



Alabama Constitutional Amendments November 8, 2022

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF ALABAMA OF 2022

Alabama's voters will have the opportunity to vote on a reorganized state constitution at the November 8, 2022, general election. Alabama's current constitution has been in effect since 1901. It contains outdated language and has been amended nearly 1,000 times. If approved, the reorganized state constitution will be titled the Constitution of Alabama of 2022. In 2022, all members of the Legislature agreed to this proposed reorganized constitution and put it on the ballot for voters to consider. The Constitution of Alabama of 2022 will only do the following: (1) rearrange the constitution so that similar subjects are located together; (2) remove racist language; (3) delete repeated or repealed portions/language; (4) place all amendments which deal with economic development together; and (5) arrange local amendments by county. The reorganized constitution will make no changes other than those listed above and will not make any changes relating to taxes. If the majority of voters vote "yes" on the reorganized constitution, the Constitution of 2022 will replace the Constitution of 1901 as the governing document for the State. If the majority of voters vote "no" on the reorganized constitution, the Constitution of 1901, as amended, will remain the governing document for the State. There are no costs to adopting the reorganized constitution. The authority for the adoption of this reorganized constitution is in Amendment 951 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, which was approved by voters on November 3, 2020. Amendment 951 set out the process for a committee, with public input, to draft this proposed reorganized constitution. In Act 2022-111, the Legislature approved the committee's proposed draft and placed it on the November 2022 general election ballot for final consideration by voters to become the reorganized Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 1:

Plain language explanation: This amendment will change constitution Section 16 to add crimes for which bail can be denied, to include murder, kidnapping in the first degree, rape in the first degree, sodomy in the first degree, sexual torture, domestic violence in the first degree, human trafficking in the first degree, burglary in the first degree, arson in the first degree, robbery in the first degree, terrorism, and aggravated child abuse of a child under the age of six.

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 2:

Plain language explanation: This amendment will make clear that the state, a county, or a city/town may spend federal grant funds or other state funding to expand access to high-speed Internet (broadband).

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 3:

Plain language explanation: Currently, the Governor has the power to postpone or reduce a death sentence to life in prison. This amendment will require the Governor to notify the Attorney General and the victim's family before postponing or reducing a death sentence.

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 4:

Plain language explanation: This amendment requires any bill passed by the state legislature during an election year which affects how a general election is held must take effect at least six months before the general election

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 5:

Plain language explanation: If the majority of the voters vote “yes” on Amendment 5, the outdated words “orphans’ business” will be removed from the Alabama Constitution. This refers to adoption proceedings and in today’s world not all children who are in the process for adoption are technically orphans.

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 6:

Plain language explanation: This amendment provides that cities/towns already allowed to collect a special property tax may use those tax dollars to directly “pay-as-you-go” for construction projects instead of going into debt.

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 7:

Plain language explanation: Currently, the Alabama Constitution provides that some counties and cities/towns may use public funds to sell public property, lend their credit, or become indebted for economic development purposes. Amendment 7 will give all counties and cities/towns those same powers. Currently, the governing body is required to give notice of its proposed action in the newspaper having the largest circulation in the county or city/town. Amendment 7 will allow the public notice to be given in any newspaper in circulation in the county or city/town.

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 8:

“Relating to Shelby County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to bring certain privately owned sewer systems that use public rights-of-way of public roads under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission under certain conditions.”

Plain language explanation: This amendment applies only to Shelby County.

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 9:

"Relating to Jefferson County and Tuscaloosa County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to bring certain privately owned sewer systems that use public rights-of-way of public roads in the city limits of Lake View under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission, beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2027.

Plain language explanation: This amendment applies only to the Town of Lake View in Tuscaloosa and Jefferson Counties.

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 10:

Plain language explanation: This amendment depends upon the approval of the official Constitution of Alabama of 2022. This amendment provides that any new amendments passed since the recompile of the 2022 Constitution will be properly organized by subject within the 2022 Constitution and for listing legal annotations to the appropriate sections as renumbered in the Constitution of 2022.