



HOW TO VOTE IN ALABAMA

A Quick Guide for People with Disabilities Voting in the Primary Election on Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Note: There are lots of different words and phrases used in voting and elections. We explain some of these words and phrases in this guide. Other definitions and examples can be found in our [Voting Language Resource](#).

There are also phrases that might change based on where you live. For example, in this guide, we use the term "local election office." In some cities and towns, this office might have a different name. Your local election office might be called the county clerk, county election commission, board of elections, or something else. You can find that information by clicking on the links for each state that we have included in the guide.

REGISTERING TO VOTE



- **How can I register to vote?**
 - You can find out if you are already registered by visiting vote411.org.
 - Register to vote online at Alabama's [online voter registration website](#).
 - Register to vote by downloading, filling out, and returning the Alabama [voter registration form](#).
- **When do I need to register?**
 - The deadline to register online to vote is Monday, February 19.

- If you are registering by mail to vote, your registration must be postmarked by Saturday, February 17. A postmark is a stamp on the envelope that lists the day that the post office received your mail.
- The deadline to register in person at the election office is Friday, February 16.
- Be sure to register on or before these dates. In this state, voters cannot register after the deadlines or on Election Day.
- **Do I need an identification (ID) to register?** You will need a driver's license or non-driver state ID to register to vote. You can use your Social Security number if you don't have a driver's license or non-driver state ID.
- **Can I vote if I have a disability?** Yes! People with disabilities who are 18 years old or older have the right to vote. Your vote matters and is protected by laws to make sure voting is accessible, independent, and private.
- **Can I vote if I have a guardian?** In this state, just having a guardian does not automatically take away your right to vote. However, sometimes a court may decide that you cannot vote. If you are not sure, you can check your guardianship order. If your guardianship order does not say anything about voting, this means you can still vote! Your right has only been taken away if your order directly says that. For help understanding your right to vote and guardianship, contact the local [Protection and Advocacy Agency \(P&A\)](#).
- **Can I vote if I have gone to jail or prison?** If you have gone to jail or prison, you should check to see if you are allowed to vote. Some states take away your right to vote if you have gone to jail or prison. Learn about voting rights for people who have [gone to jail or prison](#). You can also learn more from the [Campaign Legal Center](#) or [contact the local P&A](#).



LEARNING ABOUT THE ISSUES

- **What is a primary election?** In some elections, only 1 person from each political party can run for an elected official position. For example, only 1 Democrat candidate and 1 Republican candidate can run in a race to become a President or Senator. But lots of people want to be elected officials, so the state hosts two elections. In the first election, every party votes on who their candidate will be. This is called a primary election. Then, there is a second election that happens later with the winners of the primary election. This is called the general election. In the general election, everyone votes for which of these candidates they want to be elected to each office.
- **What is a ballot?** A ballot is a list of who and what you are voting for. Your ballot will list candidates who are running for different offices, such as President, Senator, or Member of Congress. You vote by marking your choice on the ballot. If you are voting by marking a paper ballot and not using a voting machine, make sure to look at both sides of the ballot. Sometimes, your ballot has choices on both sides.
- **Can I look at my ballot before I go to vote?** Enter your home address in [Ballotpedia's Sample Ballot Lookup](#). This tool will give you a "sample ballot," which will show you what will be on your ballot when you vote.



VOTING IN PERSON

- **Where do I need to go to vote?** The place where you go to vote in person is called a polling place. You can find your local polling place through the Alabama Secretary of State website. [Find your polling place.](#)
- **Do I need an ID to vote in person?** This state requires voters to show a photo ID to vote in person. The Alabama Secretary of State's website has a list of acceptable IDs that you may bring with you. [Learn about voter ID.](#)

- **What if I need help with filling out my ballot?** You are allowed to have someone help you fill out your ballot.
- **Who can help me with filling out my ballot?** You may choose someone you know to help you vote or ask for help from a poll worker at the polling place. Your boss cannot help you vote. If you are part of a labor union at work, the person who helps you vote cannot be your labor union representative. [Learn about labor unions](#) on our resource page.
- **Can I vote before Election Day?** This state does not allow voters to vote in person before Election Day. You will need to vote on Election Day if you are voting in person. If you will be away from home on Election Day, you can vote by absentee ballot. Learn about voting by absentee ballot below.
- **Can I vote outside of the polling place if it is inaccessible?** This state does not allow voters to vote outside the polling place if it is inaccessible. If the polling place is inaccessible, you can contact the [Secretary of State's office](#) for assistance or vote by absentee ballot.

VOTING BY MAIL



- **Can I vote by mail?** If you have a disability or you will be away from home on Election Day, you can vote by mail in this state. This is called absentee voting. (If a polling place is not accessible to people with disabilities, this is another way for you to vote.)
- **Do I need an ID to vote by absentee ballot?** In this state, voters need to include a copy of a valid photo ID when requesting an absentee ballot.
- **How do I request an absentee ballot?** You must request an absentee ballot through the local election office by mail or in person. [Request your ballot.](#)
- **Can I get an electronic absentee ballot?** This state does not have an electronic absentee ballot available for voters with disabilities, so you must vote on a paper ballot. _

- **What is the deadline for requesting my ballot?** The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is Tuesday, February 27. The last day to request an absentee ballot at the local election office is Thursday, February 29. Request your ballot as soon as possible to make sure that you receive it on time.
- **What if I need help with filling out my ballot?** You are allowed to have someone help you fill out your ballot.
- **Do I need to sign my ballot envelope?** Follow the instructions on the envelope to sign your envelope when asked. Your ballot will not be counted if your signature is missing. The ballot envelope also must either be signed by two witnesses who are 18 years of age or older or be notarized by a notary. A notary is someone that is appointed by the state government to witness signatures on important documents. [Learn about notaries](#) on our resource page.
- **How do I return my ballot?** You can return your ballot by mail or deliver it to the local election office. If you are returning your ballot by mail, it must be received by 12 p.m. (noon) on Election Day, Tuesday, March 5. If you deliver your ballot, it must be received by close of business on the day before the election, Monday, March 4.
- **Can someone return my ballot for me?** No, only the voter may return their ballot to the local election office unless they are having a medical emergency. If you are having a medical emergency, you may have someone return your ballot for you.
- **Can I track my ballot?** Yes, you can track your ballot online to see if the local election office has received it. You can do this on the Alabama Secretary of State's website. [Track your ballot.](#)



MORE VOTING HELP

- **Where can I find more information on how to vote?** Check out the [Alabama Secretary of State's election website](#).
- **What if I am having trouble voting or registering to vote?** If you have any trouble voting, [contact the local P&A](#). If you need help, the phone number is 1-205-348-4928.
- **What if I have more questions?** Check out these resources:
 - [America Votes: Local Election Office Directory](#)
 - [Guardianship and Voting Laws](#)
 - [Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Voters](#)
 - [Resources for Blind and Low Vision Voters](#)
 - [Easy Read and Plain Language Voting Resources](#)
 - [Campaign Legal Center: Restore Your Vote](#)
 - [VoteRiders: Voter ID Help](#)
 - [Election Protection Hotline](#): 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)



The 2024 State Voting Guides for Disabled Voters are made by the REV UP Voting Campaign at the American Association of People with Disabilities. This project was led by Sarah Blahovec.