ABSENTEE VOTING

(General Information)

NOVEMBER 3, 2026 - GENERAL ELECTION

Qualified voters can apply for an absentee ballot that can be cast by mail, commercial carrier or in person at the Absentee Election Manager's Office, if he or she makes application in writing **not less than five days prior to the election** and meets one of the following requirements:

A voter may cast an absentee ballot if he or she

- ***EXPECTS TO BE ABSENT FROM THE COUNTY*** *on election day*
- ***IS ILL OR HAS A PHYSICAL DISABILITY*** *that prevents a voter's personal appearance at their polling precinct*
- ***IS PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE IN PERSON BECAUSE THEY CANNOT ACCESS THEIR ASSIGNED POLLING PLACE DUE TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DISABILITIES*** *(neurological, musculoskeletal, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, or other life-altering disorder that affects his or her ability to perform manual tasks, stand for any length of time, walk unassisted, see, hear or speak)* ***AND: (a) HE OR SHE IS AN ELDERLY VOTER AGED 65 OR OLDER; OR (b) HE OR SHE IS A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY***
- ***IS A REGISTERED ALABAMA VOTER LIVING OUTSIDE THE COUNTY,*** *such as a member of the armed forces, a voter employed outside the United States, a college student, or a spouse or child of such a person*
- ***IS AN APPOINTED ELECTION OFFICER OR POLL WATCHER*** *at a polling place other than his or her regular polling place*
- ***EXPECTS TO WORK A REQUIRED SHIFT, 10-HOURS OR MORE****, that coincides with polling hours*
- ***IS A CAREGIVER*** *for a family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity and the family member is confined to his or her home*
- ***IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED*** *in prison or jail and has not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude*

If an absentee ballot application is delivered by U.S. mail or by commercial carrier to the Absentee Election Manager Office, the application must be received by the by the 7th day prior to the election. If the absentee ballot application is delivered **in-person by the voter only** to the Absentee Election Manager, it must be received by the 5th day prior to the election. If requested, the voter will have the opportunity to vote in-person at the Absentee Election Manager's Office.

Pursuant to Title 17-9-30, Code of Alabama, absentee ballot applications must now be accompanied by a copy of a current, valid photo identification or voter ID, unless the voter is exempt from this identification requirement. Failing to provide the identification will result in your ballot becoming a provisional ballot.

Emergency Absentee Applications

- a qualified voter requiring emergency medical treatment by a licensed physician within (5) days before an election. The application must be signed by the physician and returned to the Absentee Election Manager.
- A voter with a business emergency is required to apply and vote in-person at the Absentee Election Manager's Office. The voter shall sign an affidavit acknowledging that he or she was not aware of the business emergency (5) days prior to the election.
- A caregiver for a person who requires emergency treatment by a licensed physician (the voter must deliver the application by hand to the Absentee Election Manager no later than (5) days prior to the election).
- A family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity died within (5) days prior to the election (the voter must deliver the application by hand to the Absentee Election Manager no later than the day prior to the election).

Applications for absentee voting are available at any of the following locations:

- Absentee Election Manager's Office (Etowah County Circuit Clerk/Absentee Election Manager, Cassandra Johnson, 801 Forrest Ave., Suite 202, Gadsden, AL 35901),
- Secretary of State's web page: www.alabamavotes.gov
- United States Armed Forces members, including spouses, should contact their Commanding Officer for a **UOCAVA** application or may go online for assistance at www.fvap.gov for a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).

Separate applications for absentee ballots are required for elections which are more than 42 days apart, except as to individuals voting pursuant to the Federal Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973ff.
Multiple applications cannot be mailed in the same envelope, even if the voters live at the same address.

Completed absentee applications must provide the Alabama residence where the voter is registered to vote, even if the ballot is to be mailed to another address where the applicant voter regularly receives mail. **If you have moved and have not updated your polling place you should contact the local Board of Registrars and update your address prior to applying for an absentee ballot.** A completed application must be returned by the voter (in-person) or sent by U.S. Mail to the Absentee Election Office.

No one, not even a family member, can return another person's application.

The absentee election manager is not permitted to give any person access to completed and filed voter applications for absentee ballots before the election is held. This information is not a matter of public record until after an election. It should be considered privileged information just the same as voter registration applications**.**

The absentee election manager shall forward absentee ballots by U.S. Mail to the applicant's residence address or upon written request of the voter, to the address where the voter regularly receives mail or by handing the ballot to the voter in-person or, in the case of medical emergency voting, to his or her designee in-person**.**

Only UOCAVA voters have the option to vote electronically after submitting a UOCAVA absentee application by mail to the Absentee Election Manager's Office.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

VOTERS MUST COMPLETE ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE ABSENTEE VOTING AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPE

IF A VOTER'S AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPE IS NOT SIGNED (OR MARKED WITH AN "X"), AND IF THE AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPE HAS NOT BEEN WITNESSED BY TWO WITNESSES (18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER) OR BY A NOTARY PUBLIC OR OTHER OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO ACKNOWLEDGE OATHS, PRIOR TO BEING DELIVERED OR MAILED TO THE ABSENTEE ELECTION MANAGER, THE BALLOT WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

USPS postage rate for mailing Absentee Ballot is $2.27.

IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES

- **Tuesday – Sept. 7, 2026 -** Absentee voting for the General Election begins
- **Monday – Oct. 19, 2026 –** Last day to register to vote for the General Election
- **Tuesday – Oct. 27, 2026 -** Last day for absentee applications to be received by mail or commercial carrier for the General Election. (17-11-3(A))
- **Thursday – Oct. 29, 2026 -** Last day voters can return their absentee application in-person and absentee vote. No one, not even a family member, can return another person's application by hand, (except a medical emergency voter named designee). **EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING BEGINS** – (Voter must meet the qualifications required for an emergency absentee ballot
- **Monday – Nov. 2, 2026 -** Last day a voter may hand-deliver his or her absentee ballot to the AEM. No one, not even a family member, can return another person's ballot, (except a medical emergency voter named designee) **EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING ENDS**

- **TUESDAY, NOV. 3, 2026 – GENERAL ELECTION DAY**
  - Mailed ballots must be received by mail or commercial carrier to the AEM, no later than **(NOON)** this date
  - Voted medical emergency ballots delivered by the voter's designee, must be received no later than **(NOON)** today
  - Last day for military and other UOCAVA voters in the General Election to postmark an absentee ballot returned by mail to the Absentee Election Office.

Absentee voting applications are available at the Etowah County Judicial Building – 1st floor – Circuit Clerk's Office/Absentee Voting Elections or online at www.alabamavotes.gov or etowah.alacourt.gov.

Physical and Mailing address:
Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk/Absentee Election Mgr.
Etowah County Judicial Building – 1st Floor
801 Forrest Avenue, Suite 202
Gadsden, AL 35901
Phone: (256) 549-5355
E-mail Address: cassandra.johnson@alacourt.gov
Office Hours: Monday – Friday *(except holidays)*
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. *(open during lunch)*