

**ALABAMA FAIR BALLOT COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 5, 2023  
ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL  
SUITE S-203 (OLD ARCHIVES ROOM)  
600 DEXTER AVENUE  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

**Commissioners present were:**

Mr. Reid Harris, Deputy General Counsel for the Governor, and on behalf of Governor Ivey  
Mr. Patrick Moody, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, and on behalf of  
Commissioner Pate  
Mr. Mike Jones, Jr., General Counsel for the Secretary of State, and on behalf of Secretary of State  
Allen  
Mr. Jess Skaggs, Chief of Staff for the Lt. Governor, and on behalf of Lt. Governor Ainsworth  
Ms. Jade Wagner, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, and  
on behalf of Speaker Ledbetter  
Mr. Myles Mayberry  
Mr. Jimmy Entrekin  
Ms. Renee Gentle Powers  
Mr. Jordan Plaster  
Mr. Stanley F. Gray  
Mr. Anthony Windom  
Ms. Mary Margaret Carroll  
Mr. David Brewer (in place of Ms. Katherine Robertson)

**Commissioners absent were:**

Ms. Caleigh M. Hart  
Mr. Brannon Denning  
Mr. Steve Dunn  
Ms. Tiffanie Agee  
The Honorable Bob Fincher, Member, Alabama House of Representatives  
The Honorable Arnold Mooney, Member, Alabama House of Representatives  
The Honorable Juandalynn Givan, Member, Alabama House of Representatives  
The Honorable Tom Butler, Member, Alabama State Senate  
The Honorable Chris Elliott, Member, Alabama State Senate  
The Honorable Linda Coleman-Madison, Member, Alabama State Senate

**WELCOME**

Vice Chairman Moody called to order the meeting at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Plaster gave the invocation and led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL & ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF QUORUM**

Vice Chairman Moody directed Laney Kelley to call the roll. Laney Kelley called the roll and advised Vice Chairman Moody that a quorum was present. With a quorum in attendance, the Commission transacted the following business, to-wit:

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTIFICATION OF MEETING PURSUANT TO THE ALABAMA OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

Commissioner Jones informed the Commission that today's meeting was posted on the Alabama Open Meetings Act website, compliant with applicable law, on November 9, 2023.

**DISCUSSION OF THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THE FAIR BALLOT COMMISSION**

Vice Chairman Moody explained the history of and purpose of the Fair Ballot Commission for the group. He also gave a general overview of how the meetings typically proceed. Commissioner Mayberry also mentioned that when multiple ballot statements are at issue, the Commission will work in groups on individual ballot statements and present their drafts to the Commission as a whole.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 21, 2022 MEETING**

Vice Chairman Moody asked the members if they had any changes to the July 21, 2022 meeting minutes at which time no Commissioners voiced any revisions. Vice Chairman Moody asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SKAGGS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PLASTER, TO APPROVE THE JULY 21, 2022 MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA FAIR BALLOT COMMISSION.

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>Vice Chairman Patrick Moody, Reid Harris, Mike Jones, Jr., Jess Skaggs, Jade Wagner, Myles Mayberry, Jim Entrekin, Renee Gentle Powers, Jordan Plaster, Stanley Gray, Anthony Windom, Mary Margaret Carroll</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>(None)</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>(None)</b>

***MOTION PASSED.***

**ELECTION OF FAIR BALLOT COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON**

Vice Chairman Moody thanked the former Chair of the Fair Ballot Commission, Ms. Casey Williams, for her years of service to the Commission. He further explained that Ms. Williams was unable to be reappointed because she had reached her term limit. He then opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson. Commissioner Entrekin moved to nominate Vice Chair Moody for the position.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ENTREKIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MAYBERRY, TO ELECT VICE CHAIRMAN PATRICK MOODY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FAIR BALLOT COMMISSION.

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>Vice Chairman Patrick Moody, Reid Harris, Mike Jones, Jr., Jess Skaggs, Jade Wagner, Myles Mayberry, Jim Entrekin, Renee Gentle Powers, Jordan Plaster, Stanley Gray, Anthony Windom, Mary Margaret Carroll</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>(None)</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>(None)</b>

***MOTION PASSED.***

**ELECTION OF FAIR BALLOT COMMISSION VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairman Moody noted that because he had been elected as Chairman of the Commission, there was no longer a Vice Chair of the Commission. Chairman Moody made a motion to nominate Commissioner Entrekin as Vice Chair of the Fair Ballot Commission.

MOTION BY CHAIRMAN MOODY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER POWERS, TO ELECT COMMISSIONER ENTREKIN AS VICE CHAIR OF THE ALABAMA FAIR BALLOT COMMISSION.

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>Vice Chairman Patrick Moody, Reid Harris, Mike Jones, Jr., Jess Skaggs, Jade Wagner, Myles Mayberry, Jim Entrekin, Renee Gentle Powers, Jordan Plaster, Stanley Gray, Anthony Windom, Mary Margaret Carroll</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>(None)</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>(None)</b>

***MOTION PASSED.***

**DISCUSSION AND PREPARATION OF THE BALLOT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF ALABAMA OF 2022**

Chairman Moody opened the discussion by stating that the members would revise the statement paragraph by paragraph. Commissioners discussed revisions. After discussion, a motion was made to approve the final ballot statement as follows:

This amendment will change Section 71.01 of the Alabama Constitution.

Section 71.01 establishes the priority of the next year's budgets over the approval of other laws by the Legislature. Currently, Section 71.01 prohibits bills or laws from being considered by the House of Representatives or the Senate before the budgets are approved by the Legislature and sent to the Governor, unless an additional vote is approved by the House and Senate of at least a three-fifths (3/5ths) vote.

This amendment will change Section 71.01 to provide exceptions for the passage of local laws or local constitutional amendments.

If the majority of voters vote “yes” on Amendment 1, Section 71.01 of the Alabama Constitution will be changed to allow proposed local laws and proposed local constitutional amendments to be considered before the budgets are approved and sent to the Governor without the additional three-fifths (3/5ths) vote.

If the majority of voters vote “no” on Amendment 1, Section 71.01 of the Alabama Constitution will not be changed and proposed local laws and proposed local constitutional amendments will continue to require the additional three-fifths (3/5ths) vote before being considered.

There are no costs or additional taxes related to Amendment 1.

The Constitutional authority for passage of Amendment 1 is set forth in accordance with Sections 284, 285 and 287 of the Constitution of Alabama. These sections outline the method a constitutional amendment may be put to the people of the State for a vote.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MAYBERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARROLL, TO APPROVE THE FINAL BALLOT STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1.

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>Vice Chairman Patrick Moody, Reid Harris, Mike Jones, Jr., Jess Skaggs, Jade Wagner, Myles Mayberry, Jim Entrekin, Renee Gentle Powers, Jordan Plaster, Stanley Gray, Anthony Windom, Mary Margaret Carroll</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>(None)</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>(None)</b>

***MOTION PASSED.***

**DISCUSSION ON VENUES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE BALLOT STATEMENT**

Chairman Moody directed Commissioner Jones to provide an update on how the public will be informed of today’s approved ballot statement. Commissioner Jones stated that Secretary of State Allen will work with the state’s ballot production vendor to place the approved ballot statement on all of Alabama’s sample ballots which will be available in paper form throughout Alabama and online at the Alabama Secretary of State’s website. Commissioner Jones also informed the Commission that certain information on the approved ballot statement would be available on social media prior to the election. Commissioner Jones asked all the members to consider posting and sharing the social media posts to inform the public.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other further business coming before the Commission, Chairman Moody asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MAYBERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKAGGS, TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 5, 2023 MEETING OF THE ALABAMA FAIR BALLOT COMMISSION.

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>Vice Chairman Patrick Moody, Reid Harris, Mike Jones, Jr., Jess Skaggs, Jade Wagner, Myles Mayberry, Jim Entrekin, Renee Gentle Powers, Jordan Plaster, Stanley Gray, Anthony Windom, Mary Margaret Carroll</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>(None)</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>(None)</b>

***MOTION PASSED.***

APPROVED:



Chairman Patrick Moody