



State of Alabama

Polling Place
Frequently Asked Questions

John H. Merrill
Secretary of State

Should you experience any problems at your polling place, please notify your Polling Place Chief Inspector. If there is no remedy, then contact your county Probate Judge's office. Finally, should these officials not be able to remedy your issue, please call the Alabama Secretary of State's office at 1-800-274-8683.

DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE EVEN IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH MY REGISTRATION?

Yes. If your name does not appear on the voter list at the polling place that serves the area where you live, you may vote using a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is an emergency ballot that you may vote when there are questions about your eligibility. These ballots are then counted after the question is properly addressed. You have the right to vote a provisional ballot if you are certain you are in the correct polling place.

I DID NOT BRING A VALID PHOTO ID, MAY I STILL VOTE? Yes. You may vote a regular ballot if two election officials can identify you. If you did not bring a valid form of photo identification with you and two election officials cannot identify you, then you may vote using a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is an emergency ballot that you may vote when there are questions about your eligibility. These ballots are then counted after the question is properly addressed. You will then have until 5:00 PM on the Friday following the election to bring a valid form of photo identification to your county board of registrars.

WHAT IF I MAKE A MISTAKE ON MY BALLOT? If you have not already placed your ballot in the electronic voting machine or ballot box, you may ask a poll worker for another ballot. The poll worker will spoil your first ballot so that it cannot be counted or reused.

MAY I REQUEST ASSISTANCE WITH COMPLETING MY BALLOT? Yes. A voter may request assistance from anyone who is not the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an agent of the voter's union.

AM I ALLOWED TO VOTE IN A PRIVATE MANNER? Yes. Each polling place should have a place for voters to complete their ballot in private. Should you not see a private place to complete your ballot, you should notify the chief inspector of the polling place.

MAY I TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OR VIDEOTAPE INSIDE MY POLLING PLACE? No. Each voter has a right to cast a ballot in secrecy and in private. The U.S. Department of Justice has advised that photography or videotaping inside a polling place does not serve any useful purpose and may instead actually intimidate voters who are exercising their right to vote.

ARE CANDIDATES ALLOWED TO CAMPAIGN OUTSIDE THE POLLING PLACE? Yes, electioneering or campaigning is permitted, outside the polling place. However, this activity must not be closer than 30 feet to the entrance of the polling place. If the polling place is located in a room within a building, the campaigning must not be closer than 30 feet to the entrance of the building. If a candidate or his or her supporters are campaigning within 30 feet of the entrance of the polling place, notify the Chief Inspector of the polling place.

IS CAMPAIGNING ALLOWED INSIDE THE POLLING PLACE? No. State law prohibits campaigning inside the polling place. A voter may wear a campaign button or t-shirt with political advertisements on them, but they may not loiter or leave any campaign materials in the polling place. Voters may also bring their own completed sample ballot into the polling place.