



2017 CITY OF MOBILE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS CALENDAR

(Citations are to the Code of Alabama, 1975)

DISCLAIMER: This election calendar is provided as a service to candidates running in the general municipal election and those officials responsible for conducting the municipal election to be held on August 22, 2017, with a run-off on October 3, 2017, if necessary. *Use of this calendar is at the sole risk of the candidate. It is the responsibility of the candidate or official to verify the dates on which forms are due.* The City of Mobile and/or any official that may distribute this form disclaim any responsibility or liability for failure to comply with any filing requirement or any other election law.

References are to dates in the year 2017 unless otherwise indicated and all citations are to the Code of Alabama 1975. In most cases, the dates printed in this publication represent the final deadline for performing the listed duties. The City Clerk urges candidates to accomplish these duties well in advance of the deadline.

August 22, 2016

First day candidates for municipal elections can begin to raise money. §17-5-7(b)(2). Under general law, there is no limitation on the amount an individual or corporation may contribute to the campaign of a person running for municipal office.

NOTE: Once a candidate establishes a principal campaign committee pursuant to the Fair Campaign Practices Act, the committee must file monthly campaign disclosure reports pursuant to §17-5-8. The reports are due on the second business day of the subsequent month during the time leading up to the election with the exception of the month preceding the election. For the four (4) weeks prior to the election, weekly reports covering each week must be filed on Monday of the following week. A candidate who is required to file a weekly report during this period is *not* also required to file a monthly report in the month in which the election is held. This eliminates duplicative filings. See §17-5-8(k), Code of Alabama 1975. Forms are available from the probate judge or the Secretary of State.

FCPA Forms for municipal candidates must be filed with the probate judge in the county in which the office is sought. See §17-5-9(a).

July 5

Mayor gives notice of the election on the first Tuesday in July. §11-46-22(a). Candidates may begin qualifying once notice is published. Qualifying forms are available from the municipal clerk. §11-46-22(a). **NOTE:** The Fair Campaign Practices Act requires all candidates to file with the PROBATE JUDGE in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located a list of two to five persons who will serve as their campaign committee. §17-5-9(c). Candidates may serve as their own committee, but must still file a form to this effect with the PROBATE JUDGE. THIS FORM MUST BE FILED WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS OF QUALIFYING TO RUN FOR OFFICE. THIS FORM MUST BE FILED REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE CANDIDATE HAS REACHED THE \$1,000 THRESHOLD UNDER THE FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT. Forms are available from the probate judge or Secretary of State. §17-5-4.

IN ADDITION, once a candidate establishes a principal campaign committee pursuant to the Fair Campaign Practices Act, the committee must file monthly campaign disclosure reports pursuant to §17-5-8. The reports are due on the second business day of the subsequent month with the exception of the month preceding the election at which point the reports are due weekly on Monday of the following week leading up to the election. §17-5-8.

FURTHER, the Ethics Law requires candidates to file a statement of economic interests with the STATE ETHICS COMMISSION . In addition, the Ethics Commission must confirm to the municipal clerk within five (5) business days that the candidate has filed the form required. § 36-25-15. **THE CLERK IS REQUIRED TO REMOVE FROM THE BALLOT THE NAME OF ANY CANDIDATE WHO FAILS TO FILE THE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS BY THE DEADLINE.** Incumbents do not have to file the statement of economic interests as they are required to submit an annual report which is on file with the ETHICS COMMISSION . § 36-25-15.

July 18

Last day to qualify to run for municipal office. The qualifying form must be filed by 5:00 p.m., Central Daylight Time, with the MUNICIPAL CLERK. Forms are available from the clerk. §11-46-25(g).

July 31

Principal campaign committee must file a weekly campaign disclosure report with the PROBATE JUDGE in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located pursuant to §17-5-8. FCPA Weekly Reports are required weekly on the Monday of the succeeding week for each of the four weeks prior to the election that includes all reportable activities of the previous week. Forms are available from the probate judge or Secretary of State.

August 7

Principal campaign committee must file a weekly campaign disclosure report with the PROBATE JUDGE in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located pursuant to §17-5-8. FCPA Weekly Reports are required weekly on the Monday of the succeeding week for each of the four weeks prior to the election that includes all reportable activities of the previous week. Forms are available from the probate judge or Secretary of State.

August 7

Last day to register to vote for the municipal general election, 15th day before the election. §17-3-50(a).

August 14

Principal campaign committee must file a weekly campaign disclosure report with the PROBATE JUDGE in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located pursuant to §17-5-8. FCPA Weekly Reports are required weekly on the Monday of the succeeding week for each of the four weeks prior to the election that includes all reportable activities of the previous week. Forms are available from the probate judge or Secretary of State.

August 17

Last day for a voter to apply for a regular absentee ballot, 5 days prior to the election. §17-11-3(a).

August 21

Principal campaign committee must file a weekly campaign disclosure report with the PROBATE JUDGE in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located pursuant to §17-5-8. FCPA Weekly Reports are required weekly on the Monday of the succeeding week for each of the four weeks prior to the election that includes all reportable activities of the previous week. Forms are available from the probate judge or Secretary of State.

Last day for a voter to apply for an emergency absentee ballot if he or she is required by his or her employer to be out of the country on election day. §17-11-3(d).

If an absentee ballot is returned by mail, it must be postmarked by August 21 **and** received by noon the day of the election. The deadline for hand-delivery of absentee ballots is the close of business on August 21. §17-11-3(c), 17-11-18.

August 22

Election Day. Regular municipal elections are held on the fourth Tuesday in August. §11-46-2.

NOTE: Section 11-46-28 provides that the polls be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and that a municipality may set those times under Eastern Standard Time if necessary.

Candidates may appoint a poll watcher to observe voting procedures in the polling place. The appointment must be made in writing, signed by the candidate, and filed with the election officials at the polling place. §11-46-35.

Deadline for returning absentee ballots by mail or an emergency absentee ballot for a registered voter who requires emergency treatment by a licensed physician within 5 days of the election is 12:00 noon on August 22. §7-11-18.

August 25

Last day for an absentee voter who was required to provide identification but failed to provide it before the election to submit identification to the board of registrars in order to have the vote counted no later than 5:00 PM on the Friday following the election. §17-10-2(c)(1)(c).

August 29

Commencing at noon on the first Tuesday after the election, the council must canvass the election results. §11-46-55. See also §11-46-46. If a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the office, the council issues a certificate of election. If no candidate receives a majority, the council shall order a runoff election to be held. **ANYONE WITH STANDING TO CONTEST THE ELECTION MAY REQUEST A RECOUNT WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS OF THE OFFICIAL CANVASS OF THE ELECTION RESULTS.** §11-46-55.1.

September 5

Last day a candidate may contest the results of the general election, within 5 days after the result of the election is declared. §11-46-69.

September 11

Principal campaign committee must file a weekly campaign disclosure report for the runoff election with the PROBATE JUDGE in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located pursuant to §17-5-8. FCPA Weekly Reports are required weekly on the Monday of the succeeding week for each of the four weeks prior to the election that includes all reportable activities of the previous week. Forms are available from the probate judge or Secretary of State.

September 18

Principal campaign committee must file a weekly campaign disclosure report for the runoff election with the PROBATE JUDGE in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located pursuant to §17-5-8. FCPA Weekly Reports are required weekly on the Monday of the succeeding week for each of the four

weeks prior to the election that includes all reportable activities of the previous week. Forms are available from the probate judge or Secretary of State.

September 25

Principal campaign committee must file a weekly campaign disclosure report for the runoff election with the PROBATE JUDGE in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located pursuant to §17-5-8. FCPA Weekly Reports are required weekly on the Monday of the succeeding week for each of the four weeks prior to the election that includes all reportable activities of the previous week. Forms are available from the probate judge or Secretary of State.

September 28

Last day for a voter to apply for a regular absentee ballot 5 days before the election. §17-11-3(a).

September 29

Last day for an absentee voter who is required to provide identification but failed to include it with the ballot to submit this identification to the absentee election manager by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election to prevent the ballot from becoming a provisional ballot. §17-10-2(c)(1)(a).

October 2

Principal campaign committee must file a weekly campaign disclosure report for the runoff election with the PROBATE JUDGE pursuant to §17-5-8 in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located. FCPA Weekly Reports are required weekly on the Monday of the succeeding week for each of the four weeks prior to the election that includes all reportable activities of the previous week. Forms are available from the probate judge or Secretary of State.

October 2

Last day for a voter to apply for an emergency absentee ballot if he or she is required by his or her employer to be out of the country on election day. §17-11-3(d).

If an absentee ballot is returned by mail, it must be postmarked by October 2 **and** received by noon the day of the election. The deadline for hand-delivery of absentee ballots is the close of business on October 2. §17-11-3(c), 17-11-18.

October 3

Run-off Election Day. Candidates may appoint a poll watcher to observe voting procedures in the polling place. The appointment must be made in writing, signed by the candidate, and filed with the election officials at the polling place. §11-46-35.

Deadline for returning absentee ballots by mail or an emergency absentee ballot for a registered voter who requires emergency treatment by a licensed physician within 5 days of the election is 12:00 noon on October 4. §17-11-3(c), 17-11-18.

October 4

Deadline for the absentee precinct inspector to notify voters whose absentee ballots have become provisional due to the inspector's personal knowledge that voter was not eligible to vote by mailing a copy of the challenge statement of the inspector by the day after the election.. §17-10-2(c)(3)(b).

October 6

Last day for an absentee voter who was required to provide identification but failed to provide it before the election to submit identification to the board of registrars in order to have the vote counted no later than 5:00 P.M. on the Friday following the election. §17-10-2(c)(1)(c).

October 10

Commencing at noon on the first Tuesday next after the election the council must canvass the election results. §11-4655. See also §11-46-46. ANYONE WITH STANDING TO CONTEST THE ELECTION MAY REQUEST A RECOUNT WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS OF THE OFFICIAL CANVASS OF THE ELECTION RESULTS. §11-46-55.1.

October 16

Last day a candidate may contest the results of the run-off election, within 5 days after the result of the election is declared. §11-46-69.

November 6

Newly elected municipal officials take office on the first Monday in November following the election. §11-46-21(c). Council meets for its organizational session. §11-43-44.

December 20

Last day for candidates who were *not* involved in the run-off election to raise money to pay off their campaign debts, 120 days after the election. §17-5-7.

January 31, 2018

Last day for candidates who were involved in the run-off election to raise money to pay off their campaign debts, 120 days after the election. §17-5-7.

NOTE: Candidates who are not elected should dissolve their campaign committees by filing a form with the PROBATE JUDGE in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located. The Fair Campaign Practices Act requires all candidates who fail to dissolve their campaign committees to file an annual report listing all contributions or expenditures with the probate judge. Forms are available from the probate judge or the Secretary of State. There have been changes to the Fair Campaign Practices Act since the 2012 election and there are different filing deadlines. Please contact the Secretary of State for complete details.