# The Power is in Your Hands

Your Guide to Representation



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# Glossary

### **Annexation**

The procedure for bringing unincorporated areas of a county into an adjacent city or town

### Census

The official count conducted by the federal government every ten years on the number of people who live in the country broken down by state, county, and city

### Certification

A government granted recognition or approval of something (example: maps for annexation)

# **Congressional District**

A electoral division (i.e. an area) of a state that elects a member to the U.S. House of Representatives

### Councilperson

An elected member of local government that serves in the legislative branch (e.g. City Council) of a town or city

# **Diluting the Vote**

Preventing a group from being properly represented in government

# Gerrymandering

The process of manipulating electoral boundaries (i.e. political maps) to favor one party, class, or racial group in an election, which results in diluting the vote

### **Federal Government**

Bodies of government that govern the nation including the Executive Branch (President), the Legislative Branch (U.S. Congress, and the Judicial Branch (U.S. Supreme Court)

# **Majority**

A group whose citizens who make up the greater number of residents in an area

### **Minority**

A group whose citizens make up the smaller number of residents in an area

### **Land Locked**

Enclosed by land with no coastline or seaport bordering it

### **Local Government**

County and city/town governments that get their powers from the state and govern on issues such as parks and recreation services, police and fire departments, municipal courts, public works, transportation services, and more

### Redistricting

Related to the census; divide or organize an area into new political districts

### **State Government**

Bodies of government that govern each of the 50 states and are modeled after the federal government

# **State Legislative District**

An electoral division (i.e. an area) of a state that elects members to a state legislature (i.e. lawmaking body of the state government)

# Voting Age Population (VAP)

Eligible voters of at least 18 years of age

# **Voting Rights**

Protections to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to vote in local, state, and national elections

# Alabama's New Congressional District

### **Overview**

After a long fought battle for fair representation, Alabama now has a new Congressional map that establishes a second Congressional District (District 2) where Black voters have close to a majority at 48.7%. The other majority-Black district is District 7 at 51.9%. This new map will be in effect for the 2024 elections.



# Who is included in the new Congressional District?

Mobile is one of the many places included in the new Congressional District (District 2). District 2 will also now include the City of Montgomery, Troy, Eufaula, Tuskegee, Greenville, Union Springs, Evergreen, Frisco City, and more.

Stand Up Mobile anticipates that we will have some strong candidates running for office in District 2, and will work to ensure citizens are well-versed on their positions and visions for our communities.



# Alabama's New Congressional District

# **Facts about the new Congressional District**

- The new map was drawn by a court appointed special master.
- The new Congressional District (District 2) has a Black Voting Age Population of 48.7%.
- The new map splits Mobile County into two different districts, but much of the City of Mobile will be included in District 2.
   Mobile will play a large role in who gets elected to the new 2nd Congressional District.
- A federal court picked this map on October 5, 2023, meaning the new map and district will be in place for the 2024 election.
- In order to be elected to this new district, you must live in the new 2nd Congressional District. However, you don't have to live in the district to simply run for the position.

# Why is the new Congressional District important?

- A Black Voting Age Population of 48.7% in the new 2nd Congressional District means that Black voters will have an opportunity to elect someone of their choice who represents their communities, interests, and values.
- Prior to the new 2nd Congressional District, there was only one majority-Black Congressional District in a state where Black voters make up a quarter of the population. Gerrymandered maps diluted the Black vote.
- Black Alabamians have more power and a better shot at fair representation, a fact that has ramifications for voting rights and fair maps across the South.



**Did you know?** We have the heroic efforts of the plaintiffs in the Allen v. Milligan United States Supreme Court case to thank for this voting rights win. This outcome is a result of the plaintiffs' vision and resilience in the fight for justice.

# City Council



CORY PENN
District 1
(251) 208-7441
councill@cityofmobile.org



District 2
(251) 208-7441
council2@cityofmobile.org

WILLIAM CARROLL



District 3
(251) 208-7441
Other: (251) 604-4367
council3@cityofmobile.org

C.J. SMALL

**JOEL DAVES** 

District 5



District 4
(251) 208-7441
council4@cityofmobile.org

**BEN REYNOLDS** 



(251) 208-7441 Other: (251) 295-8438 council5@cityofmobile.org



District 6
(251) 208-7441
council6@cityofmobile.org

JOSH WOODS



(251) 208-7441 Other: (251) 404-4644 council7@cityofmobile.org

**GINA GREGORY** 

District 7



# Mayor, City of Mobile



SANDY STIMPSON

Mayor

P.O. Box 1827

Mobile, AL 36633-1827

Office: (251) 208-7395

mayorstimpson@cityofmobile.org

# **County Commission**



MERCERIA L. LUDGOOD
District 1
251-574-1000
district1web@mobilecountyal.gov



District 2
Commission President
(251) 574-2000
district2web@mobilecountyal.gov

**CONNIE HUDSON** 



RANDALL DUEITT
District 3

251-574-3000
district3web@mobilecountyal.gov



Did you know? Mobile County is governed by a 3 member county commission. They serve 4 year terms and are elected by the voters.



# State Legislative Delegation



**Did you know?** Mobile County's state legislative delegation is made up of State Senators and State Representatives that represent Mobile County in the Alabama State Legislature (which is different from the U.S. Congress).



VIVIAN DAVIS FIGURES (D) Senate District 33

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0871 Business Phone: (251) 208-5480 Vivian.figures@alsenate.gov



JACK WILLIAMS (R)
Senate District 34

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0829 jackwilliams55@icloud.com



DAVID SESSIONS (R)
Senate District 35

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0882 Business Phone: (251) 208-5480 d.r.sessions@att.net



Did you know? Members of AL's state legislature serve 4 year terms. The Mobile County Legislative Delegation represents state Senate Districts 33–35 and Alabama House Districts 96–105.



MATT SIMPSON (R)
House District 96

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0424 Business Phone: (251) 990-4615 matt.simpson@alhouse.gov



ADLINE C. CLARKE (D)
House District 97

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0549 Business Phone: (251) 208-5481 adline.clarke@alhouse.gov

### **FIND YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

Visit <u>www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/elected-official-map</u>, click on the map, and enter your address to find your representatives.



# State Legislative Delegation Continued



NAPOLEON BRACY, JR. (D) House District 98

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0556 Business Phone: (251) 327-2794 napoleon@napoleonbracy.com



SAMUEL L. JONES (D)
House District 99

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0963 sam.jones@alhouse.gov



MARK SHIREY (R) House District 100

mark.shirey@alhouse.gov



CHRIS PRINGLE (R)
House District 101

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0489 District Phone: (251) 341-1110 chris.pringle@alhouse.gov



SHANE STRINGER (R)
House District 102

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0594 shane.stringer@alhouse.gov



BARBARA DRUMMOND (D)

**House District 103** 

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0564 barbara.drummond@alhouse.gov



MARGIE WILCOX (D)
House District 104

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0577 margie.wilcox@alhouse.gov



CHIP BROWN (R)
House District 105

Capitol Phone: (334) 261-0447 chip.brown@alhouse.gov



# **Statewide Elected Offices**



**Did you know?** The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General of Alabama are elected in a statewide race. Every Alabama voter has the opportunity to vote in these races.



KAY IVEY (R) Governor

(334) 242-7100 contact.governor.alabama.gov /contact.aspx



WILL AINSWORTH (R)
Lieutenant Governor

(334) 261-9590 ltgov@ltgov.alabama.gov



WES ALLEN (R)
Secretary of State

(334) 242-5899 Wes.Allen@sos.alabama.gov



STEVE MARSHALL (R) Attorney General

(334) 242-7300 alabamaag.gov/generalcontact



**Did you know?** One of the most important jobs of a Secretary of State is to serve as the state's chief elections official. The Secretary of State certifies vote totals and ballots.



# **Federal Elected Offices**



**Did you know?** Besides electing the President in a federal election every 4 years, we also elect senators and representatives to the U.S. Congress. Senators serve 6 year terms and U.S. House members serve 2 year terms.

# U.S. Senators



KATIE BRITT (R) Senator

(202) 224-5744 www.britt.senate.gov/shareyour-opinion/



TOMMY TUBERVILLE (R)
Senator

Mobile Office: (251) 308-7233 Federal Office: (202) 224-4124

# U.S. House Members



JERRY CARL (R)
District 1

Capitol: (202) 225-4931 carl.house.gov/contact



BARRY MOORE (R)
District 2

Capitol: (202) 225-2901 barrymoore.house.gov/zip\_aut hentication?form=/contact



MIKE ROGERS (R)
District 3

Captiol: (202) 225-3261 mikerogers.house.gov/contact/



ROBERT ADERHOLT (R)
District 4

Capitol: (202) 225-4876 aderholt.house.gov/contact-robert



# **Federal Elected Offices**

# U.S. House Members continued



DALE STRONG (R)
District 5

Capitol: (202) 225-4801 strong.house.gov/contact



GARY PALMER (R)
District 6

Capitol: (202) 225-4921 palmer.house.gov



TERRI SEWELL (D)
District 7

Capitol: (202) 225-2665 sewell.house.gov/email-me

### **FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE**

Visit <u>www.house.gov</u> and enter your zip code to find your representative. You might also be prompted to enter your address to find the person who represents you in Congress. Remember: Alabama's U.S. Senators represent everyone in the state.



# How to Write an Email to Your Representative

# Tips & Tricks

# Add a relevant subject line.

Be direct: state your subject clearly in the email subject line, and keep it simple. Stick to just one issue per email or letter.

# Identify yourself and the issue.

Make sure you identify yourself as a constituent, including your full address, and the issue you're writing about. When appropriate, cite the name or bill number of a relevant piece of legislation (e.g., H.R. 1234 or S.3456), proposal, or plan.

# Be factual, but also share your experience.

Although you want to rely on facts, you should also share how the issue impacts your life and your community. Try and be specific. Using "I" statements and citing examples, like specific days or times something occurred, can be helpful. Make the email feel personal, but avoid personal attacks.

### Be constructive and courteous.

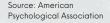
Be positive about your issue and offer recommendations about how you want your representatives to address your concerns. Don't forget to thank them for their attention at the end of the email or letter.

### Be concise.

It's okay to get to the point. Emails or letters to your representative do not have to be very long. The APA recommends keeping it to one page or under 500 words.



Remember: Anyone can write an email or letter to their representative! Your voice matters. Your letter doesn't have to be perfectly written and you don't have to be an expert on the issue to communicate your opinion.







# Sample Email to Your Representative #1

Subject Line: Please support the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act

Dear

Mayor/Councilmember/Senator/Represent ative [LAST NAME HERE]:

As a concerned community member and constituent of [INSERT DISTRICT OR STATE], I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. I am a student, member of my school's NAACP, and care deeply about protecting the right to vote.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Act is named after Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights leader who fought for the voting rights of Black Americans and other voters of color. The passage of this act will reverse past measures to undo parts of 1965 Voting Rights Act and protect against efforts that make it harder for all Americans to have their voices heard and represented.

Again, I ask that you support the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Protecting and expanding the right to vote will greatly benefit the members of my community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
[INSERT YOUR NAME]
[INSERT ADDRESS]

Note: who you address the note to will depend on what you are writing about. If you are writing about a City issue, you'll address your note to your Councilmember. If you are writing about a federal piece of legislation, like in this example, you'll likely address your letter to your U.S. Senator or U.S. Representative.

State who you are, where you live, your position, and any personal information that may be relevant to the issue you are writing about or lend credibility.

Provide background information, facts, or testimonial. This paragraph is the "meat" of the letter.

State what you are asking for and thank your representative for their time.



# **Election Cycles**

# **Upcoming 2024 Election Dates**

# **2024 Primary Election**

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

# **2024 Primary Runoff Election**

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

# **2024 General Election**

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

# **Election Cycles Calendar**

# 2024

President
U.S. Representatives
State Board of Education,
Odd Districts (1,3,5,7)
Chief Justice of Supreme Court
Court seats

### 2025

Mayor of Mobile Mobile City Council (all districts)

### 2026

U.S. Senator (1)
U.S. Representatives
Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General
Secretary of State
State Senator
State Representatives
State Board of Education,
Even Districts (2,4,6,8)
Court seats

# 2028

President
U.S. Senator (1)
U.S. Representatives
State Board of Education,
Odd Districts (1,3,5,7)
Court seats



# So you want to run for office?

# Filing for Candidacy

# Ways to the get on the ballot

- 1. Through the nomination of a state-recognized political party.
- 2. As an independent. These candidates often have to petition to have their names printed on the ballot.
- 3. As a write-in candidate.

# Filing to run for office

- A candidate seeking the nomination of a state-recognized political party must file a declaration of candidacy with the state party chair 116 days before the primary election. To run in 2024, this would mean filing by early November 2023.
- 2. To run as an independent candidate, you must file a petition of signatures (the total number equaling 3% of the total vote cast for governor in the applicable electoral district in the previous general election). You must file by 5pm on the day of the primary election.
- 3. Write-in candidates do not have to file ahead of time.

# **Meeting Qualifications**

Different offices have different qualifications (for example: age minimums, residency requirements, and more). To learn more about qualifying to run for office in the state of Alabama, visit bit.ly/runforofficealabama

# Qualifications to run for office in the City of Mobile

Below are the qualifications for running for Mayor of Mobile and Mobile City Council; all seats are up in 2025.

### **MAYOR**

- Registered voter in the City of Mobile
- Resident of the City at least 90 days before Election Day
- At least 25 years of age
- Qualifying fee: \$500

### **CITY COUNCIL**

- Registered voter of the city of Mobile and of the particular council district
- Resident of city for at least one year before the election date
- Resident of district for at least 90 days before election date
- At least 21 years of age
- Qualifying fee: \$125



# So you want to run for office?

# **Getting Started**

You may be asking: okay, I want to run for office, but how can I get started?

If you'd like to run for elected office in 2024, we'd recommend checking out these two resources from the state:

- Candidate Filing Guide: bit.ly/candidateguide\_alsos
- FCPA Filing Calendar 2024 Election Cycle: bit.ly/fcpa\_2024\_alabama

You can Google these resources or visit the Secretary of State's website at <a href="https://www.sos.alabama.gov">www.sos.alabama.gov</a>



Notes	
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# **Get Involved**



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- @standupmobile
- estandupmobile

### Connect With Us

- info@sum-blueprintforus.org
  - (251) 421-5072
  - sum-blueprintforus.org

# Local & State Organizations to Follow

**ACLU Alabama** aclualabama.org



Alabama Arise ALABAMA alarise.org



Alabama Forward alforward.org



South Alabama **Economic Roundtable** 



NAACP Branch 5044 mobilenaacp.org



Wade in the Water wadeinthewatermobile.org

League of Women Voters Alabama lwval.org



# National Organizations to Follow



blackvotersmatterfund.org

