

# ALABAMA ELECTION PROCEDURES

## TITLE 17, CODE OF 1940

### A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE METHODS OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

THERE ARE FOUR METHODS BY WHICH CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO PUBLIC OFFICES ARE NOMINATED: (1) BY PRIMARY ELECTION, (2) BY PARTY CONVENTION, (3) BY CAUCUS OR MASS MEETING, (4) BY PETITION.

ALABAMA IS PREDOMINANTLY DEMOCRATIC AND THAT PARTY ALWAYS NOMINATES ITS CANDIDATES BY PRIMARY ELECTION. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY USUALLY NOMINATES ITS CANDIDATES BY PARTY CONVENTION. MINOR PARTIES USUALLY NOMINATE BY CAUCUS OR MASS MEETING HELD ON THE STATUTORY DATE FOR HOLDING PRIMARY ELECTIONS. PETITIONS FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES' NAMES TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOTS MUST BE FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION DATE. THE NAMES OF ALL CANDIDATES FOR STATE, DISTRICT OR CIRCUIT OFFICES OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY MUST BE CERTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE NOT LESS THAN SIXTY DAYS BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION. THE SECRETARY OF STATE MUST IMMEDIATELY CERTIFY THESE NAMES TO THE PROBATE JUDGES OF THE COUNTIES WHO MUST ORDER THE NAMES PRINTED UPON THE BALLOTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTIES.

ANY POLITICAL PARTY WHICH CAST MORE THAN 20 PER CENT OF THE ENTIRE VOTE CAST IN THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION FOR STATE AND COUNTY OFFICERS IS ELIGIBLE TO HOLD A PRIMARY ELECTION IN THE NEXT ELECTION YEAR. HOWEVER, ANY PARTY ELIGIBLE TO HOLD A PRIMARY MAY, BY VOTE OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ELECT NOT TO HOLD A PRIMARY ELECTION AND SUCH ACTION MUST BE CERTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE NOT LESS THAN SIXTY DAYS BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION DATE WHICH IS THE FIRST TUESDAY IN MAY IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS. THE RUN-OFF ELECTION IS HELD ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY THEREAFTER.

THE DATE OF THE PARTY CONVENTION IS SET BY THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HOLDS ITS CONVENTION IN JANUARY OF ELECTION YEARS FOR THE PURPOSES OF PARTY ORGANIZATION AND SETTING UP RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS. CANDIDATES MUST BE QUALIFIED VOTERS AND MUST MEET THE POLITICAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE GOVERNING PARTY. THEY MUST FILE THEIR DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY AND PAY THE REQUIRED PARTY FEES BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON MARCH FIRST NEXT PRECEDING THE ELECTION. WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER PUBLICLY DECLARING HIS CANDIDACY EACH CANDIDATE MUST FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE THE NAME OF ONE OR MORE PERSONS AS A COMMITTEE TO MANAGE HIS CAMPAIGN FUNDS. WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER THE PRIMARY ELECTION THIS COMMITTEE MUST FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AN ITEMIZED REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AND MONEYS EXPENDED. CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT, CIRCUIT AND COUNTY OFFICES FILE THE AFOREMENTIONED DOCUMENTS WITH EACH PROBATE JUDGE IN THE DISTRICT, CIRCUIT OR COUNTY. CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES FILE THESE DOCUMENTS WITH THE CITY CLERK. AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION THESE STATEMENTS MUST BE FILED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.

NOT LESS THAN FIFTY-FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MUST CERTIFY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE THE NAMES OF ALL CANDIDATES WHO HAVE QUALIFIED FOR NOMINATION TO FEDERAL, STATE, CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT OFFICES. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MUST SO CERTIFY THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATION TO COUNTY OFFICES. NOT LESS THAN FORTY-FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION DATE THE SECRETARY OF STATE MUST CERTIFY TO THE JUDGE OF PROBATE THE NAMES OF ALL OPPOSED CANDIDATES CERTIFIED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE PROBATE JUDGES MUST THEN HAVE THE BALLOTS PRINTED.

AT NOON ON TUESDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE PRIMARY ELECTION A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS AT THE CAPITOL AND CANVASSES THE RETURNS. WITHIN THREE DAYS THEREAFTER THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MUST CERTIFY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE THE RESULTS OF THE CANVASS AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES WHO MUST COMPETE IN THE RUN-OFF. IF NO CANDIDATE RECEIVES A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE FIRST PRIMARY, A RUN-OFF ELECTION IS HELD ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY FOLLOWING THE FIRST PRIMARY AND THE NAMES OF THE TWO CANDIDATES RECEIVING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES FOR THE OFFICE, OR OFFICES, IN QUESTION ARE CERTIFIED AS FOR THE FIRST PRIMARY. THE ELECTION IS HELD AND THE RESULTS CANVASSED AS BEFORE. RETURNS OF THE VOTE IN GENERAL OR SPECIAL ELECTIONS ARE CANVASSED WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER THE ELECTION BY A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THE GOVERNOR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES.

THE SUBJECT OF ABSENTEE VOTING IS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 4, TITLE 17, AS AMENDED BY ACT NO. 655 OF THE 1959 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

To Robert S. Vance, Chairman  
State Democratic Executive Committee of Alabama  
917 Frank Nelson Building  
Birmingham, Alabama

Certificate of Election of District Chairmen

The undersigned, comprising a majority of  
the five delegates to the 1968 Democratic National Conven-  
tion from the Old \_\_\_\_\_ District certify  
that we do hereby elect and designate

\_\_\_\_\_  
as the District Chairman from said District and the District  
Delegate from said District is entitled to one full vote at  
said convention.

This \_\_\_\_ day of July, 1968.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate