

# GOAT HILL FINAL REPORT

## May 2026 Special Session for Special Primary Election

Members of the Alabama County Family,

On May 8, the Alabama Legislature concluded a special session convened by the Governor to address preparations for a potential special primary election following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais*. Lawmakers were tasked with making election accommodations should the federal courts lift existing injunctions and permit Alabama to use district maps adopted in recent years for elections to the U.S. House of Representatives and the State Senate.

**During the special session, only two bills were enacted, and summaries of those newly enacted laws are provided below.** Regardless of these new laws, the May 19 primary election will proceed as scheduled; however, if a special primary election is called this year, certain results from the May 19 primary will have to be voided. The November 3, 2026, general election remains unchanged.

Sincerely,  
*Your Association Staff*

## Enacted Legislation from the May 2026 Special Session

### [Act 2026-612 by Rep. Chris Pringle](#)

This act requires the Governor to call a special primary election for Alabama's 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th Congressional Districts if a federal court ruling authorizes Alabama's use of the congressional map adopted in 2023; the ruling occurs too late to be accommodated during the May 19, 2026, primary election; and certification of the special primary election can be completed by August 26, 2026.

If those conditions are met, the Governor will issue a proclamation calling for a special primary election and will establish the administrative calendar. Any certified May 19 primary results for the affected congressional races will be voided; however, candidates who qualified to run in the May 19 primary will remain eligible to run in the special primary. The winner of the special primary will be determined by a plurality vote, with no runoff. The Legislative Fiscal Office estimates the cost to the State General Fund at approximately \$4.45 million to reimburse counties for the eligible election expenses incurred, as the State fully covers such costs for ballots containing only state and/or federal races. **Effective May 8, 2026.**

### [Act 2026-613 by Sen. Chris Elliott](#)

This act requires the Governor to call a special primary election for Alabama Senate Districts 25 and 26 if a federal court ruling authorizes Alabama's use of the State Senate map adopted in 2021; the ruling occurs too late to be accommodated during the May 19, 2026, primary; and certification of the special primary election can be completed by August 26, 2026.

If those conditions are met, the Governor will issue a proclamation calling for a special primary election and will establish the administrative calendar. Any certified May 19 primary results for the affected races will be voided; however, candidates who qualified to run in the May 19 primary will remain eligible to run in the special primary. The winner of the special primary will be determined by a plurality vote, with no runoff. The Legislative Fiscal Office estimates the cost to the State General Fund at approximately \$600,000 to reimburse counties for eligible election expenses incurred, as the State fully covers such costs for ballots containing only state and/or federal races. **Effective May 8, 2026.**