

# The Power is in Your Hands

Your Guide to Representation

## Stay Up To Date



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A Blueprint for US

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# Glossary

## Annexation

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

**Example:** Adding new neighborhoods to the city of Mobile

## Census

The official count conducted by the federal government every ten years of 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)

## Councilperson

A member of a council, especially of a town or city that serves as the legislative branch of a municipality

## Diluting the Vote

Preventing a group from being properly represented in government

## Gerrymandering

Manipulate electoral boundaries (ie. maps) to favor one party, class, or racial group in an election, which results in diluting the vote

## Majority

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

## Land locked

Enclosed by land with no coastline or seaport bordering it

## Reapportionment

Related to annexation; the process of ensuring each district or area within the City contains an approximately equal number of residents

## Redistricting

Related to the census; divide or organize (an area) into new political or school districts (drawing the lines)

## Unincorporated Area

An area of land that is not included as part of a whole (aka, not include in stated boundaries, like a city)

## Voting Age Population (VAP)

Eligible voters of at least 18 years of age

# How Annexation is Passed

## *in Mobile, AL*

### 1. The Mayor Proposes Annexation

Annexation is the procedure for bringing unincorporated areas of a county (aka, areas that are currently not included as part of) into an adjacent city or town. The mayor can propose to bring in (ie. annex) new neighborhoods into the City. This means adding land and people.

### 2. The City Council votes YES or NO

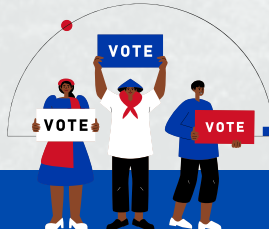
After the Mayor proposes annexation and has maps drawn up to show what new neighborhoods the City wants to bring in, the proposal of annexation goes to the City Council for a vote. **They can vote for one of the Mayor's proposed maps, or vote to prevent annexation from occurring.**

### 3. Certified Maps go to the Probate Court

If the City Council votes for annexation, the Mayor can send certified (ie. government granted recognized/approved) maps to the Probate Court which is responsible for holding an election.

### 4. An election is held

The Probate Court is responsible for calling an election in which residents of the potential new neighborhoods vote on whether or not they want to join the City. **Only the neighborhoods that vote YES in a 50% + 1 vote will end up joining the City.**



# Annexation Facts

1

The population of the City of Mobile has been steadily declining for decades. Since the 2010 Census we have lost nearly 10,000 residents. This is a continuing trend that is NOT the result of loss of any city land.

2

The Mayor is proposing an annexation (ie. bringing in new areas into Mobile) to grow the city by taking on new residents, neighborhoods, and land. He has proposed four possible maps.

3

The City Council can vote to allow an annexation to go forward or to prevent an annexation at this time. If the Council votes for an annexation to go forward – the vote can be for the areas in one of the four maps (study area) or for another map.

4

If a map is passed by the City Council, the Mayor certifies that map (study area) to the Probate Court.

5

The Probate Court then would call for election whereby potential new neighborhoods (within the proposed study areas) vote on whether they want to join the city or not.

6

The City council members have no idea how those votes will go and who will vote to come in. So, they cannot make any guarantees on the outcome.

7

There has been an effort underway now for YEARS to build support for white neighborhoods in West Mobile to annex (join) into the City. These efforts have included mailings, Facebook groups, etc. As a result, there is a greater likelihood those neighborhoods will vote to come in rather than others.

8

If that happens, only those neighborhoods in the proposed study area that vote yes and get 50% plus 1 vote on a given map would end up coming into the city.

9

After an annexation, the City will be forced to once again go through reapportionment to ensure Council Districts have around the same amount of residents.

10

The City Council has committed to holding District and Community meetings on these proposals over the next few months to discuss any and all concerns.

# Mobile Elected Offices

## City Council



**CORY PENN**

District 1

(251) 208-7441  
[council1@cityofmobile.org](mailto:council1@cityofmobile.org)



**WILLIAM CARROLL**

District 2

(251) 208-7441  
[council2@cityofmobile.org](mailto:council2@cityofmobile.org)



**C.J. SMALL**

District 3

(251) 208-7441  
Other: (251) 604-4367  
[council3@cityofmobile.org](mailto:council3@cityofmobile.org)



**BEN REYNOLDS**

District 4

(251) 208-7441  
[council4@cityofmobile.org](mailto:council4@cityofmobile.org)



**JOEL DAVES**

District 5

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



**SCOTT JONES**

District 6

(251) 208-7441  
[council6@cityofmobile.org](mailto:council6@cityofmobile.org)



**GINA GREGORY**

District 7

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

# Mobile Elected Offices

## Mayor



**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*



**CONNIE HUDSON**

District 2

Commission President

*(251) 574-2000  
district2web@mobilecountyal.gov*



**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.

# Mobile Elected Offices

## 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 [www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/elected-official-map](http://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/elected-official-map), click on the map, and enter your address to find your representatives.



# Mobile Elected Offices

## State Legislative Delegation Continued



**NAPOLÉON 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](mailto:contact.governor.alabama.gov/contact.aspx)



**WILL AINSWORTH (R)**  
Lieutenant Governor

(334) 261-9590  
[ltgov@ltgov.alabama.gov](mailto:ltgov@ltgov.alabama.gov)



**WES ALLEN (R)**  
Secretary of State

(334) 242-5899  
[Wes.Allen@sos.alabama.gov](mailto:Wes.Allen@sos.alabama.gov)



**STEVE MARSHALL (R)**  
Attorney General

(334) 242-7300  
[alabamaag.gov/generalcontact](mailto: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/share-your-opinion/](http://www.britt.senate.gov/share-your-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](http://carl.house.gov/contact)



**BARRY MOORE (R)**  
District 2

*Capitol: (202) 225-2901*  
[barrymoore.house.gov/zip\\_authentication?form=/contact](http://barrymoore.house.gov/zip_authentication?form=/contact)



**MIKE ROGERS (R)**  
District 3

*Capitol: (202) 225-3261*  
[mikerogers.house.gov/contact/](http://mikerogers.house.gov/contact/)



**ROBERT ADERHOLT (R)**  
District 4

*Capitol: (202) 225-4876*  
[aderholt.house.gov/contact-robert](http://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 [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) 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.**

Source: American Psychological Association



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# Sample Email to Your Representative #1

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

Dear Mayor/Councilmember/Senator/Representative **[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

1. 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](https://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](https://bit.ly/candidateguide_alsos)
- FCPA Filing Calendar - 2024 Election Cycle: [bit.ly/fcpa\\_2024\\_alabama](https://bit.ly/fcpa_2024_alabama)

You can Google these resources or visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.alabama.gov](https://www.sos.alabama.gov)

# Get Involved

## Local & State Organizations to Follow



Stay Up To Date

- @sumblueprintforus
- @standupmobile

- info@sum-blueprintforus.org
- (251) 219-0194
- sum-blueprintforus.org



[aclualabama.org](http://aclualabama.org)



[alforward.org](http://alforward.org)



[alarise.org](http://alarise.org)



[mobilenaacp.org](http://mobilenaacp.org)  
(NAACP Branch 5044)



[lwval.org](http://lwval.org)



## National Organizations to Follow

