Municipal Election Information

2020 Election Calendar and Election Manual

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What Every Potential Candidate Should Know About Municipal Government

On August 25, 2020, most Alabama municipalities will hold elections for the mayor and council. Written qualifications to run in the elections are, until July 1, 2021, only required for candidates running for municipal office. The Alabama League of Municipalities has prepared a manual that explains how to hold elections in Mayor-Council municipalities which cover topics related to campaigning and holding a municipal election. This manual is similar to a calendar outlining all of the important dates relating to the election process. The manual will be available to download on the League’s website (www.alalm.org) after November 11, 2019. For the next several issues of the Municipal Journal, the League’s legal department will explain various topics relating to municipal elections and the election process.

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Where to Get Help

- Municipal Clerks
- SOS
- Attorney General
- Probate Judge
- Board of Registrars
- Election Equipment Supplier (ESS, county, etc.)
- League

IMPORTANT DATES

- February 25th – Last day to change salaries
- July 2nd – Last day to establish qualification fees
- July 7th - Candidates can officially qualify
- July 21st – Last day to Qualify
- July 28th - Absentee balloting starts
- **Aug. 25th – Election Day**
- September 1st – Canvassing results
- **October 6th – Run-off Election Day**
- November 2nd – Officials Take Office
IMPORTANT DATES:
Fair Campaign Practices Act

FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT (FCPA) DEADLINES

All FCPA forms are available from the Probate Judge or the Secretary of State and can be downloaded at [www.sos.state.al.us](http://www.sos.state.al.us).

60 days prior to the campaign period.

For questions regarding the FCPA, call the Secretary of State’s Ethics Division at 334-242-7114.

For more information, visit [www.sos.state.al.us](http://www.sos.state.al.us).

IMPORTANT DATES:
League Orientation Sessions

- Birmingham – Oct. 21-22, 2020
- Huntsville – Nov. 5-6, 2020
- Montgomery – Nov. 12-13, 2020
Changes to Election Laws from 2019 Legislative Session

Voter Registration Deadline

- State/County Election - 14 days
- Municipal Election - 10 days

Act 2019-538 made them consistent

Must be registered to vote 14 days prior to municipal election
Statement of Economic Interests - Candidates

- Act 2019-529
- Prior: when candidates qualified they were required to simultaneously file SEI with Ethics Commission
- Now have up to 5 days AFTER qualification to file SEI with Ethics Commission
- Name CANNOT appear on ballot if SEI not filed properly

Photographing Ballots

- Act 2019-370
- Class A misdemeanor to "photograph a ballot, other than an individual's own ballot or to reveal any manner that would disclose its contents to anyone other than an individual lawfully assisting the voter."
- OK to photograph your own ballot
Absentee Voter I.D.

- Act 2019-507
- Prior: voter submitted I.D. with the Ballot
- Voter now submits I.D. with the Application
- “an absentee ballot shall not be issued unless the required identification is submitted with the absentee ballot application.”

Reasons for Voting Absentee

- Person is a caregiver for a family member to the second degree of kinship and the family member is confined to his or her home

Table of Consanguinity

Showing degrees of relationship

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<th>Person</th>
<th>Great Great Grandparents</th>
<th>Great Grandparents</th>
<th>Great Grand Uncles Aunts</th>
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<th>First Cousins</th>
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Reasons for Voting Absentee

- Person is incarcerated in prison or jail and has not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude as provided in Section 17-3-30.1.

Emergency Absentee

- Person required by employer under unforeseen circumstances within 5 days of election to be unavailable to vote at the polls on election day.
- Person is a caregiver of a person who requires emergency treatment by a licensed physician within 5 days of the election.
- Person has a family member to the second degree of kinship who dies within 5 days of the election.
List of Absentee Voters

• Act 2019-359
• SOS to establish procedures for permanent absentee status
• Signed and notarized by primary physician

Disabled Voters
2020 Legislative Session

• League bill re: SEI for 2020 Municipal Elections
• SOS Run-off bill – shorten time to 4 weeks to parallel state
• League/SOS – back up qualification into June to allow for plenty of time to prepare ballots

QUESTIONS?

Call the League Legal Department!
(334)262-2566

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