



2026 ELECTION QUESTIONS

Where do candidates stand?

Meeting and talking with candidates as they campaign for your vote helps shape the conversation and let them know which issues are most important to their constituents. Below are some questions you can ask and info you can share when meeting candidates. Please let us know what you hear back!

Funding public services

Alabama's tax system is upside down. People with low incomes pay a higher share of their income in state and local taxes – double the amount paid by wealthier Alabamians. Alabama gives tax breaks and incentives to wealthy individuals and large corporations that are not accessible to low-income families and small businesses.

Alabama is the only state still providing the outdated federal income tax deduction, which costs our state \$1.3 billion in lost revenue every year and overwhelmingly benefits the wealthiest households. At the same time, when Arise proposes policy solutions to help folks get ahead, we often hear lawmakers claim the state doesn't have enough money.

Congress last year passed HR 1 (aka the One Big Beautiful Bill Act), which will cut \$1.5 trillion from services like healthcare and food assistance to give more tax breaks to billionaires and highly profitable corporations. Because of this cut, Alabama may need to pay up to \$261 million in additional state money to fund SNAP in 2027.

Questions for legislators or statewide candidates: Would you support getting rid of the outdated federal income tax deduction, which costs Alabama more than \$1 billion a year and mostly helps wealthy households, while also ending the state grocery tax to help everyone? If not, what is your plan to untax groceries sustainably and responsibly?

Alabama is one of three states with no state dollars set aside for public transportation, and one of five with no funds directed toward affordable housing. Would you support providing dedicated state funding for affordable housing through the Alabama Housing Trust Fund, and for transportation through the Public Transportation Trust Fund?

Question for congressional candidates: Will you work to repeal the harmful spending cuts in HR 1, particularly Medicaid and SNAP cuts that will hurt Alabama for decades?

Health equity

Rural hospitals across Alabama face ongoing financial strain. More than 1 in 3 Alabama counties offer no maternity care services. Around 160,000 Alabamians fall into the health coverage gap, earning too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford private insurance. The income limit for a single parent with two children to qualify for Medicaid is just \$410 a month. That leaves many working families without affordable health coverage.

Questions for legislators or statewide candidates: Do you support Medicaid expansion to keep rural hospitals open, reduce maternal and infant mortality, help families afford healthcare and help low-wage workers stay healthy enough to work? If not, what is your specific plan to stabilize rural hospitals and improve healthcare?

Questions for congressional candidates: Will you pledge to repeal the \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts passed in HR 1, protect Medicare and make health insurance more affordable?

What will you do to hold healthcare corporations accountable for high costs?

Hunger relief

More than 750,000 Alabama families use SNAP to help put food on the table. In 2025, Congress enacted HR 1, aka the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which will shift more SNAP costs onto states. Alabama may have to pay an additional \$175 million next year just to ensure families continue to receive SNAP benefits.

About 1 in 6 Alabamians struggle with food insecurity, including more than 1 in 5 Alabama children. One positive step Alabama has taken in recent years is expanding no-cost school breakfast to more classrooms with increased state funding. We would like to expand this program to every school.

Questions for legislators or statewide candidates: Will you pledge to find new revenue to protect SNAP funding in next year's state budget? Will you pledge to expand funding for no-cost school breakfast and lunch programs?

Questions for congressional candidates: Will you help families put food on the table by fighting to protect SNAP funding and roll back cuts to SNAP in HR 1? If not, what is your proposed solution to reduce hunger?



2026 ELECTION INFORMATION

Key dates for the 2026 elections

Primary election: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

- May 4 is the voter registration deadline for the primary election.
- The election manager must receive absentee ballot applications by May 12 (by mail) or May 14 (in person).
- Completed absentee ballots must arrive at the election manager's office by May 18 (if hand-delivered) or by noon on May 19 (if returned by mail).

Runoff election (if necessary): Tuesday, June 16, 2026

- May 29 is the deadline to hand-deliver a voter registration form for the runoff. June 1 is the deadline to register online or postmark registration forms delivered by mail.
- The election manager must receive absentee ballot applications by June 9 (by mail) or June 11 (in person).
- Completed absentee ballots must arrive at the election manager's office by June 15 (if hand-delivered) or by noon on June 16 (if returned by mail).

General election: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

- Oct. 19 is the voter registration deadline for the general election.
- The election manager must receive absentee ballot applications by Oct. 27 (by mail) or Oct. 29 (in person).
- Completed absentee ballots must arrive at the election manager's office by Nov. 2 (if hand-delivered) or by noon on Nov. 3 (if returned by mail).

What to know about voter registration and absentee voting

- Alabama's voter registration deadline for the 2026 primary election is May 4. For the runoff election, the deadline is May 29 (hand delivery) or June 1 (online or postmarked by mail). For the general election, the deadline is Oct. 19.
- These deadlines are both for new voters to register and for current voters to update their information if they have moved to another location within Alabama.
- People who have faced domestic violence, or guardians of people who have faced domestic violence, may submit a form to protect their residential and mailing addresses from appearing on the public list of registered voters.
- Alabamians are not officially registered to vote until their county board of registrars reviews and approves their application.
- Alabamians applying for an absentee ballot must certify that they cannot vote in person on Election Day for a reason allowed under state law. Those reasons include absence from the county on Election Day or an illness that prevents a trip to the polling place.
- Visit alabamavotes.gov to learn more about voter registration and absentee voting.

What to know for the elections

- Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. If you're a registered voter in line by 7 p.m., stay in line! You'll be allowed to vote.
- A valid photo ID is required to vote. Visit alabamavotes.gov to learn more.
- Alabamians can vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary, but not both. Both ballots will include proposed constitutional amendments.
- State law forbids "crossover voting" in runoff elections. If a runoff election is necessary in June, people who vote in the Democratic primary will be able to vote only in a Democratic runoff, and people who vote in the Republican primary will be able to vote only in a Republican runoff. Voters who participate in neither party's primary can choose to vote in either party's runoff.
- The crossover voting rule *does not* apply to the general election in November. Voters may vote for whomever they wish in the general election, regardless of which primary (if any) they participated in earlier in the year.
- Voters' party choice for this year's primary election *does not* bind their choice for future primaries.
- Visit alabamavotes.gov to check your voter registration and polling place, find sample ballots by county and more.