



Colbert County

Republican

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August 2023

Vol 5, Iss. 5

From the Chairman

Dear CCREC members and friends,

It is beginning to be a busy time for the CCREC. I want to share some important information and a few dates that you will need to be aware of.

This coming Monday, August 28th is our next CCREC meeting. We will welcome Colbert Co Circuit Court Clerk Mark Eady and District 7 State Representative Ernie Yarbrough as our guest speakers. It has been encouraging seeing so many guests at our meetings. I truly believe that this is a result of the work of the past and present CCREC members and that our conservative values are becoming stronger and stronger in Colbert County. We have a lot of work left to do!

September 11th - 17th is the North Alabama State Fair where we will be doing our annual booth. This year we will be back in the Exhibit Hall. We will need volunteers to sign up to work the booth. This is always a fun time for us. Check your calendars for that week and find an hour or two or more that you can come and help out. We will have a sign-up sheet Monday night.

The Constitution Day Dinner will be September 25th where we will welcome Secretary of State Wes Allen as our keynote speaker, Doctors, Lawyers and Such will be our musical entertainment, and a great meal prepared by Chef/Commissioner Tyrus Mansell. The CDD planning committee has met and continues to work and plan for another successful event this year. As most of you know, this has become the premiere annual Republican event in Colbert County and the Shoals Area! This is our largest

fundraiser of the year and none of it is possible without everyone's help. We need sponsorships, ticket donations, volunteers to help set up, take down, clean up, etc. Let's make 2023 the best CDD!

Today we have officially gone live with our "Online Donation" option for Constitution Day Dinner tickets and sponsorships. The following link will take you to the Colbert County Republican Party website where you can see all the details. We will also have a Venmo option to donate this year. A huge thank you to Phill Green for working to get this set up! Take a moment and visit the site and PLEASE SHARE it.

www.colbertrepublicanparty.com

Waylon Huguley
Colbert GOP Chairman
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August Agenda

Our meeting will happen on Monday, August 28th at 6:30pm, at Donna and Friends restaurant. We'll cover topics including:

CCREC Treasurer
2024 Primary Resolution
Constitution Day Dinner Budget

Speaker for the August CCREC Meeting is Circuit Clerk for Colbert County, Mr. Mark Eady, and State Representative for Alabama's 7th District, Mr. Ernie Yarbrough

Join us at Monday's meeting when we'll hear Mark Eady talk about our county's circuit court and the clerk's office as well as ideas he has about how to reform the absentee voting process in Alabama. State Rep Ernie



Yarbrough will deliver remarks about topics affecting our state and region and tell us about his experience in his first ever legislative session as a representative.

Future Events

Following is the 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
August 28, 2023	CCREC regular meeting
September 25, 2023	Constitution Day Dinner at Locust Hill
October 16, 2023 at 8:30a.m.	Candidates for Republican Party Nominations for State Offices may submit their declaration of candidacy
October 23, 2023	CCREC regular meeting Note: 2024 is a presidential election year so the primary will be in March 2024 and candidate qualification will likely be in October 2023.
November 10, 2023 at 5:00p.m.	Deadline for submission of declaration of candidacy for Republican Party Nominations for State Offices
November 27, 2023	CCREC regular meeting
March 5, 2024	Primary Election Day
April 16, 2024	Primary Runoff Election Day (if needed)
November 5, 2024	General Election Day

For more important dates, follow this link to the [Administrative Calendar 2024 Statewide Election](#) on the official website of the AL Secretary of State.

CCREC Special Events for 2023

Dates and information for special events will be announced here as they become available.

Constitution Day is Monday, September 25th

The date for this year’s Constitution Day Dinner has been set: Monday, September 25th, beginning at 6p.m. We will be returning to Locust Hill, located at 209 S. Cave Street in Tuscumbia. Our keynote address will be delivered by Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen, and dinner will be provided by Commissioner Tyrus Mansell. We will also year from local band “Doctors and Lawyers and Such” and lots more.

More information will be provided in the coming weeks and in a special edition of this newsletter with all the details. Right now we need all CCREC members to contact their friends, co-workers, business associates, and anyone they think will want to attend and possibly support our event and our Republican Party. Let them know they can find out more about the dinner and available sponsorship levels at the CCREC website:

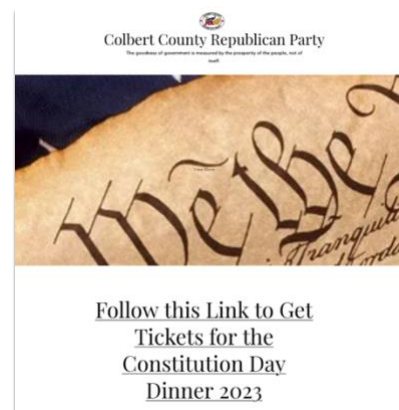
www.colbertrepublicanparty.com

The following sponsorship levels are still available:

\$2000 -
FOUNDING
FATHER
SPONSOR

As a Founding
Father

Sponsor your logo will be featured in all event literature and on all CCREC social





media. Your banner will be displayed near the speaker during the ceremony. Sponsor will receive 8 individual tickets. Founding Father Sponsors will be introduced from the podium as well as on the live stream on Facebook to more than 1700 members.

\$1000 - ABIGAIL ADAMS SPONSOR

As an Abigail Adams Sponsor your logo will be featured in all event literature and on all CCREC social media. Your banner will be displayed near the speaker during the ceremony. Sponsors will receive 8 individual tickets.

\$500 - MINUTEMAN SPONSOR

As a Minuteman Sponsor your logo will be featured in all event literature and on all CCREC social media. Your banner will be displayed prominently during the ceremony. Sponsors will receive 8 individual tickets.

\$250 - PATRIOT SPONSOR

As a Patriot Sponsor you will be listed in event literature. Sponsors will receive 2 individual tickets.

\$25 - Donations will receive one individual ticket to the event. Tickets can be purchased online, by mail, or at the door.

Absentee Voting Reform

By Mark Eady, 31st Circuit Court Clerk

Across the country, Republicans have grown accustomed to watching as election day leads dwindle. Gone are the days when elections can be decided by winning on the issues alone. The voting process itself has become an equal factor to the actual votes cast. While Republicans will likely always have more votes on election day, steps should be taken

now to help the party win both aspects of elections: early voting and election day voting.

With elections as close as they are today, Republicans who ultimately cannot vote on election day have to stop sacrificing their votes by refusing to vote absentee. While election day will always be the most secure method of voting, hoping to eliminate early voting is wishful thinking. However, only when election outcomes are more trusted will many Republicans be willing to re-evaluate voting absentee.

Republicans in Alabama have taken various steps to strengthen our election integrity. Curbside voting has been eliminated, paper ballots are permanent, and outside groups are prohibited from working our elections. However, I believe Republicans could further reinforce our election security by having absentee ballots due one week before the election.

Dates are arbitrary. For example, if someone has a doctor's appointment set for a certain date, that's the day they mark on their calendar. The date selected doesn't change the pre-planning that occurs.

Currently, there are already dates associated with when and how an individual can apply and vote before the election. These rules can be confusing. This new one week before the election due date would clearly serve as the last day to vote in the office, as well as the last day to receive mail- in ballots. With this change, the only additional non UACOVA ballots that could be received by election day would be emergency ballots. UACOVA absentee votes are based on Congressional legislation and would still be counted if they



were received within seven days after the election date.

Ending absentee voting a week before the election eliminates the excuse for not having all votes counted by election night. Having a firm estimate of how many absentee votes there are to be counted, provides the information necessary to adequately plan manpower needed. Having all votes counted on election day would help raise our confidence in the process.

Although any proposed change will be labeled by some as racist, illegal, or a form of voter suppression, even young people agree with it. Several teens were given a scenario in which there were two test dates. However, one was open book, but due a week earlier. They all agreed the earlier date seemed more than reasonable when examining the perceived advantages.

Having absentee voting due a week before election day would also provide more time to investigate any red flags for potential legal challenges. The Founding Fathers brilliantly provided a judiciary, that regardless of any partisanship found within it, often serves as the intended balancing power. However, in terms of elections, time restraints seem to limit their effectiveness.

If another Secretary of State makes voting rules that only a legislature holds the power to make, we shouldn't rely on a lower-level judge being willing to make a consequential ruling. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court has also proven unreliable in even hearing a case. A solid structure must instead be designed in a fashion that accounts for a slow working judiciary.

Currently, our application for an absentee ballot can be overwhelming for some to understand, which is why I and other absentee election managers pushed for changing its format. There are also multiple dates controlling the absentee process within the last week before the election. An example would be two dates that control how someone can apply during that last week: by hand or mail. Creating one main absentee date to revolve around would lower the general level of confusion.

There are always going to be certain aspects of voting we will forever protect. Alabama is the only state that places the sole responsibility on the voter to apply and return both the application and ballot. However, simplifying the application and removing some confusing dates described within the last week in exchange for this new due date would be worth creating a greater trust in the process- which is vital to winning future elections.

While Alabama currently does not have an issue with counting votes on election night, the time to act is now while Republicans hold clear control of the state legislature. Future population increases and demographics, as well as rising migration from blue states, have proven that red states can eventually become toss-up states. Republicans in these states that have now turned purple are in dire need of a blueprint for reclaiming accountability.

Since taking office, President Biden and the Democrats have refused to protect the border. They have also weaponized federal agencies, demonized law enforcement, weakened the military, and threatened to pack the court.



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Yet, according to exit polling, they won the last election cycles on the question of which party was the greater threat to democracy. Reforming the absentee process creates a better chance to win more elections nationwide to reclaim control of Congress for implementing a true agenda to firmly protect our Constitutional Republic.

Winning elections beyond Alabama through greater absentee voting could provide a larger stage for demonstrating the abundance of opportunity created by believing in the private sector, celebrating achievement, and looking for equality in chance, to that of equity in outcomes. Winning more would also provide a better chance to elect a President who takes his oath seriously. One who believes in the rule of law. And one that will ultimately place the security and well-being of our own citizens above the concerns of others.

Acting now on this type of voting change also places Democrats on the spot. It follows the spirit of President Trump when he said, “the gloves are off.” It also answers the call of Republicans across the country who have been waiting for more of their elected officials to join the few who are truly willing to go toe to toe with the Democrats, like the Governors and Attorney Generals who have acted to remove local D.A.’s who refuse to uphold the law.

A line for all Republicans should have been drawn in the sand the minute they clearly started going after our children. Making this reform in absentee voting to help win well beyond Alabama places any of the Democrats’ arguments front and center for welcomed debate. If their current claims of

having votes counted after the election date do not offer a benefit, then having an early due date that guarantees they will not be counted late shouldn’t be an issue.

The alternative is for Alabama Republicans to hope we maintain our state dominance and not concern ourselves with a reform that could possibly affect the political landscape nationwide. A nation held by the Democrats will be one that continues to tell us how to cook, what to drive, when to speak, and whatever other aspects of our lives they hope to control.

Losing nationwide also places us further away from being able to fulfill President Reagan’s call to teach our young people that government should “work with us, not over us; stands by our side, not rides our back.” As Republicans we have the winning arguments, but as an actor, are only effective if we can reach the stage. Then and only then can we effectively take on the misinformation from the mainstream media and Democrats by pointing to our state successes and ideas for the entire nation.