



## From the Chairman



Fellow Members of Our Committee and Friends of Our Party,

It has been an event packed month since I last wrote to you, and we are still running at full-speed. Our celebration of the 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the US Constitution was held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, and was a resounding success! There were over 140 attendees and



representatives from several neighboring counties, elected officials, and lots of new faces. The last group was especially encouraging because they represent the hard



work that CCREC has done to get the word

out to residents and leaders that we are the place to find a growing Republican Party where politics is getting done right!

The number of attendees, the fried catfish, and Sec John Merrill's Constitution speech were all spectacular. It was just a good time to get together with friends and new acquaintances who all showed their support for our Party, our President, and our local candidates. We cleared over \$5,000, which is a record for any event that I'm aware of in our history. We have to give credit to our sponsors, but the money raised just from individual ticket purchases was over \$1500! With many more smaller contributions to our Party, we know that more and more people are taking ownership in our mission and the future of our county and its communities. With ownership comes commitment and that means momentum and growth in the future.

As I write this there are only 36 days left till Election Day on November 3, and there is much left to do. I'll explain more in later sections about opportunities for everyone to get involved, but pay special attention to the section about our newest field office in Tuscumbia. We hope that using this facility will help us provide a focus for our efforts in the last month of campaigning.

Watch Facebook and your email for more information about coming events and opportunities.

Phill Green, Chairman, CCREC

## Judge Rosser Needs Poll Workers

We all sincerely hope for a well-run election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> that gives all registered voters the opportunity to cast their ballots in a fair and efficient manner. We don't want to



see any problems that will lead either side to wonder if the process was in any way unfair or corrupt. All honest voters and politicians should be able to agree on this.

An efficient and fair process of voting cannot take place without the work of the many honest and hard-working poll workers who run our polling places. These workers are organized by the Probate Judge's elections office, run by Ms. Emily Benson. Recently Judge Rosser asked me to let people know that more workers are needed this year. I told him that I would, and that I would emphasize to everyone how critical this election truly is, and exactly how important it is to everyone that it is conducted with a full staff of poll workers and inspectors with the highest integrity.

Anyone interested in working this year as a worker in any of our Colbert County polls should contact Elections Manager Emily Benson at 256-314-5820.

### **ALGOP Needs Poll Watchers**

The Alabama State GOP is opening registration for poll watchers to be stationed at identified voting precincts in Colbert County. "Poll-watchers", who work for the Republican Party are not to be confused with "poll-workers", who work for the probate judge's office. Poll-watchers simply observe the polling places and their processes and report any problems.

Precincts where the Party stations poll-watchers are chosen based on past voter Democrat history, larger wards and wards that we have received complaints from previous poll-watchers.

Each poll-watcher will be paid \$200 for their service after they have returned the Election Day documents to ALGOP. Poll-watchers will need to be able to print poll-watching documents.

Poll-watcher requirements:

- Remain at assigned polling location for the entire day (arrive at 6:30AM until votes have been posted after the polls close)
- Vote absentee ballot (watcher will likely not be placed at the precincts where they normally vote)
- Must attend one of the online trainings
- Return poll watching documents to ALGOP after the election to receive payment

Below is a link to a 2020 ALGOP Poll Watcher registration form.

[2020 ALGOP POLL WATCHING REGISTRATION](#)

### **A Conversation with Mark Eady: A Republican Approach to the Clerk's Office [With an Explanation of Absentee Voting]**

I recently had the opportunity to sit down and have a conversation with the Colbert County Circuit Court Clerk, Mr. Mark Eady. I wanted to ask about his career so far and his approach to running the clerk's office since his election in 2018. We also took the opportunity to discuss some questions and comments I'd seen posted lately from Republicans as well as expressed by President Trump about absentee voting and the security of our ballots.



Mark is originally from Colbert County, and graduated from Muscle Shoals High School. He went on to receive a degree in political science from Auburn, before attending Athens State, where he graduated with a B.S. in social science.

After school Mark began a career that has provided him a wide range of experiences in a diverse set of locations and settings. From Gainesville, Georgia to Boston, Massachusetts, Mark has worked in colleges and political offices where he collaborated on improvement initiatives that gave him insight into systems that worked and those that didn't. Taking the lessons he learned, Mark wrote a book entitled *The People's Clearing House: Utilizing Democratic Principles to Restore the Genuine Representation Envisioned by the Founders*, which can be found on Amazon.com. His book describes his analysis of the problems in our current political system that result in leaders with motivations not aligned with their constituents' best interests. He provides several examples, including from Alabama, and suggests a system of remedies to realign leaders' priorities with those of the voters.

After being elected in 2018 with more than 58% of the vote, Mark took over the Circuit

Clerk's office in January, 2019. The clerk's office is made up of six full-time and one part-time employee, all of whom, including the Clerk, are paid by the state of Alabama.

Responsibilities of Clerk's office include processing of all payments and fees to the circuit court, issuing all notices from the Court, including those for jury duty, court petitions, and PFA's (Protection from Abuse). The Clerk is the general records keeper for all court documents.

Since taking over, Mark points to several improvements in processes and policies that he has made to create more efficiency and enhance records integrity and security. He has eliminated "look-up" fees for court records and reduced fees for certified copies of documents from \$35 to \$10, a savings of more than 70%. Mark's office has also reduced the number of orders that are required to be served by sheriff's deputies, saving money and allowing deputies to focus on more critical law-enforcement activities, improving safety.

In an interesting case of being at the right place at the right time, Mark was able to intercept a set of official court records being offered for sale at a local retailer, which alerted him to gaps in records management and security procedures. He acted quickly to recover the records and drafted new policies to ensure that similar records would be properly and securely stored in the future.

When I asked him about obstacles that his department still faced in their work on further improvements, Mark told me that communicating with state government departments and officials was still often difficult. He said that sometimes the



messages coming from Montgomery are inconsistent, but that he'd seen some occasions when his concerns had been acknowledged and his ideas for improvement had been recognized. We both agreed that Colbert County is experiencing an era of reform and progress in local government efficiency and effectiveness, spearheaded by Republican leaders. Mark's experience has allowed him to easily spot problems with the old systems, and like with other local Republican leaders, it now seems that we have an opportunity to lead the way for others in the state.

Considering all of the recent talk about concerns over COVID-19 and voting in-person versus "mail-in voting", I took the opportunity to ask Mark about the process in Alabama for submitting a ballot by mail. Mark is the Absentee Election Manager for Colbert County, and explained that there are big differences between the processes in different states, but that the process in Alabama is quite secure and provides many obstacles to anyone attempting to submit votes improperly or illegally.

First, it is important to understand that in Alabama, any voter wishing to vote using an absentee ballot must first request an application which they personally complete and submit before receiving their individual ballot. Second, each ballot issued by the clerk's office is numbered, so fraudulent copies of ballots cannot be produced. Finally, if a voter does not receive their requested ballot for any reason, or if they lose or somehow destroy their ballot, they must submit a signed and notarized affidavit for a replacement ballot to the clerk's office before receiving another ballot.

There are several ways a voter may request an application for an absentee ballot. Applications are available from the clerk's office in the courthouse at 201 North Main Street in Tuscumbia, or at the following link:

<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/sites/default/files/LETTER%20SIZE%20Absentee%20Application%207.23.2019.pdf>

Additionally, voters may call the clerk's office at 256-386-8511 or email Mark at [mark.eady@alacourt.gov](mailto:mark.eady@alacourt.gov), and ask for an application to be sent to them. Note: Anyone who wishes to vote absentee due to concerns related to COVID-19 may fill in the box on the application that states: "I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls." [ID Required]

Once an application is completed, it may be returned to the clerk's office either in person or through the mail, as explained in the following statement from the application form:

*The voter may hand this application to the Absentee Election Manager. The voter may also forward this application to the Absentee Election Manager by U.S. Mail or commercial carrier r [§17-11-3 and §17-11-4, Code of Alabama, 1975].*

For voters in Colbert County, the address to return ballot applications is

Mark R. Eady Absentee Election Manager

Colbert County Courthouse

PO Box 740370

Tuscumbia, AL 35674

It is important to make note of a statement to voters on the application form about



eligibility to vote in person once an application has been submitted. The statement reads:

*When I apply for this absentee ballot, I understand that my name will be stricken from the list of qualified electors and, when I cast this absentee ballot, I understand that I will not be entitled to vote at my regular polling place.*

President Trump recently suggested that voters, after submitting an absentee ballot, then visit their polling place on election day to determine if they could still vote. He reasoned that if a voter's ballot had been accepted by their absentee election manager, that they would not be allowed to vote again, implying this was a good method for a voter to be sure that their ballot had been received. Of course the main-stream media immediately interpreted the President's statement as suggesting that people vote twice (once by absentee and again in-person), which was obviously not true considering his full statement.

Mark told me that applications sometimes get rejected when they arrive at his office incomplete, or without proper identification. When this happens, he sends voters a letter that clearly explains the problem and how to fix it. Common problems include improper or missing copy of photo ID (a picture can be sent by email if a voter doesn't have access to a copier), the voter is not found on the active voter rolls with the Board of Registrars, no reason for voting by absentee selected, or multiple applications returned in the same envelope. Problems are usually easy for voters to fix, but it is important to get

applications sent early, so there is plenty of time to make any necessary corrections.

I'd like to thank Mark for spending time with me to explain the process of absentee voting in Colbert County and for his efforts to bring long-awaited improvements at the courthouse. Mark is part of the Republican leadership team that will lead our county into a dynamic and prosperous future. I look forward to getting to watch.

For more information about Mark and the clerk's office, follow the link to his official site below:

<https://colbert.alacourt.gov/>

### **Colbert County Republicans Political Plan**

This is a continuation of last month's article about the state Republican Party requiring political plans from each of the county executive committees.

*As you may recall, the ALGOP asked us to provide information:*

*...outlining what the county party plans to do during the election cycle. This could mean placing newspaper ads, putting up billboard signs, sending out direct mail, or even placing digital ads.*

Since I wrote that article, a lot of work has been done to plan ways to help our four candidates win this fall, and to make these plans a reality. I have been discussing with consultants prices for mailings to voters that will be designed and timed to best capture the attention of recipients. Additionally, we are working with local providers for "robo-calls" to be made to all county residents as well as "boosting" of social media posts.



To get the calls, mailings, and posts done, I asked the CCREC for authority to spend up to \$7,000 and this was granted. I challenged the committee to raise \$4,000 in just a few weeks so that funds would be available to pay for our communications initiatives. This challenge was met and surpassed, and the CCREC now has more than \$8,000 in reserves, and we are still raising money!

This calls for a celebration and a new plan. At our meeting on Monday, Sept 28, I will ask for the additional authority to expend the remaining reserves on behalf of our candidates so that we spare no resources in our final drive to get them elected. This will open more possibilities for additional initiatives to reach potential voters. As I write, plans are being made for the chicken stew event on October 10<sup>th</sup>, and we continue to receive donations for Trump 2020 merchandise and campaign signs. With the potential revenue from these sources it is possible to consider radio advertisements.

If you are excited about the possibilities and the chance to reach more voters, there are lots of ways to help out. You can send a check to PO Box 4201, Muscle Shoals, AL 35662, or bring it to a meeting or one of our upcoming events. Remember also that there are plenty of opportunities to work for our candidates' campaigns. If you are interested or need any information about how to help, call or email me at my contact listed above.

### September Agenda

The Committee will approve the minutes for our last meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>, as well as the September treasurer's report.

Constitution Day was a public relations and financial success, and we will review the numbers and make plans for future events.

Items that will appear in new business:

- Request for amended campaign 2020 budget. Fundraising continues with momentum, and I will ask CCREC to authorize expenditures up to all available funds prior to Election Day on November 3 on campaign activities that promote our four candidates facing Democrat opposition.

### Upcoming Events

The following is the most current calendar of events for the Committee.

Keep these dates in mind when planning your individual and campaign calendars.

Colbert County Committee Events Calendar	
Date	Event
September 28, 2020	CCREC regular meeting
October 10, 2020	CCREC Chicken Stew
October 26, 2020	CCREC regular meeting
November 3, 2020	Statewide General Election

### CCREC Special Events for 2020

Planning continues for the chicken stew sponsored by Commissioner Gardiner to be held on October 10<sup>th</sup>, from 11-3pm in Sheffield. This event is positioned



close to the final stretch for campaigns to the



fall elections, and will be one last opportunity to get voters energized.

### A Home for CCREC and Republican Candidates in Tuscumbia

Support for the Republican Party is growing in Colbert County, and the evidence is clear



from the support we are enjoying. This month supporters have made it possible to open a second field office where candidates can meet voters, pass out signs and literature, and hold events

to get voters energized about Election Day 2020.



In an interesting coincidence, the building where the new office will be was

originally the Tennessee Valley Bank, just like the building that houses our first CCREC field office in Cherokee. It is located at 104 Main Street in downtown Tuscumbia, which is at the corner of Main and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets.

On Saturday, CCREC members, volunteers, and candidates met to sweep, clean windows, and make the office presentable and representative of a proud Party. With over 500 square feet of window space, there is plenty of room to place campaign signs for

candidates, and notices to inform voters about important events coming up.

There are only 36 days left until Election Day, so it is important to make the most of this great resource to reach voters and make a great impression on our community. The only way to make this happen is for volunteers to make themselves available to



work at the office to help keep regular hours. Voters will hear about us on Facebook and in the media and will make plans to visit, and it will be important that we have Republican

representatives there to greet them. It will be similar to the booths that we've always had at the state fair, with volunteers ready to pass out campaign literature for our candidates and maybe prizes for kids etc. There will also be opportunities to provide entertainments and events to draw peoples' attention. Do you play guitar? Harmonica? Spoons? Come on down!

Once again, if you'd like to volunteer your time or resources, please contact me, or Jackie Witt [jackiewitt2011@gmail.com](mailto:jackiewitt2011@gmail.com) , or Chris Hand [jchand145@gmail.com](mailto:jchand145@gmail.com) .

### Trump 2020 Campaign Merchandise

Donations for Trump 2020 and CCREC merchandise continue to roll in. Since our last CCREC business meeting, we have received over \$400 in donations, and Bryce the Intern has more deliveries to make. As a



reminder, we currently have three types of signs available, as seen in the picture below.



Additionally, I'll be asking the Committee for more funds to purchase Trump flags and hats, which should be available in a couple of weeks. Anyone interested in these items, or any other Trump campaign or local candidate items, should contact me at those places listed in the header of this newsletter.



<https://trumpwholesaleproducts.com/>

### **Statewide Public Health Order Restricting Public Gatherings, Amended July 29th**

Alabama is currently under a [Safer at Home Order](#), amended August 27 that expires on October 2. All candidates and Party volunteers are advised to reference this document when planning future events.

In regard to regular CCREC meetings, as I have stated in the past, the priority for seating must be for Committee members. This does not mean that guests are not invited or allowed to attend. It only means that voting members of the Committee must be seated first, before guests. Depending on remaining capacity, guests may be seated. This is the same standard applied for all Committee meetings since the COVID-19 restrictions have been issued by the ADPH.

A list of orders published by the Alabama Department of Public Health is available at:

<http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/legal/orders.html>

Also, visit the special COVID-19 page at the ADPH website at:

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/index.html>