

**TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE
VOTER REGISTRATION IN
ALABAMA**

TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Name

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Steve McKinnon
Ronda Walker
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Ex Officio Name

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Hope Curry
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Sec. of State

Ed Packard
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County

Mobile
Limestone
Morgan
Montgomery
House
Senate
House
Baldwin Co.
Wilcox Co.
Madison Co.
Covington Co.
Statewide
Clarke Co.
Dale
Montgomery
Morgan

Office

Ag. And Industries
State Auditor
Governor

Office

Probate Judge
Probate Judge
Circuit Clerk
Circuit Clerk
Legislature-HD082
Legislature-SD19
Legislature-HD066
Registrar
Registrar
Registrar
Former Registrar
Secretary of State
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

Appointing Board Member

John McMillan
Jim Zeigler
Robert Bentley

History: How do Registrars get their
job?

Governor, Auditor, and Commissioner of
Agriculture and Industries

When did this go into effect? The
Appointment Process was created in 1896

What are the requirements?

The qualified electors, residents of the county, shall have a high school diploma or equivalent, and possess the minimum computer and map reading skills necessary to function in the office. The registrars shall not hold an elective office during their term.

How are they compensated?

Each registrar shall receive a salary in the amount of sixty dollars (\$60) per day. Travel and other expenses shall be paid by the county commissions to the boards of registrars and the state shall reimburse the county commissions based on a written request submitted by the county commissions.

What is their term? The registrar may hold office for four years from the date of appointment and until a successor is appointed.

State by State Comparison:

Arkansas

- Title/Term: County Clerk (elected)
- Term: 2 year
- Compensation: Set by each county independently
- Hiring of Deputies: Appointed by County Clerk
- Scope of Job: Handles All Election Duties
- Other Duties: Probate court, quorum, and county court, Recording and issuing licenses and other records, tax books and board of equalization, financial records.
- Restrictions: None

Florida

- Title/Term: Supervisor of Elections (Elected)
- Term: 4 year
- Compensation: Varies-Set by each county
- Hiring of Deputies: Appointed by SOE
- Scope of Job: Handles All Election
- Other Duties:n/a
- Restrictions:None

Georgia

- Title/Term: 4year
- Compensation: Set by counties per diem and
- Hiring of Deputies: Appointed by BOR
- Scope of Job: Voter Registration
- Other Duties: none
- Restrictions: None

Mississippi

- Title/Term: County Registrar (Appointed by State Board of
- Term: 4 year
- Compensation: Sliding scale based on county
- Hiring of Deputies: Registrar Appoints
- Scope of Job: Voter Registration
- Other Duties: none
- Restrictions: None

Tennessee

- Title/Term: Administrator of Elections (appointed by county commission who are appointed every two years)
- Term: No set term – at will
- Compensation: Percentage of assessors compensation
- Hiring of Deputies: n/a
- Scope of Job: n/a
- Other Duties: Tax assessor-collector
- Restrictions: None

Alabama County by County Board of Registrars Comparison:

- Pike County:
 - Working Days: 168 days each fiscal year; an additional 30 session day, at the discretion of the County Commission.
 - Additional Support Personnel: No additional personnel.
 - County Salary Supplement: Yes, by local law.

- Etowah County:

- Working Days: 207 day; maximum amount of working days.
- Additional Support Personnel: Additional help for the Board of Registrars is limited to 220 hours per budget year.
- County Salary Supplement: Yes, by local law.

- Greene County:

- Working Days: 168 days each fiscal year.
- Additional Support Personnel: No additional personnel.
- County Salary Supplement: No additional supplement.



**Survey Responses: 173-basic need
for change**

Why are changes being sought at this time:

Appointing officials, Governor and Ag Commissioner can't run for re-election, and it is uncertain what the State Auditor's plans are, so the political battle for the change should not be as great. The need for oversight and accountability, training, and compliance with the laws has to be addressed.

**What are the changes and what will
the Board of Registrars 'look like':**

Possible Revisions of the Board of Registrars Law: Discussion Paper – Revise Appointment Process

- Eliminate existing appointment process
- Replace with “director” appointed/employed by county commission
 - Develop employment criteria
 - Director and staff county employees

Operation/Supervision of Registrar's Office

- Standards/guidelines developed by Secretary of State
 - Training requirements conducted by Secretary of State's office?
 - Director reports to and supervised by county commission
- Office staff reports to and supervised by director
- Office to follow standards/guidelines set by Secretary of State
- Employees subject to county personnel policies
- Office becomes full-time operation
- Staffing based upon workload needed for consistent operation of office
- Temporary staff for heavy periods subject to approval/policies of county commission

Funding for Office

- Office funded by state based upon budget developed by Secretary of State
 - Each county budgeted in line with current funding for voter registration function
 - County may supplement budget
- Salaries set by county commission based upon state funding for office
 - Secretary of State sets minimum salary for director?
 - Counties may supplement salaries in addition to state funds?
- Existing office equipment, supplies, housing will remain in place as determined appropriate by county commission in consultation with Secretary of State

OTHER ISSUES TO ADDRESS IN LEGISLATION?

County Administrator's Survey:

Revising the Board of Registrars Law

- From your experience in the county you serve, what do you most recommend regarding the qualifications, appointments and lengths of servitude for boards of registrars in Alabama?
- From your experience in the county in which you serve, what change do you most recommend regarding the compensation and allowable working days of boards of registrars in Alabama?
- From your experience in the county in which you serve, what change do you most recommend regarding your county's ability to financially support any of the recommendations discussed today on revising the boards of registrars in Alabama?

Any proposed bill could be amended, stalled or never brought to committee.