

## ABSENTEE VOTING FAQs

### What are the qualification requirements for obtaining an absentee ballot?

- WILL BE ABSENT FROM THE COUNTY on election day
- IS ILL OR HAS A PHYSICAL DISABILITY that prevents a trip to the polling place
- 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
- WORKS A REQUIRED SHIFT, 10-HOURS OR MORE, that coincides with polling hours

**BUSINESS/MEDICAL EMERGENCY 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 out of the county on election day for an emergency business trip, or
- has a medical emergency requiring treatment from a licensed physician

*In addition to application information outlined in the next section, the **business emergency application** contains an affidavit acknowledging that the voter was not aware of the out-of-county business trip prior to the normal absentee ballot deadline. The **medical emergency application** requires that the attending physician describe and certify the circumstances as constituting an emergency.*

### What are the eligibility requirements to vote absentee?

If you are registered to vote in the City of Birmingham and meet one of the above requirements, then you are eligible. If you are not registered to vote in the City of Birmingham, you will need to contact the Jefferson County Board of Registrars at (205) 325-5550 or if you live in Shelby County in the corporate limits of the City of

Birmingham, you will need to contact the Shelby County Board of Registrars at (205) 669-3913.

By law the cut-off date to apply for a regular absentee ballot is five (5) days before an election.

### **How do I apply for an absentee ballot?**

You can contact the City Clerk's Office at **(205) 254-2290** or pick up an application at 710 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Birmingham, Al 35203.

### **Where do I return my application mail/ in person?**

Your application must be mailed to: Lee Frazier, City Clerk/ Absentee Election's Manager at 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor- 710 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Birmingham, Al 35203. All applications, by law must be mailed in a separate envelope. Multiple applications (even from the same address) which are mailed in the same envelope will be returned to the voter. Applications cannot be faxed to the City Clerk.

Your application can be hand delivered to: Lee Frazier, City Clerk/ Absentee Election's Manager at 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor- 710 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Birmingham, Al 35203.

### **What is the deadline for voting absentee?**

The cut-off date is 5 days before an election. Since elections are typically held on a Tuesday, this would be on the preceding Thursday. Your application must be received in the office on or before this date in order for the office to mail you a ballot, or you can vote in person at the office of the Absentee Election Manager (City Clerk) through the Thursday prior to the election.

### **Can I vote absentee in person?**

You can come by the Absentee Election Manager's Office (City Clerk) Monday through Friday 8:00AM - 5:00 PM (except on holidays) and make application and vote while you are in the office. The cut-off date is Thursday (five days before an election). The address is 710 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street (3<sup>rd</sup>) Floor.

### **What form of I.D. do I need to vote at the polls/ absentee?**

A voter can use any of the following forms of photo ID at the polls starting June 3, 2014:

- Valid Driver's License
- Valid Non-driver ID

- Valid Alabama Photo Voter ID
- Valid State Issued ID (Alabama or any other state)
- Valid Federal Issued ID
- Valid US Passport
- Valid Employee ID from Federal Government, State of Alabama, County Government, Municipality, Board, Authority, or other entity of this state
- Valid student or employee ID from a college or university in the State of Alabama (including postgraduate technical or professional schools)
- Valid Military ID
- Valid Tribal ID
- If a voter possesses any of these forms of ID, he/she is not eligible to receive a free Alabama photo voter ID card. The voter must bring one of these photo IDs to the polls on Election Day or place a copy of the ID in absentee ballot materials.
- A voter who is required to present valid photo identification but who does not do so will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot as provided for by law.
- In addition, a voter who does not have a valid photo ID in his or her possession at the polls shall be permitted to vote if the individual is positively identified by two election officials as a voter on the poll list who is eligible to vote and the election officials sign a sworn affidavit so stating.

### **How do I find my voting location?**

You can call the Jefferson County Board of Registrars at **(205) 325-5550** or if you live in the Shelby County portion of Birmingham you can call the Shelby County Board of Registrars at **(205) 669-3913** for information on your voting precinct. Or you can click on this link to locate your voting location.

<https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/VoterView/PollingPlaceSearch.do>

### **Does my absentee ballot have to be witnessed or notarized?**

By law your ballot must be notarized **or** witnessed by two people 18 years of age or older.

### **I have power-of-attorney for a relative, can I vote for them?**

No, the law doesn't allow a person to vote for someone else. **The only absentee process that permits the use of a designee is the request and the return of an Emergency Medical Absentee Application. All emergency applications must be certified by a doctor.**

### **Do I have to file a new application for every election?**

Any election that is more than 42 days apart, a new application must be filed (except military absentee applications). The law applies to the Regular and Runoff elections that are more than 42 days apart.

### **What if I have to leave town due to an emergency employment reason?**

A business emergency application can be filled out after the Thursday deadline. You can vote in person at the Absentee Election Manager's Office on Thursday and Monday before the Tuesday election. (Unless either of these two days is a holiday.)