Voter Guide
Jefferson County, Alabama

2020 General Election
November 3, 2020

This Voter Guide is brought to you by The Exchange, a program of Greater Birmingham Ministries.
Dear Reader,

At Greater Birmingham Ministries, we seek to serve people, build community, and pursue justice. Our work to increase voter participation is a part of that mission. When more people have access to their voting rights, when more voters turn out, and when more constituents participate in our democracy in a meaningful way, we can make more of an impact on the issues that matter to us.

With those values in mind, we offer you this voter guide as a useful tool as you make plans to vote in the General Election on November 3. This guide was created by GBM’s program The Exchange, which is a group of mostly Gen Z and millennials that gather monthly to discuss justice issues and what we can do locally. To help us all become better informed participants in our democracy, the group researched each office, candidate, and amendment.

I want to call your attention to some features of the guide:

- The pandemic has brought unique challenges to voting. In order to protect your health, you may decide to vote by mail or vote early using Alabama’s absentee voting system. See pg. 3 for instructions.
- On pg. 4, follow the flowchart for steps you can take to prepare to vote.
- Starting on pg. 8, you will find information about the amendments and the offices on your ballot.

Please also keep in mind these very important dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last day we recommend mailing an absentee ballot application</td>
<td>October 10, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to register to vote for the General Election</td>
<td>October 19, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day we recommend mailing an absentee ballot</td>
<td>October 20, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to vote absentee in person</td>
<td>October 29, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline to hand deliver an absentee ballot</td>
<td>November 2, 2020 (at 5 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election Day</td>
<td>November 3, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for exercising your right to vote in this election.

Scott Douglas  
Executive Director  
Greater Birmingham Ministries
Voting during Covid-19

For this election, you can vote in person like you normally do. However, due to Covid-19, everyone has two additional options using our absentee system: vote by mail or vote in person before Election Day.

VoteAbsentee by Mail

1. Get an absentee ballot application. Find it on alabamavotes.gov OR call your Absentee Election Manager to have it mailed to you.

2. Fill out the application. Choose “General Election.” For the excuse, Secretary of State John Merrill has advised anyone with concerns about Covid-19 to choose the second box: “I have an illness or infirmity that prevents my attendance at the polls.” Write “Covid-19” next to it. Make sure you sign the application (no witness necessary).

3. Mail the application and a copy of your photo ID to your Absentee Election Manager. See pg. 5 for a list of eligible IDs. Use one envelope per application.

4. When your ballot arrives, fill it out with a black ball point pen, then seal it in the proper envelopes. Your ballot could take a week or more to arrive. Seal your completed ballot in the secrecy envelope, then seal your secrecy envelope in the affidavit envelope.

5. Recruit a notary or two witnesses and sign and fill out the affidavit. This step is essential to having your ballot counted.

6. Seal your affidavit envelope inside the pre-addressed envelope and return your ballot. You can mail it with three stamps via USPS, mail it via a commercial carrier, or return it in person at your Absentee Election Manager’s office.

Note: if you apply for your absentee ballot but do not turn it in, you still have the right to vote in person. If the poll worker says you are marked as absentee, ask for a provisional ballot. Later the Secretary of State’s team will confirm that you didn’t vote absentee and count your vote.

Vote Absentee in Person

Until October 29, you can do the whole absentee process from application to turning in your ballot in person at your Absentee Election Manager’s office. Call ahead to verify which location you should visit.

Absentee Election Managers

Bessemer:
1851 2nd Ave. N.,
Bessemer, AL 35020
205-497-8510

Birmingham:
716 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N Room 500,
Birmingham, AL, 35203
205-325-5313

After Election Day, visit myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/voterview to check the status of your absentee or provisional ballot.
Preparing for Primary Election Day

1. **Check your eligibility to vote!** Will you be at least 18 years old on Election Day?
   - Yes → Are you a US Citizen?
   - No → You are not eligible.
   - However, you can still be involved. Skip to Step 6.
   - No → Do you have a previous felony conviction you believe disqualifies you?
   - Yes → You may still be eligible! Check with Dori at GBM (205.304.0481) to see if you’ve lost your voting rights, and if you have, how to get them back. **Regardless, you can still be involved—see Step 6.**
   - No → You’re eligible!

2. **Register to vote!**
   - If you have a valid Alabama’s Driver’s License, or Non-Driver’s License, you can register online at sos.alabama.gov.
   - Paper forms are available at the Board of Registrar’s office.

3. **Make a plan for how you will vote!**
   - Check your registration status and polling location. Do so at sos.alabama.gov. While you’re there, take note of the ballot style listed (you’ll need it in step 4).
   - Polling location: ____________________________
   - Ballot style:___________
**Use the buddy system!**

Decide what friends or family members you can encourage to vote or take with you to the polls:

Person 1:____________________
Person 2:____________________
Person 3:____________________

**Decide what time of day you’ll vote.**
- Morning  
- Lunchtime  
- Evening

**Make arrangements for transportation.** Will you:
- Drive your own vehicle
- Carpool
- Ride the bus
- Walk

If you need to request a free ride, reach out to the Poor People’s Campaign at 205.677.6107 or alabama@poorpeoplescampaign.org.

**Decide if you will vote absentee.**

If you would like to vote by mail or vote in person before Election Day, you can.

See pg. 3 for more information.

**Remember your photo ID.** To vote you need a valid government-issued ID. This could be:
- Driver’s license or non-driver ID
- Alabama Photo Voter ID Card
- US Passport
- Government Employee ID
- Student or Employee ID from a public or private college or university in the state of Alabama (or a state institution or higher education in another state).
- Valid Military ID
- Valid Tribal ID

You can get a free Alabama Voter ID through the Board of Registrar or the Secretary of State.

**Don’t forget your mask!**

Take Covid-19 precautions at the polls by maintaining physical distance, wearing a mask, sanitizing your hands, and bringing your own black ball point pen.

**Continue to Step 4 on the next page...**
Learn more about what will appear on your ballot.

If you did not do so in Step 3, look up your polling station at sos.alabama.gov and make note of your ballot style. Ballot style:___________

Look up your sample ballot, found on alabamavotes.gov. In the PDF for your county, look for your ballot style in the top left corner. You can also request that the Secretary of State mail you a sample ballot by calling 334.242.7210.

Use this voter guide to learn more about the offices and the candidates, as well as the constitutional amendments.

Research the office. What does this office have control over? What issues are important to you in their area of influence?

Check out the candidate’s platform. Look up the candidate’s website or request materials. Where do they stand on issues that are important to you? How do different candidates compare to each other?

Check out their voting record. Use other resources to compare candidate’s platforms with their voting records.

Do your own research about the candidates.
Attend a Virtual Candidate Forum or Townhall. Find and attend virtual candidate forums or townhalls they’re participating in. Come prepared with questions you’d like to ask.

Beware of fake news and false political ads!
A lot of websites aim to spread false information, and political ads don’t have to be true to be shared, so exercise caution and skepticism. Consider whether the source is reputable and see what other news outlets are saying about the same topic.

Decide how you will vote. You can mark up your sample ballot and/or this guide and bring it with you to the polls or to the Absentee Election Manager’s office.

If the candidate has held a previous legislative office, ballotpedia.org and GovTrack.us are good resources to use. If the candidate held a state legislative office, you can use legislature.state.al.us.

Ask questions like: How have they voted on related issues important to me? How does their record differ from their stated platform?

Look into Campaign Finance.
If you want to dig even deeper and look into where each candidate gets their funding, that information is all readily available on the Alabama Electronic Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA) Reporting System website. Information on campaign contribution limits are also available. Consider the number, the sizes, and the sources of the contributors.

Volunteer with Greater Birmingham Ministries!
Contact Amanda at amanda@gbm.org or 205.326.6821 to see how you can partner with us in our Systems Change and voter engagement work.
Ballot Measures in the 2020 AL General Election

Amendment One:

*AL Citizen Requirement for Voting Amendment (SB 313)*

This measure would change the wording in the Alabama Constitution from “every citizen of the United States,” to “only a citizen of the United States,” has the right to vote.

**GBM’s recommendation:** Vote No. This amendment is unnecessary because federal law already prohibits non-citizens from voting in federal elections, and Alabama local and state jurisdictions also do not allow non-citizens to vote.

Amendment Two:

*AL Judicial System Restructuring Amendment (SB 216)*

This measure would implement the following changes in the state’s judicial system. 1. The authority to hire the Administrative Director of Courts would be given to the Supreme Court instead of the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. 2. The authority to impeach judges would lie with the Judicial Inquiry Commission and the Court of Judiciary, removing this power from the Legislature. 3. Judges could only be suspended if two-thirds of the Judicial Inquiry Commission agree the judge presents harm or is incapable. As of now, a judge can be suspended if the Judicial Inquiry Commission refers a complaint. 4. The measure would make a number of other changes to the state’s judicial system including increasing the number of members of the Judicial Inquiry Committee from nine to eleven, making changes in the the Alabama Court of the Judiciary, making it possible for a local amendment to change the procedure to fill judicial vacancies, and requiring state supreme court recommendations for the state legislature to be able to change the number of judges in district of circuit courts or change judicial district boundaries.

**GBM’s recommendation:** Vote No.

Amendment Three:

*AL Judicial Vacancies Amendment (HB 505)*

This measure would mean that a district or circuit judge appointed to fill a vacancy would serve until the next general election after at least two years from his/her appointment. Currently, the judge appointed to fill a vacancy serves one term of one year in office or the remainder of the term of the vacant office.

**GBM’s recommendation:** Vote No. This amendment would extend the time that an appointed judge would serve before running for election.

Amendment Four:

*ALAuthorize Legislature to Recompile the State Constitution Amendment (HB 328)*

This measure would give the state legislature authorization to recompile the Alabama Constitution in the 2022 regular state legislative session. Authorized changes would include the removal of racist language and rearranging and consolidating the constitution.

**GBM’s recommendation:** Vote Yes. As is, the Alabama constitution is long and repetitive and includes racist (and illegal) language. Currently, Alabama’s constitution has around 950 amendments. We would like to see that changed.

I will be voting:  ■ Yes  ■ No
Amendments Five and Six:
These amendments apply only to Franklin and Lauderdale Counties respectively and seek to establish that “a person is not liable for using deadly physical force in self-defense or in the defense of another person on the premises of a church under certain conditions.”

GBM’s recommendation: Vote No. Alabama already has Stand Your Ground laws, and this addition would only serve to encourage vigilante justice.

Offices and Candidates in the 2020 General Election

President of the United States
The President is the head of state and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Presidents implement and enforce laws written by Congress, and they have the power to sign legislation into law or veto bills (although Congress may override a veto). They appoint the heads of federal agencies, including their Cabinet. They conduct diplomacy with other countries and can negotiate and sign treaties, which must be ratified by the Senate. The President can also make executive orders and give pardons and clemencies.

We have decided not to focus on the presidential race in this guide. We encourage you to consult the abundance of existing well-researched resources on the presidential candidates.

☐ Donald Trump (incumbent) with Mike Pence, R
☐ Joe Biden with Kamala Harris, D
☐ Jo Jorgensen with Jeremy “Spike” Cohen, Independent

I will be voting: ☐ Yes ☐ No
United States Representative

A United States Representative, also referred to as congressman or congresswoman, is elected to a two-year term serving the people of a specific congressional district. Among other duties, representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees. Committees have oversight responsibilities to monitor agencies, programs, and activities within their jurisdictions.

**District 6**

☐ **Gary Palmer (incumbent), R**

Gary Palmer earned his undergraduate degree in Operations Management from UA. He went on to become the President of the Alabama Policy Institute, a conservative think-tank, for 24 years. Palmer focuses on bringing down the national debt by cutting government spending, reducing federal regulation, repealing the Affordable Care Act, fighting against the right to an abortion, and utilizing nonrenewable energy.

**District 7**

☐ **Terri Sewell (incumbent), D**

Terri Sewell received her undergraduate degree from Princeton University and masters degree from Oxford University. She then went on to obtain her law degree from Harvard University. Sewell states that her first priority is creating new jobs and developing a strong workforce. She supports the Affordable Care Act and improving education to offer a solid base for the developing workforce.

United States Senator

Each state elects two senators to serve in the U.S. Congress. Senators serve six-year terms with staggered elections. A senator’s work includes debating bills (proposed laws), proposing amendments (changes) to bills, and representing the interests of people in their state or district.

☐ **Doug Jones (incumbent), D**

Doug Jones received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama prior to attending Cumberland Law School at Samford University. In 1980, he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Birmingham and in 1997 became the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama. In this role, he prosecuted two men responsible for the 1963 bombing of 16th St. Baptist Church. Jones’s main issues include agricultural and environmental protection, improving education, and broadband access for rural areas. He considers himself pro-choice, however, has voted on either side of abortion related bills.

- **Climate Change**: Jones sees a need to pass legislation protecting the environment and argues that climate change is a reality. He states he is fighting to protect the environment through legislation such as the “Great American Outdoors Act.” He voted against the Green New Deal, stating it was too broad and would be ineffective.

- **Immigration**: Jones has supported DACA, stating that Dreamers are “not threats.” He does support paths to citizenship for young immigrants. Jones voted in support of sanctuary cities by voting against the “Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act.”

- **COVID-19**: Jones has spoken in support of extending unemployment benefits and providing additional relief to individuals in crisis from COVID 19.

- **Policing and Protests**: Jones would like to pass legislation addressing police violence, but he does not support defunding the police and argues that getting good people in law enforcement will improve policing.

- **Raising the Minimum Wage**: Jones has stated that he supports raising the minimum wage, arguing that it needs a change after remaining fixed for a decade.
• **Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion**: Jones supports Medicaid expansion in Alabama and introduced the “States Achieve Medicaid Expansion Act of 2019” incentivizing states to expand Medicaid. He believes that overturning the Affordable Care Act would be detrimental to Alabama citizens.

☐ **Tommy Tuberville, R**

Tommy Tuberville was the head football coach at Auburn University from 1999 to 2008. Tuberville lists his top issues as implementing smaller government, improving education, lowering taxes and decreasing spending, securing the border, strengthening the military, fighting against gun regulation, repealing the Affordable Care Act, and fighting the right to an abortion.

• **Climate Change**: Tuberville believes that God alone has control of the climate in America. He believes the call for action against climate change is misled and is adamantly against the Green New Deal.

• **Immigration**: Tuberville supports President Trump’s calls to build a wall on the border with Mexico. He has spoken against DACA and disagreed with the Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the program.

• **COVID-19**: Tuberville has stated he does not believe stimulus checks to be an effective measure as they encourage people not to work. He does not have a plan to address COVID 19.

• **Policing and Protests**: Tuberville argues that calls for racial equality and systemic change stem primarily from issues surrounding education and jobs. He says he does not see race when he interacts with people. He does not support defunding the police and argues that they should make more money and earn more respect.

• **Raising the Minimum Wage**: No information found.

• **Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion**: Tuberville supports the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and has spoken out in support of the competitive healthcare market. He believes Obamacare has been detrimental to Americans and has led to “higher costs [and] less quality care.”
Public Service Commission President
The Public Service Commission President is responsible for the supervision and regulation of the state’s utility (electricity, gas, water, railroad, and telecommunications) companies. The Commission’s mission is “to ensure a regulatory balance between regulated companies and consumers.” It is composed of three elected members: a President and two associate commissioners. They run statewide in partisan elections, and each serves a 4-year term.

☐ Laura Casey, D
Laura Casey is an actuary, attorney, and Vestavia High School basketball coach who previously served as a New Jersey Supreme Court Clerk, and CASA for Guardian ad Litem Program. She ran for State Senate District 15 in 2018 but withdrew. She supports solar energy, lower utility bills, cleaner air, and cleaner water. Casey filed suit in December 2019 against the PSC, alleging that the commission violated the Open Meetings Act by preventing her from recording a commission hearing on fees charged by Alabama Power for the installation of solar panels. Casey has called for reforms to the Public Service Commission, such as making the commission more transparent for Alabamians and creating stronger regulations to provide cleaner air and water and lower energy bills.

- **Renewable Energy:** Casey sees great potential for renewable energy options like solar panels in AL. Casey believes investing in solar energy will provide cleaner and more resilient energy options while reducing costs for consumers and growing jobs in a new sector.

- **Campaign Finance:** As of printing, Casey has raised nearly $3000 and has not accepted money from PACs. There is no option to donate to Casey’s campaign on her website. Instead, she suggests donating to other organizations: “Please give to causes that will most help Alabamians who have been paying outrageous utility bills for years and just can’t make ends meet anymore. Right now, your neighbors need you like never before.”

☐ Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh (incumbent), R
Twinkle Cavanaugh currently serves as the President of the Alabama Public Service Commission. She graduated from Auburn University. Her professional experience includes being a Former Executive Director for the Alabama Republican Party, co-owner of the Cavanaugh Bradley Animal Hospital, co-owner of Conservative Solutions, and Senior Advisor and Deputy Chief of Staff for the Office of Governor Bob Riley. She supports coal and other industries and does not support renewable energy options. While she shares her support to reduce Alabama Power rates, she does not support doing so by introducing renewable energy sources. Cavanaugh served as co-chair of Alliance for a Pro-Life Alabama when the organization spearheaded the passage of the pro-life Amendment Two in 2018.

- **Renewable Energy:** Cavanaugh regularly shares her position on Twitter that “Green New Deal” policies are responsible for blackouts and high energy rates. In August 2020 the PSC voted to allow Alabama Power to increase the fee for solar panels, continuing to make them cost prohibitive to residents. In June the PSC voted against solar plus battery storage Alabama Power requested.

- **Campaign Finance:** As of printing, Cavanaugh has raised around $230,000, most of which has come from PACs. A number of Cavanaugh’s donors seem to be energy related or adjacent: ENPAC (associated with AL coal industry), AUTO PAC, FARM PAC, NUCOR PAC (Nucor Steel), ALA FORESTRY PAC, AG PAC, as well as two PACs run by Michael Echols (PRIDE PAC II, T-TOWN PAC II), whose contributors include Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama.
Associate Justice of the Alabama State Supreme Court

The State Supreme Court is Alabama’s court of last resort. It has jurisdiction over decisions made by the lower courts. The Alabama Supreme Court also reviews the nation’s laws and judges whether they are allowed under the Constitution, as applicable to the state. Each justice is elected in partisan elections every six years.

Place 1

☐ Greg Shaw (incumbent), R
Greg Shaw received his undergraduate degree from Auburn University and went on to earn his Juris Doctorate from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford. He has served on the Alabama Supreme Court since his election in 2008. Shaw was also a judge on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals from 2001 to 2009 and has served as chief judge on the Alabama Court of the Judiciary.

Place 2

☐ Brad Mendheim (incumbent), R
Brady E. Mendheim, Jr., was appointed to the Alabama Supreme Court in 2018 by Governor Kay Ivey. Before his appointment, Justice Mendheim served as a circuit judge for the 20th Judicial Circuit (Henry and Houston Counties), a position he had held since 2009. From 2001 until 2009, Justice Mendheim served as a district judge in Houston County. Justice Mendheim has served on the Supreme Court’s Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure, the Statewide Committee on Drug Courts, the Chief Justice’s Judicial Reallocation Task Force, and the Weighted Caseload Committee. Before becoming a judge, Mendheim served as the assistant district attorney for 6.5 years.

Alabama Court of Civil Appeals Judge

This court has authority to hear all civil appeals for amounts less than $50,000. The court also exercises jurisdiction over appeals in workers’ compensation cases and domestic relations cases, including annulment, divorce, alimony, child support, adoption, and child custody cases. The five judges on the Court of Civil Appeals serve six-year terms.

Place 1

☐ William Thompson (incumbent), R
William Thompson has served in office since 1996. He attended The University of Alabama for his undergrad and Cumberland Law School for his law degree. Before serving as a judge, Thompson worked in private practice and also worked as an assistant legal advisor to former Governor Harold Guy Hunt, R. Judge Thompson is also a member of the Judicial Inquiry Commission, the Alabama Court Improvement Project, and the Advisory Committee on Child Support Guidelines.

Place 2

☐ Matt Fridy, R
Matt Fridy attended the University of Montevallo for his undergraduate degree and Cumberland Law School for his law degree. He is currently serving as an Alabama House Representative and working as an attorney. He supports less government intervention and strict interpretation of the law.
Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals Judge
The Court of Criminal Appeals can review decisions and change outcomes of the decisions of lower courts. It hears all appeals of felony and misdemeanor cases, including violations of city ordinances and all post-conviction orders in criminal cases. This is the court of last resort. The two seats are up for partisan election. A full term on the court is six years.

Place 1
☐ Mary Windom (incumbent), R
Mary Windom received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Alabama and her law degree from Faulkner University. She has served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Alabama and as a Deputy Attorney General of Alabama. She was elected to the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals in 2008 and became the presiding judge in 2012.

Place 2
☐ Beth Kellum (incumbent), R
Beth Kellum earned both her undergraduate and law degree from the University of Alabama. She has worked as the Assistant Attorney General for Alabama and as a staff attorney for the Court of Criminal Appeals and the Alabama Supreme Court. In 2008, she was elected to the Court of Criminal Appeals and has since remained there.

Alabama District Court Judge: Jefferson County
District courts are lower courts that have authority to make decisions about misdemeanors, small claims, criminal cases, guilty pleas, and civil matters not exceeding $10,000. District courts also share jurisdiction over juvenile cases regarding juvenile delinquency, child abuse, and children in need of supervision. These cases are heard by a judge but no jury.

Place 1
☐ Martha R. Cook (incumbent), D
Martha R. Cook is currently a District Court Judge appointed in 2019 with 20+ years of civil law practice. She graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman’s College and received her Juris Doctorate from Samford’s Cumberland School of Law.

Place 7
☐ Ruby Yvette Davis , D
Davis is the founder of The Davis Law Group, LLC, which focuses on wrongful deaths and injuries from car accidents and catastrophic events. She is a graduate of Lawson State Community College and Faulkner University and earned her Juris Doctorate from Birmingham School of Law. Davis is a Birmingham native, a Delta Sigma Theta member, and has been endorsed by Mayor Randall Woodfin.

☐ Bentley H. Patrick (incumbent), R
Bentley Patrick was appointed to Place 7 by Governor Kay Ivey in April 2019. Patrick has 18-23 years experience in mediation and civil litigation and specialized in insurance defense. He received his undergraduate degree from Birmingham-Southern College and his Juris Doctorate from Cumberland School of Law.
Alabama Circuit Court Judge, Circuit 10: Jefferson County
The Circuit Court is the highest court in the county. The circuit courts are where jury trials take place. In most Alabama counties, the circuit courts hear both civil and criminal cases. In Jefferson County, there is a civil division and a criminal division.

Place 2
☐ Shanta’ Owens (incumbent), D
Owens has served as District Judge in the criminal division for the 10th Judicial Circuit of Alabama since 2008. She presides over the Drug Court Program in Birmingham. She studied undergrad at Alabama State University and received dual Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Civil Law degrees from Louisiana State University School of Law and the Université D’ Aix-Marseille III in Aix-en-Provence, France. She states, “I have dedicated myself and my career to the Criminal Justice System. My highest priorities are to follow the law as written, while providing tough, fair, compassionate, and competent justice for all.”

Place 3
☐ Kechia Davis, D
Kechia Davis was appointed Birmingham Municipal Court judge in March of 2017. She also has 13 years of experience as a trial attorney with Jefferson County. The main issues Davis plans to focus on are implementing a Gun Court Program, which educates participants on gun safety, and helping individuals obtain driver’s licenses despite past convictions. Davis earned both her undergraduate degree in criminal justice and her law degree from the University of Alabama.

Place 10
☐ Pat Ballard (incumbent), D
Pat Ballard began serving as a judge in the Civil Division in Circuit 10 in 2015. Prior to this, he had extensive experience in civil litigation through his ownership of Ballard Law Office. Before practicing law, he spent 15 years in the construction industry. He received his B.S. from Texas A&M University and his law degree from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. He has served the community in a number of outlets including Central City Neighborhood Association, Community Affairs Committee of REV Birmingham, Steering Committee of Birmingham Community Policing & Revitalization, the Downtown Business Association, the NAACP, and United Fellowship Breakfast Forum.

Treasurer: Jefferson County
The Jefferson County Treasurer invests tax dollars into government backed securities and/or the United States Treasury. A treasurer’s primary responsibility is to maintain safety, liquidity, and a market rate of return on the county’s funds. This office is responsible for paying the county’s vendors and employees.

☐ Eyrika Parker, D
Eyrika Parker received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Alabama and her law degree from Southern University Law Center. She has previously worked for the Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk office. Parker also gives an extensive amount of time to community service work.
Deputy Treasurer: Jefferson County
The Jefferson County Treasurer assists the Treasurer in the daily duties, including supervising over investments, verifying financial risks, and presenting financial reports.

☐ Sherry McClain (incumbent), D
McClain attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham, graduating in 1984 with a B.A. in Accounting. Since then she has worked professionally in the accounting field. She has served as Deputy Treasurer since 2013.

☐ John Stephens, R
Our research found no information on this candidate.

Tax Assessor: Jefferson County
The Jefferson County Tax Assessor is charged with responsibility to discover, list, assess, apply exemptions, abatements, current use, and process real and personal property tax returns. The Tax Assessor’s office creates and updates GIS maps with multi layers of data including information about tax saving exemptions and frequently asked questions about real property (land and buildings), business/personal property, tax rates, and parcel numbers.

☐ Gaynell Hendricks (incumbent), D
Gaynell Hendricks has been the Tax Assessor in Jefferson County since 2009. She graduated with a B.S. in Sociology from LeMoyne-Owen College and went on to earn a Master’s in Rehabilitation Counseling from Memphis State University and an M.B.A. in Marketing from Rutgers University. In addition to her role as Tax Assessor, she is also the founder and director of Wee Care Academy.

Assistant Tax Assessor: Jefferson County
The Jefferson County Assistant Tax Assessor’s responsibility is to collect data for the Bessemer Cut-Off District and maintain all exemptions and real and personal tax records for this division as per the Code of Alabama. Alabama Law requires that all changes in property be reported to the Tax Assessor. These changes are made by filing an assessment, at no charge, with your Tax Assessor. This includes real property, personal property, homestead exemptions, and Senior Citizen and Disability Exemptions.

☐ Charles R. Winston Jr. (incumbent), D
Charles R. Winston Jr. is currently the Assistant Tax Assessor for Jefferson County. He is also currently the pastor of New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Hueytown.

☐ Brandon Herren, R
Brandon Herren graduated from Hueytown High School in 1999. He worked for the Jefferson County Sheriff’s office from 2003-2006 in Oak Grove. He is currently a licensed REALTOR®. He ran for office in 2016 for the seat of Deputy Treasurer in the Bessemer Courthouse but did not win. He desires to serve the people of Jefferson County.
Tax Collector: Jefferson County
The Tax Collector collects property taxes for parcels located in Jefferson County as well as oversees collecting delinquent taxes. Delinquent payments can incur a late fee and interest, and they can eventually lead to a property being sold at auction for taxes.

☐ **J.T. Smallwood (incumbent), D**
J.T. Smallwood has been Jefferson County’s Tax Collector since his election in 2002. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and went on to receive his law degree from the Birmingham School of Law. Previously, Smallwood was a Law Firm Administrator and a lecturer in Law and Ethics.

Assistant Tax Collector: Jefferson County
The Assistant Tax Collector assists the Tax Collector in the daily duties. The job is a combination of administrative assistance and accounting support.

☐ **Eric Burks, D**
Our research found no information on this candidate.

☐ **Delor Baumann, R**
Delor Baumann grew up in Hueytown. He attended UAB where he studied biology and criminal justice. He served as Mayor of Hueytown from 2004-2016, President of Jefferson County Mayors Association, HOA President for 7 years, coach of a girls’ park softball league, and Church Council President for 6 years. He also served on the Committee for the Northern Beltway I-959, Regional Planning Commission Board for Jefferson County, Jefferson County EMA Board, Lions Club, and the Industrial Development Board of Hueytown.
Jefferson County Constable

A constable is an elected law enforcement officer that has the typical duties of a police officer, including making arrests and traffic stops. In addition, a constable can escort weddings and funerals, enforce traffic, provide security at events, and serve papers in civil affairs. There are only two “peace officers” who are elected. The sheriff is elected by the county, and the constable is elected by the citizens of the state house district. They are not funded from general tax revenues, but rather, constables’ fees are paid by the individuals they arrest.

District 15
☐ Rod Honeycutt, R
Our research found no information on this candidate.

District 16
☐ Joe Williams (incumbent), R
Joe Williams has served as Constable for District 16 since 2017. He previously served as the Deputy Constable for the State of Alabama. He is the owner of Tiger Rock Martial Arts, the Vice President of Metro Security Force, and President of Alabama Protective Services.

District 44
☐ Stephen Moseley (incumbent), R
Stephen Moseley is currently Constable for District 44. Our research found no additional information on this candidate.

District 45
☐ Andrea Carter, D
Our research found no additional information on this candidate.

☐ Tim Anders, R
Our research found no information on this candidate.

District 46
☐ Larry Allred (incumbent), R
Larry Allred is currently Constable for District 46. He is affiliated with Allred Marketing.

District 47
☐ Gilbert Douglas III (incumbent), R
Gilbert Douglas III has lived in Jefferson County his entire life and was first elected Constable in 1980. He graduated from Samford University and retired from the US Navy as a Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman. Gilbert believes “it is imperative that the constable be as courteous as possible, while performing his/her duty as a court official.” He strives “to continue serving the citizenry in a proper and professional manner according to the law.”

District 48
☐ Jonathan Barbee (incumbent), R
Jonathan Barbee is the current Constable for District 48. He has worked on President Trump’s campaign since 2015 and currently serves as a delegate. Barbee attended the University of Alabama for undergrad and earned a Bachelor of Science in Broadcasting and Management.

District 51
☐ Ronnie Dixon (incumbent), R
Ronnie Dixon is the current Constable for District 51. He also serves as a member of the Jefferson County Board of Education. He took up civil service after three decades working in the telecommunications industry.
District 52
☐ Valencia Lavender Moore (incumbent), D
Valencia Moore was an elementary school teacher for 30 years. She is the current Constable for District 52. She encourages members of her district to get in touch with their representatives. She is knowledgeable on the area in which she serves and the members of her district and believes it’s important for a constable to know the residents of their district.

District 54
☐ Robert L. Colvert III, D
Robert Colvert previously served as Deputy Constable in District 48. In May 2019, he received an Outstanding Service Award for helping a driver who had a seizure, and he was promoted to lieutenant of that district. He was also recognized on the Constable’s Facebook page for recovering a stolen car.

District 55
☐ Mitchell Hagood, D
Mitchell Hagood went to UAB. He has been a member of this community for 14 years. He is the owner of the metaphysical store Books, Beans, and Candles. His establishment has been considered a safe haven for discussion of numerous beliefs and ways of life. He fosters a community of acceptance and support. His stance is, “Let’s give our community a voice.”

District 56
☐ Charles R. Winston III (incumbent), D
Charles Winston III is currently Constable for District 56. His father is currently the Assistant Tax Assessor for Jefferson County. Our research found no additional information on this candidate.

District 57
☐ Albert Duff Jr., D
Albert Duff hopes to “further the spread of trust between law enforcement and the public.” He plans to “incorporate partners (public and private) to assist the schools in paying delinquent lunch accounts and other food programs.” His law enforcement experience started with the Montgomery Police Department in November 1985. He retired as a Sergeant with Lawson State Community College Police Department in June 2020. He served as Deputy Constable for 12 years. He is also APOST certified and an N.R.A. Certified Law Enforcement FireArms Instructor. Duff says, “Having similar backgrounds and goals in law enforcement as [other law enforcement agencies in District 57] should foster a healthy and productive working relationship.”

District 58
☐ Tara Nix-Small (incumbent), D
Tara Small graduated from Alabama State University. She is a business owner and a Jefferson County Constable for District 58. She has experience working in the mental health care industry.

District 59
☐ Frederick A. Burkes, D
Frederick Burkes attended Jefferson State Community College for Criminal Justice. In 1991, he attended the Birmingham Police Academy and has been a police officer since, serving his community by protecting and enforcing the laws. One change he would like to see is for constables to be APOST certified.

District 60
☐ Wanda Faye Bryant (incumbent), D
Wanda Faye Bryant currently holds the office of Constable for District 60. She is also actively involved with the Poor People’s Campaign and supports prison rehabilitation. Bryant emphasizes her compassion and experience as she runs for constable. Wanda Bryant cares for the members of her community and district, serving food to the poor and homeless and donating clothing to those in need.
Thank you for reading our voter guide!
To get involved with our Systems Change work, our voter guide research, or The Exchange group, please contact Amanda at 205.326.6821 or amanda@gbm.org.