

2022 Independent Candidate Ballot Access

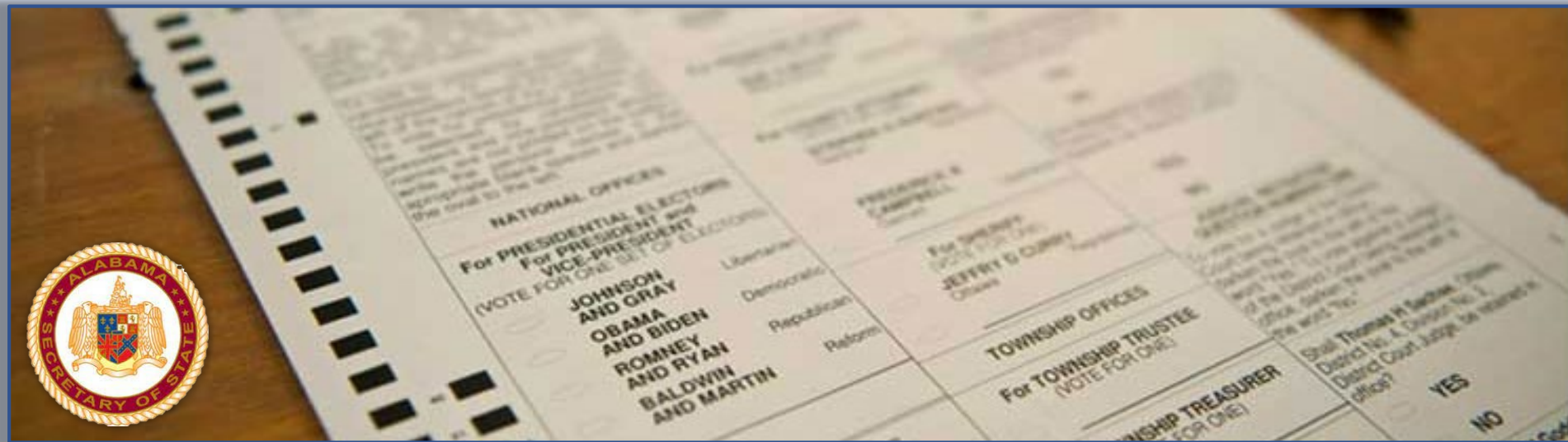
Guide for Independent Candidates



Elections Division
Office of the Alabama Secretary of State

Ballot Access Overview:

- Those candidates who choose to not run as a political party candidate may obtain ballot access by submitting a ballot access 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 for ballot access.



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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: 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 not more than 5 days after filing your ballot access petition.
- 334-242-2997 or www.ethics.alabama.gov

File Appointment of Principal Campaign Committee Form

- File with the Alabama Secretary of State within 5 days of submitting petition OR within 5 days of raising or spending more than \$1,000.
- fcpa.alabamavotes.gov

File Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports

- Once more than \$1,000 has been raised OR spent, you must begin filing campaign finance disclosure reports beginning with the next scheduled report.



State District Offices

Submit Petition

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



File Statement of Economic Interests

- File with Alabama Ethics Commission not more than 5 days after filing your ballot access petition.
- 334-242-2997 or www.ethics.alabama.gov

File Appointment of Principal Campaign Committee Form

- File Alabama Secretary of State within 5 days of submitting petition OR within 5 days of raising or spending more than \$1,000.
- fcpa.alabamavotes.gov

File Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports

- Once more than \$1,000 has been raised OR spent, you must begin filing campaign finance disclosure reports 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 your county's Judge of Probate.

File Statement of Economic Interests

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

File Appointment of Principal Campaign Committee Form

- File with Alabama Secretary of State within 5 days of submitting petition OR within 5 days of raising or spending more than \$1,000.
- fcpa.alabamavotes.gov

File Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports

- Once more than \$1,000 has been raised OR spent, you must begin filing campaign finance disclosure reports beginning with the next scheduled report.



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Deadlines

- For **independent candidate** ballot access in the 2022 General Election, the petition must be filed no later than **May 24, 2022**.
- For ballot access in special elections, please contact the Secretary of State or the Judge of Probate for the petition deadline.



3 Petition Requirements

- 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.



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Petition Suggestions

OFFICE OF THE ALABAMA SECRETARY OF STATE
ALABAMA BALLOT ACCESS PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES
DOWNLOAD THIS FORM AT ALABAMAVOTES.GOV

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 available on the Alabama Secretary of State’s website: www.alabamavotes.gov
- [Sample Ballot Access Petition Form](#)
- Have the voter sign in ink and write legibly.
- Keep a copy of the petition.



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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.



6 Petition Filing Location

- **Petitions for state and federal offices** must be filed in the Elections Division of the Office of Secretary of State, located inside the State Capitol, Room E-206, 600 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama.
- **Petitions for county offices** must be filed in the office of the county Judge of Probate.
- **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 Alabama Secretary of State
State Capitol, Suite E-206
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130



For More Information...

Please visit our website at www.AlabamaVotes.gov





Alabama VOTES
The State of Alabama's Official Election Center

A Public Service of Secretary of State
John H. Merrill

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

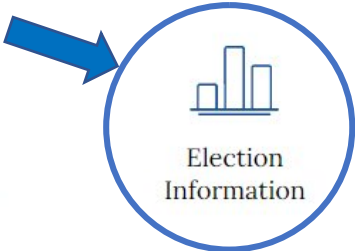
3,588,116 Registered Voters

[Click here to View COVID-19 Resources Related to Voting](#) ✕

[Click here to View Senate District 14 & House District 73 Special Primary Unofficial Election Results](#) ✕



Voter Registration



Election Information



My Voting Information



Absentee Voting



Purchase Voter List

Election Information

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

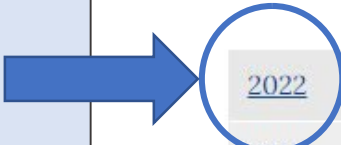
[Voter ID at the Polls \(download \[Photo Voter ID Guide\]\(#\)\)](#)

[Help America Vote Act](#)

[Voter Turnout \(PDF\)](#)

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

[Find Your Elected Official Map](#)



2022	2021	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](#)
- [Election Information](#)
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- [Election Laws](#)
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- [Find Your Elected Official Map](#)
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- [Poll Worker Information](#)
- [Vote in Honor of a Veteran](#)

2022 Election Information

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Welcome to Election 2022! This page is the primary resource on the World Wide Web for information on elections in Alabama that are scheduled for the year 2022. 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 2022!

General Information and Resources

[Administrative Calendar](#)

[Candidate Filing Guide](#)

[2022 Poll Worker Guide](#)

[2022 FCPA Filing Calendar](#)

[Cross Over Voting Rules](#)

[Absentee Election Manager Guide](#)

[Voter Drive Guidelines](#)

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

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

[Campaign Advertisement Guidelines](#)

[PAC Filing Guidelines](#)

[Candidate Filing Guidelines](#)

[Act 2019-469 Court Seat Place Numbers](#)

[2022 Signature Requirements by Office](#)

Voters

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Questions?



Please call:

- The Alabama Secretary of State's Elections Division:

334-242-7210

- Or your local judge of probate 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.*