

## Absentee Voting

In Alabama, absentee voting is the only method by which a citizen can cast a ballot prior to an election day. Given the importance of elections in our country, state and community, there are a variety of requirements associated with the absentee voting process to ensure the integrity of the vote of the involved Mobile County citizen. These requirements must be strictly complied with. Failure to comply with any one of the provisions will result in the absentee ballot not being processed and counted.

A registered voter is permitted to vote absentee under any one of the following circumstances:

1. A registered voter who is temporarily living outside Mobile County, such as a citizen who is in the military, a college student, a registered voter who is working outside Mobile County, or the spouse or dependent of such persons;
2. A registered voter who is working as an election official or poll watcher at an election poll that is not the election poll where the citizen is assigned to vote at based on their residency;
3. A registered voter who is scheduled to work a 10 hour or more work shift that coincides with the hours the election is being conducted;
4. A registered voter who is a caregiver for a family member to the second degree of kinship by blood or marriage and the family member is confined to his or her home;
5. A registered voter who expects to be absent from Mobile County on an election day;
6. A registered voter who has a disability and is 65 years of age or older; or
7. A registered voter who is currently incarcerated in prison or jail and has not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude.

Registered voters who desire to vote absentee can request an absentee ballot by mail or in person. If a registered voter applies for an absentee ballot in writing, only one completed application can be submitted in an envelope to the absentee election manager's office. Additionally, if a registered voter applies for an absentee ballot by mail or applies in person to vote absentee, they must provide a photocopy of an acceptable form of identification that includes the name and photograph of the citizen requesting the absentee ballot. These requirements are election integrity features of Alabama's absentee voting procedure.

Upon verification that the citizen is entitled to vote and the issuance of an absentee ballot is proper, the absentee ballot material will be mailed to the citizen or given to the citizen if they come in person to obtain their absentee ballot. It is important that the citizen follow the instructions relating to the absentee ballot very closely. The absentee voting citizen's signature must be witnessed, either by two persons or by a notary public. This is yet another ballot security - election integrity feature.

A registered voter who desires to vote absentee can come directly to the absentee election manager's office to request their absentee ballot. Once processed, they can depart with their absentee ballot and return it to my office later either by mail or in person. Alternatively, a person who physically comes to the absentee election manager's office may complete their absentee ballot and return it to the absentee election manager's office before departing.

If a registered voter receives an absentee ballot by mail or in person and they choose to hand deliver it to the absentee election manager's office –they must personally hand-deliver it. No other person is authorized to hand-deliver a completed absentee ballot to the absentee election manager's office. Alabama does not permit the usage of “drop” boxes for the return of absentee ballots. This is another election integrity feature of Alabama's absentee voting procedure.

**EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING applications can be made after the absentee deadline but no later than 5 PM on the day before the election:**

- If the voter is required by an employer under unforeseen circumstances to be unavailable at the polls on the day of the election;
- If the voter is a caregiver of a person who requires emergency treatment by licensed physician within five days before an election; or
- If the voter has a family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity die within five days before an election.

**MEDICAL EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING applications can be made by a voter who has a medical emergency requiring treatment from a licensed physician within 5 days of an election.**

During that 5 day period, the medical emergency absentee ballot application and the voted absentee ballot must be returned no later than noon on the day the election is held. The medical emergency absentee ballot application requires that the attending physician describe and certify the circumstances as constituting an emergency. The voter may designate someone to turn in the medical emergency absentee ballot application, receive the absentee ballot on behalf of the voter, and return the voted absentee ballot to the absentee election manager's office on behalf of the voter.

**The following dates are applicable to absentee voting in 2024:**

Voter Registration Deadline – February 19, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Application Deadline (Mail) – February 27, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Application Deadline (Hand Delivery) – February 29, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Deadline (Hand Delivery) – March 4, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Deadline (Mail) – March 5, 2024 by 12PM  
Primary Election Day – March 5, 2024

Voter Registration Deadline – April 1, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Application Deadline (Mail) – April 9, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Application Deadline (Hand Delivery) – April 11, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Deadline (Hand Delivery) – April 15, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Deadline (Mail) – April 16, 2024 by 12PM  
Run-Off Election Day – April 16, 2024

Voter Registration Deadline – October 21, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Application Deadline (Mail) – October 29, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Application Deadline (Hand Delivery) – October 31, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Deadline (Hand Delivery) – November 4, 2024  
Absentee Ballot Deadline (Mail) – November 5, 2024 by 12PM  
General Election Day – November 5, 2024