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Voting

**Absentee in the Alabama U.S. Senate Election, Dec. 12, 2017:
Frequently Asked Questions**

Quotes in this document are from "[2018 VOTER GUIDE](#)" [PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ALABAMA SECRETARY OF STATE](#) unless otherwise noted.

Questions answered in this document:

- **WHERE CAN I GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION FORM?**
- **WHERE AND WHEN SHOULD I RETURN THE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION FORM?**
- **WHERE CAN I GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION FORM?**
- **WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR WHICH I CAN BE APPROVED TO VOTE ABSENTEE?**
- **HOW WILL I RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION IF IT IS APPROVED?**
- **HOW DO I VOTE ABSENTEE? WHAT IS THE BALLOT PROCEDURE?**
- **WHAT ABOUT ABSENTEE BALLOT WITNESSES OR NOTARIZATION? IS IT REQUIRED?**
- **WHERE SHOULD I MAIL OR HAND-DELIVER MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?**
- **WHEN IS THE ABSENTEE VOTING DEADLINE?**
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WHERE CAN I GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION FORM?

Download an [absentee ballot application form](#).

Do this NOW or no later than Thursday, Dec. 7th for the Dec. 12th Alabama Special Election for U.S. Senate!

WHERE AND WHEN SHOULD I RETURN THE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION FORM?

Return your absentee ballot AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! The deadline for returning your absentee ballot application for the Dec. 12th Special Election for U.S. Senate is Thursday, Dec. 7th. If mailing your absentee ballot application for the Senate Special Election, it must be postmarked by Thursday, Dec. 7th. Here are the mailing address, physical address, and phone number for [each county's Absentee Election Manager](#) (usually, the County Clerk).

"The absentee ballot application must be returned to the Absentee Election Manager by the voter in person (or by the voter's designee in the case of medical emergency voting) or by U.S. Mail."

"No absentee ballot application may be mailed in the same envelope as another voter's absentee ballot application."

WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR WHICH I CAN BE APPROVED TO VOTE ABSENTEE?

On the absentee ballot application form, you will be asked to reply to the following:

I am applying for an absentee ballot because (check one box):

- I will be out of the county or the state on election day.
- I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls.
- I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls. I am unable to access my assigned polling place due to a neurological, musculoskeletal, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, or other life-altering disorder that affects my ability to perform manual tasks, stand for any length of time, walk unassisted, see, hear or speak AND:
 - a) I am an elderly voter aged 65 or older; or
 - b) I am a voter with a disability.
- I work a shift which has at least ten (10) hours that coincide with the polling hours at my regular polling place.

- I am enrolled as a student at an educational institution located outside the county of my personal residence, attendance at which prevents my attendance at the polls.
- I am a member of, or a spouse or dependent of a member of, the Armed Forces of the United States or am otherwise similarly qualified to vote absentee pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973ff. [See the [Federal Voting Assistance Program website](#).]
- I have been appointed as an election officer at a polling place which is not my regular polling place.

HOW WILL I RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION IF IT IS APPROVED?

If the absentee ballot application is approved, the Absentee Election Manager forwards the absentee ballot by U.S. Mail, or personally hands the absentee ballot to the voter (or to a designee in the case of medical emergency absentee voting)

HOW DO I VOTE ABSENTEE? WHAT IS THE BALLOT PROCEDURE?

NOTE: The procedure for military personnel, spouses, and dependents is different than that given below. See the [Federal Voting Assistance Program website](#).

"The absentee ballot comes with three envelopes -- one plain (the secrecy envelope), one with an affidavit, or oath, printed on the outside, and one plain envelope, preaddressed (the outer envelope). Once the voter casts the ballot, the procedure is as follows:

- Seal the ballot in the plain envelope
- Place the plain envelope inside the accompanying affidavit envelope
- Seal the affidavit envelope and complete the affidavit that is on the outside of the envelope
- Sign the affidavit and have the signature witnessed by either a notary public or two witnesses 18 years of age or older
- Place the affidavit envelope inside the outer envelope and IF YOU ARE NOT DISABLED also place a COPY of voter identification inside the outer envelope,

unless exempt as an elderly voter or voter with disability whose polling place is inaccessible. Remember to place a copy of your I.D. (NOT THE ORIGINAL) inside the outer envelope."*

* NOTE: If you have a disability and are voting via absentee ballot, you may not be required to include a copy of your photo voter ID.

"ELDERLY VOTERS AND VOTERS WITH A DISABILITY WHOSE POLLING PLACE IS INACCESSIBLE — A voter who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot pursuant to the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act or any other federal law shall not be required to produce identification when voting by absentee ballot. Voters who fall under this category can check a box on their absentee ballot application which will indicate that their polling place is 1) inaccessible and 2) they are elderly (age 65 or older) or are disabled. The Absentee Election Manager will not require an ID in order for these absentee ballots to be counted. A polling place is considered inaccessible if a disabled or elderly voter is unable to access his or her assigned polling place due to a neurological, musculoskeletal, respiratory, cardiovascular, or other life-altering disorder that affects the ability to perform manual tasks, stand for any length of time, walk unassisted, see, hear, or speak."

WHAT ABOUT ABSENTEE BALLOT WITNESSES OR NOTARIZATION? IS IT REQUIRED?

"An absentee ballot cannot be counted unless the affidavit is notarized or has the signatures of two witnesses."

WHERE SHOULD I MAIL OR HAND-DELIVER MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

The voter has only the following legal ways to return the absentee ballot:

- forward the absentee ballot by U.S. Mail, or
- personally hand the absentee ballot to the absentee election manager (or deliver by a designee in the case of emergency absentee voting)

Return the absentee ballot to the Absentee Election Manager, that is, to the same office at which you applied to vote absentee. Here are the mailing address, physical address, and phone number for [each county's Absentee Election Manager](#) (usually, the County Clerk).

WHEN IS THE ABSENTEE VOTING DEADLINE?

An absentee ballot returned by mail must be postmarked no later than the day prior to the election (in this case, by Monday, Dec. 11th) and received by the Absentee Election Manager no later than noon on election day (in this case, by Tuesday, Dec. 12th). If hand-delivered, the ballot must be in the office of the Absentee Election Manager by 5 p.m. on the day prior to the election, that is, by 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11th.

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION OR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ELECTION AND ABSENTEE VOTING?

- Visit the Alabama Secretary of State's [Absentee Voting Information web page](#).
- For general questions about the election and voting, visit the [elections website of the Alabama Secretary of State](#).
- Call the Alabama Secretary of State Elections Division at 1-800-274-8683.
- Locally, call your [County Board of Registrar](#) or your [County Absentee Election Manager](#).
- Answers to many of your voting and election questions can be found in the ["2018 VOTER GUIDE" PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ALABAMA SECRETARY OF STATE](#)

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