 5 days of submitting petition OR within 5 days of raising or spending more than \$1,000

File campaign finance disclosure reports

- Once you raise or spend more than \$1,000, then you must begin filing campaign finance disclosure reports [here](#) beginning with the next scheduled report



State District Offices

Submit petition

- Contact the Alabama Secretary of State's Elections Division at (334)-242-7210 for the required number of signatures
- Submit to Secretary of State

File Statement of Economic Interests

- File with Alabama Ethics Commission (www.ethics.alabama.gov or (334)-242-2997) no more than 5 days after filing your petition

File Appointment of Principal Campaign Committee Form

- File with Alabama Secretary of State [here](#) within 5 days of submitting petition OR within 5 days of raising or spending more than \$1,000

File campaign finance disclosure reports

- Once you raise or spend more than \$1,000, then you must begin filing campaign finance disclosure reports [here](#) beginning with the next scheduled report



Countywide and County District Offices

Submit petition

- Contact your county's [Judge of Probate](#) for the required number of signatures
- Submit to Probate Judge

File Statement of Economic Interests

- File with Alabama Ethics Commission (www.ethics.alabama.gov or (334)-242-2997) no more than 5 days after filing your petition

File Appointment of Principal Campaign Committee Form

- File with Alabama Secretary of State [here](#) within 5 days of submitting petition OR within 5 days of raising or spending more than \$1,000

File campaign finance disclosure reports

- Once you raise or spend more than \$1,000, then you must begin filing campaign finance disclosure reports [here](#) beginning with the next scheduled report



2

Deadlines

For **independent candidate** ballot access in the 2020 General Election, the petition must be filed no later than **March 3, 2020**.

For **independent presidential candidate** ballot access in the 2020 General Election, the petition must be filed no later than **August 13, 2020**.

For ballot access in special elections, please contact the Secretary of State or the Judge of Probate for the petition deadline.



Petition Requirements

3

- A statement at the top of the petition that includes the name of the independent candidate, the date of the election, the type of election (e.g., general election or special general election), the name of the political subdivision for which ballot access is sought (such as statewide, county name, or district or place number), and the name of the office sought (including district or place number). Petitions for the establishment of independent candidacy in a special election shall not be required to include the date of the special election at the top of each page.
- Numbered pages.
- Requested information for each person signing which includes name, residential address, date of birth and signature. A signature shall not be deemed invalid for lacking any portion of the requested information if the disclosed information is sufficient for determining the validity of a signature.

[Alabama Administrative Code, Rule 820-2-4-.05(1), (3)]



4

Petition Suggestions



OFFICE OF THE ALABAMA SECRETARY OF STATE

ALABAMA BALLOT ACCESS PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

DOWNLOAD THIS FORM AT [SOS.ALABAMA.GOV/ELECTIONS](https://sos.alabama.gov/elections)

PAGE ____ OF ____
STATE OF ALABAMA
Revised 12.2.2019

Pursuant to Section 17-9-3, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, we, the undersigned, are qualified electors in _____ (name of political subdivision for ballot access, such as State of Alabama for statewide ballot access, or county or title of office including district or place number, if applicable) and as such hereby request and petition that the name of _____ (name of candidate) be certified as an independent candidate for the office of _____ (title of office, including district or place number, if applicable) and placed on the official ballot in the _____ (type of election: special or general) election to be held on _____ (date of election; for a special election, the date of the election is not required.)

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY • PLEASE COMPLETE ALL FIELDS • ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE ENTRIES MAY NOT BE COUNTED

	Printed Name	Date of Birth MM/DD/YYYY	Residence Address (Physical address, no P.O. boxes)	City	Signature
1	First Last	--/ /--			
2	First Last	--/ /--			
3	First Last	--/ /--			
4	First Last	--/ /--			
5	First Last	--/ /--			
6	First Last	--/ /--			
7	First Last	--/ /--			
8	First Last	--/ /--			
9	First Last	--/ /--			
10	First Last	--/ /--			



- For the best chance of petition signatures being legible and counted, we highly suggest using this sample petition form produced by the Office of The Alabama Secretary of State at <https://AlabamaVotes.gov>.
- Have the voter sign in ink and write legibly.
- Keep a copy of the petition.



5

Number of signatures

- The number of valid signatures on the petition must equal or exceed at least **three percent** of the qualified electors who cast ballots for the Office of Governor in the last general election in the political jurisdiction for which the independent candidate is seeking ballot access: statewide, countywide, or district.
- We recommend obtaining signatures in excess of the required number, as some signatures may not be valid and/or identifiable.



Petition Filing Locations

6

- Petitions for **state and federal offices** must be filed in the Elections Division of the Office of Secretary of State, located in the State Capitol, Room E-208, Dexter Avenue, in Montgomery, Alabama.
- Mailing address:
 - Elections Division**
 - Office of the Secretary of State**
 - P.O. Box 5616**
 - Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5616**
- Address for hand-delivery:
 - Office of the Secretary of State**
 - Alabama State Capitol, Suite E-206**
 - 600 Dexter Avenue**
 - Montgomery, Alabama 36130**
- Petitions for **county offices** must be filed in the office of the **county Judge of Probate.**



For more information...

Please visit our website at AlabamaVotes.gov.





*A Public Service of Secretary of State
John H. Merrill*

Call Toll Free: [1-800-274-8683](tel:1-800-274-8683)



Voter
Registration



Election
Information



My Polling
Place



Absentee
Voting



Purchase
Voter List





Election Information

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[Voter ID at the Polls](#) (download [Photo Voter ID Guide](#))

[Help America Vote Act](#)

[Voter Turnout](#) (Adobe Acrobat Format)

[Check your registration status and see your political districts](#)



2020	2019	2018	2017
2016	2015	2014	2013
2012	2011	2010	2009
2008	2007	2006	2005
2004	2003	2002	2001

Voters

- [Absentee Voting](#)
- [County Election Officials](#)
- [Crossover Voting](#)
- [Election Information](#)
- [Why Vote?](#)
- [Election Laws](#)
- [Elections Data](#)
- [Find Your Elected Official](#)
- [Map](#)
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- [Student Poll Worker Internship](#)
- [Voter ID requirements](#)
- [Voter Registration](#)



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[Home](#) > [Alabama Votes](#) > [Election Information](#) > 2020 Election Information

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Welcome to Election 2020! This page is the primary resource on the World Wide Web for information on elections in Alabama that are scheduled for the year 2020. The purpose of this page is to provide you a quick reference to answer questions you may have about such topics as voter registration, the dates of the elections, and voting procedures.

Use the links below to explore the information we have already posted ... and return on a regular basis to keep up with new information we will be posting for elections in the year 2020!

General Information and Resources

[Voter Guide 2020](#)

[Administrative Calendar](#)

[Candidate Filing Guide](#)

[2020 FCPA Filing Calendar](#)

[Cross Over Voting Rules](#)

[Presidential Candidate Ballot Access Information, Sample Petition, and Administrative Rule](#)

[Independent Candidate Info, Sample Petition, and Administrative Rule](#)

[Minor Party Info, Sample Petition, and Administrative Rule](#)

[Guidelines For Holding a Voter Drive in the State of Alabama](#)

Voters

- [Absentee Voting](#)
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- [Provisional Ballot Status](#)
- [Student Poll Worker](#)
- [Internship](#)
- [Voter ID requirements](#)
- [Voter Registration](#)



Questions?

- Please call:
 - The Alabama Secretary of State's Elections Division
 - 334-242-7210
 - Or your local probate judge's office:
 - <https://www.sos.alabama.gov/city-county-lookup/probate-judges>

**This presentation document is intended to be a quick-reference guide for independent candidates seeking ballot access in Alabama and is not a substitute for the Code of Alabama or any other lawful entity. For further information, please consult the Code of Alabama or contact the Alabama Secretary of State's Elections Division.*

