

# ALABAMA 2026 LAW ENFORCEMENT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

This pocket reference guide contains key provisions found within Title 17 of the Alabama Code and other relevant sections.

- Obstructing, intimidating, or threatening a voter to influence or interfere with their right to vote is a misdemeanor.
- Using intimidation, force, or interference to hinder or prevent a public servant from performing a governmental function is a misdemeanor.
- Tampering with, injuring, misusing, or attempting to prevent operation of a voting machine is a misdemeanor.

## VOTING HOURS

**Election Day**  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## 2026 ELECTION DATES

**Primary Election:** May 19  
**Primary Runoff:** June 16  
**General Election:** November 3

**For more information:**  
[sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/  
voter/upcoming-elections](https://sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/upcoming-elections)

## REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO

**Your local election official:**  
[sos.alabama.gov/city-county-lookup](https://sos.alabama.gov/city-county-lookup)

**AL Secretary of State:**  
1-800-274-8683  
[alabamavotes.gov](https://alabamavotes.gov)



## **Obstruction, intimidation, etc., of voting rights of others**

Ala. Code § 17-17-33

It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct, intimidate, threaten, or coerce any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of such other person to vote or to vote as he or she may choose, or for the purpose of causing such other person to vote for, or not to vote for, any candidate for state or local office or any other proposition at any election. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a Class A misdemeanor.

## **Obstructing governmental operations**

Ala. Code § 13A-10-2

(a) A person commits the crime of obstructing governmental operations if, by means of intimidation, physical force or interference or by any other independently unlawful act, he:

- (1) Intentionally obstructs, impairs or hinders the administration of law or other governmental function; or
- (2) Intentionally prevents a public servant from performing a governmental function.

(b) This section does not apply to the obstruction, impairment or hindrance of the making of an arrest.

(c) Obstructing governmental operations is a Class A misdemeanor.

## **Disturbing elector on election day**

Ala. Code § 17-17-43

Any person who, on election day, disturbs or prevents, or attempts to prevent, any elector from freely casting a ballot shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a Class A misdemeanor.

## **Tampering with, injuring, etc., machines; misuse; unauthorized possession of keys**

Ala. Code § 17-17-23

Any election officer or other person, who shall tamper with, injure, or attempt to injure any electronic voting machine to be used or being used in an election, or who shall willfully misuse any such machine, or who shall prevent or attempt to prevent the correct operation of such machine, or any unauthorized person who shall make or have in his or her possession a key to a voting machine to be used or being used in an election, shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a Class A misdemeanor.

## **Disclosing or removing ballot; interfering with or influencing elector; remaining in booth, etc.**

Ala. Code § 17-17-21

Any elector who takes or removes, or attempts to take or remove, any ballot from the polling place before the close of the polls; or any person who interferes with any elector when inside the polling place or when marking the ballot, or unduly influences, or attempts to unduly influence, any elector in the preparation of his or her ballot; or any elector who remains longer than the time allowed by law in the booth or compartment after being notified his or her time has expired, shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a violation.

## **Loitering about polling place; standing in line of voters after having voted**

Ala. Code § 17-17-17

Any person who loiters in, around, or about a polling place on election day for the purpose of discouraging qualified electors from entering the voting place, or from voting, or whoever having voted enters or stands in a line or file of voters waiting to vote, shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a Class C misdemeanor.

## **Electioneering; marking ballot contrary to the voter's direction; divulging how elector voted**

Ala. Code § 17-17-55

Any person at a primary election who shall mark the ballot of a voter contrary to the voter's direction or request, or who shall electioneer or attempt to electioneer with a voter or attempt to influence his or her vote by suggestion or otherwise, or who shall afterwards divulge how such elector voted in any race on the ballot, shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a Class A misdemeanor.

## **Proximity of persons to polling place**

Ala. Code § 17-9-50

Except as electors are admitted to vote and persons to assist them as herein provided, and except for the judge of probate, the sheriff, or his or her deputy, the precinct election officials, and watchers, no person shall be permitted within 30 feet of the door of the building of the polling place.

## **Neglect of duties by election official**

Ala. Code § 17-17-3

Any election official who wilfully and knowingly neglects, fails, or refuses to perform any of the duties prescribed in this title, shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a Class C misdemeanor. No person shall be deemed an election official until the person takes an oath to well and truly discharge the duties of such office, to the best of his or her ability, or until he or she shall have performed some of the duties pertaining to such office. The failure or refusal of any person to accept office or to discharge and perform the duties of such office at any time after appointment thereto and prior to taking the oath of such office shall not be deemed a violation of this section.

## **Bribing or attempting to influence voter**

Ala. Code § 17-17-38

Any person who, by bribery or offering to bribe, or by any other corrupt means, attempts to influence any elector in giving his or her vote, deter the elector from giving the same, or disturb or hinder the elector in the free exercise of the right of suffrage, at any election, shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a Class C misdemeanor.

## **Arrest of electors attending, going to, or returning from elections**

Ala. Code § 17-17-1

An elector must not be arrested during attendance at elections, or while going to or returning therefrom, except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace or for a violation on that day of any of the provisions of the election law. For such breach of the peace the sheriff or the sheriff's deputy may arrest without process and commit to jail until the

offender shall give bond with good and sufficient sureties, to be approved by the sheriff, for appearance at the next session of the circuit court to answer any indictment which may be found against the offender.

### **Duty of sheriff to preserve order at elections**

Ala. Code § 17-9-1

The sheriff of each county shall, on each day of election, be present in person or by deputy at all election precincts where elections are held in the county, and shall preserve good order; and, in order that every elector who desires to vote may do so without interference or interruption, such sheriff or deputy may specially deputize a sufficient force to act at all election precincts on the day of any election that the sheriff or deputy may deem necessary.

Any sheriff or deputy who wilfully or corruptly fails to perform any duty imposed by this section, on conviction, shall be punished in accordance with Section 17-17-2.

### **Duty of sheriff to preserve order at elections**

Ala. Code § 17-17-2

Any sheriff or deputy who wilfully or corruptly fails to perform any duty imposed by Section 17-9-1 shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a Class C felony, and, upon conviction, the office of such sheriff is thereby vacated.

## **Impersonating public servant**

Ala. Code § 13A-10-10

(a) A person commits the crime of impersonating a public servant if he falsely pretends to be a public servant and does any act in that capacity.

(b) It is no defense to a prosecution under this section that the office the actor pretended to hold did not in fact exist.

(c) Impersonating a public servant is a Class C misdemeanor.

## **Unlawful or fraudulent voting**

Ala. Code § 17-17-36

(a) It shall be unlawful for an individual to vote in this state more than once at any election held in this state, or to vote in both this state and another state or territory in the same or equivalent election, or to attempt to vote when he or she has knowledge that he or she is not entitled to vote, or to commit any kind of unlawful or fraudulent voting.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2), a violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) A second or subsequent violation of this section is a Class C felony.



Committee for

**SAFE AND SECURE  
ELECTIONS**

