

**From the Chairman**

Fellow Members of Our Committee and Friends of Our Party,

Enthusiasm for our candidates, our Party, and our cause is the highest that I have ever seen. Fundraising records have been broken, with more than \$12k taken in over 2020 so far, and over \$3k just in the last month! People all over the county have been eager to help and have shown up to provide their support. Volunteers have pitched in and more people have been reached than I had previously thought possible. I want to emphasize my thanks to all the supporters and friends who have done some much, but I want to remind us all that we cannot relax until the final vote is cast.

In the following articles you'll get to read about some of the successes that we've had and how we have chosen to apply our resources to help our candidates win and reform Colbert County government. I believe that these accomplishments show that our Party is becoming recognized by more and more voters as the ally they've been looking for that will represent their best interests. This is evident everyday when residents walk into our field offices, sometimes a bit shy at first, and become excited when they realize their values and concerns are shared by a group of people who have organized to influence their government, their courts, and their schools.

As I'm writing this, there are only nine days until the election that will decide if the Republican vision of smaller, more efficient and accountable government, who's top priority is the welfare of its own citizens, and

which is shared by our President, our Party, and the vast majority of the voters in Colbert County will be preserved. Many of you have shown me that you are not willing to leave this momentous decision up to chance, and you have sacrificed your time and money to help ensure our voices are heard. Let's run straight through the finish line at full speed! Don't let up! Make calls, put up signs, hand out postcards, let people know! We can all get some well-deserved sleep on November 4th!

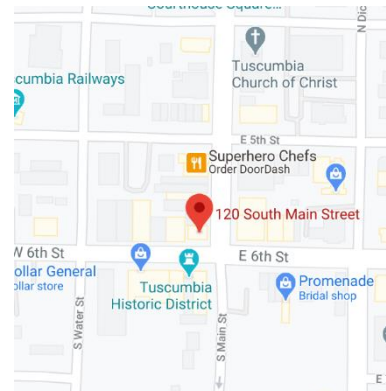
The next meeting of the CCREC will take place on October 26th at 6:30pm in the field



office, located at 120 S Main Street in Tuscumbia.

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

Phill Green,
Chairman,
CCREC



**Chicken Stew 2020, A Great Success!**

The chicken stew on October 17th at the CCREC Tuscumbia field office was a great success and raised \$1,504 to help our local candidates. There were four chicken stew cooking teams: Gerald Hovater (team Isom),



Jackie Witt and the Chris Hand team, Bryan and Sharon O'Neal, and Fred and Linda Joly. Each cook made approximately 15 gallons of stew which they packaged for their

friends, donors, and people who came by to see what was going on.

I want to personally thank all who made stew, baked brownies and cookies, and volunteered to accept donations. I also want to mention the musicians who came and entertained everyone who was there. It was a great time to meet new people, raise money for our movement, and get some good stew!

**The Case for Justice Amy Coney Barrett**

The following article was submitted by Shoals Republican Women member Mary Baschab Haslacker.

It has been far too long since Americans of all political leanings have rejoiced over an action taken by our national leaders. If ever there was an occasion for all Americans to feel proud and joyous over the actions of our national leadership, the appointment and confirmation of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett is it. As members of the Colbert County Republican Party, we can rest assured that Justice Barrett will (1) preserve, value, and honor the Constitution of the United States of America; and (2) value the



traditions of family, life, religious liberty, and hard work.

The preservation, value, and honor of the U.S. Constitution is the bedrock and bulwark of our democracy. It is not only the source of the powers of the federal government, but also their limitation. It creates and separates three branches of government with distinct powers and functions. The power of the federal judiciary is limited by the “cases and controversies” clause (Section 2) of Article III of the U.S. Constitution. Notably, that section does not give the judiciary the power to create laws of the land, but grants it the power to resolve a limited number of cases and controversies, including those involving questions of constitutional and statutory interpretation and cases in which the United States is a party.

A U.S. Supreme Court Justice who preserves, values, and honors our Constitution must strictly adhere to the limited power and function of her position. Furthermore, when exercising that limited power, she must apply principles of construction and interpretation of the law that are designed to protect the powers and rights created by the Constitution. One of these principles is “originalism.” Originalism purports that a judge should not create or find a right or power in the Constitution that is not explicitly created by the text of the document. Originalists interpret the meaning of the words of our Constitution according to how the American people understood them at the time that they were written. Originalists do not discern meaning through the lens of modern politics. Rather, they recognize that the power to create rights or grant or take

away powers of government does not rest with the judiciary.

“Textualism” is another tool for interpretation used to preserve the Constitution. This tool is used when interpreting statutory law and holds that a judge should interpret written law by reference to the words, grammar, and punctuation used by those who wrote it. Textualism gives words their ordinary meaning and does not seek to expand or change the law by inserting judicial attitudes or preferences. Similar to originalism, jurists use textualism to protect against interpreting the law in a way that rewrites it and usurps the power of the democratically elected officials. The use of textualism and originalism comports with the Colbert County Republican Creed, which states, in part: “We believe that a proper judiciary administers the law following the strictest textual interpretation of each statute and legal precedent while restricting the government’s impingement on individual liberty to the least extent possible.”

Justice Barrett’s scholarly writings, judicial opinions, and public statements clearly indicate that she has, and will continue to, preserve, value, and honor the U.S. Constitution. Justice Barrett’s mentor is the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, a man with an ineffable commitment to our country’s founding documents. After working as a law clerk for Justice Scalia, Justice Barrett centered her career around understanding and developing his jurisprudence of textualism and originalism. If you are interested in perusing her extensive scholarly work on these matters, you can find



them at <https://law.nd.edu/directory/amy-barrett/>

In her time as a U.S. Circuit Court Judge, the decisions she wrote, joined, and dissented to indicate her dedication to our Constitution. For example, she dissented in a Second Amendment challenge to federal and state laws prohibiting all felons from possessing firearms. *Kanter v. Barr*, 919 F.3d 437 (7th Cir. 2019). In her dissent, she explored at length the history of the right to bear arms and urged an interpretation of the law that provides wider protection of Second Amendment rights.

In 2019, Justice Barrett delivered the James Madison Program's Annual Walter F. Murphy Lecture in American Constitutionalism. In her presentation, entitled "The Constitution as Our Story," she discussed the necessity of protecting the Constitution in order to preserve our democracy and American identity. She affirmed, "The role of the courts is to enforce the Constitution that the people have ratified. The people have made their fundamental commitments express in constitutional text. The meaning of that text is what the people understood it to mean at the time that it was ratified. Otherwise, committing something to text means very little... It is not the job of the courts to usher in constitutional change... The job belongs to the people."

Not only is Justice Barrett's judicial philosophy and jurisprudence in accord with Republican principals, she values the traditions of family, life, religious liberty, and hard work. As a faithful wife and mother balancing work in the legal field, she is a role model for many women. She is the eldest of

seven children born in New Orleans, Louisiana, to a Catholic family. She married her husband Jesse Barrett in 1999. The couple have seven children.

Throughout her life, she has consistently voiced love of family, life, and God. In 2015, she joined a letter to the Ordinary Synod of Bishops affirming her beliefs in the dignity of the human person and the value of human life from conception to natural death; in the meaning of human sexuality, the significance of sexual difference and the complementarity of men and women; in openness to life and the gift of motherhood; and in marriage and family founded on the indissoluble commitment of a man and a woman. She expressed a commitment to promote women's flourishing and serve to protect the poor and most vulnerable among us.

Justice Barrett, who has advanced to the highest possible position in the legal field by the age of 49, knows what it means to work hard. As an undergraduate student at Rhodes College in 1994, she was named Most Outstanding English Department Graduate. She was the number one ranked graduate in her law school class at Notre Dame. After clerking for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for Justice Scalia on the U.S. Supreme Court, she practiced law for a firm in the D.C. area. In 2002, she returned to Notre Dame as a Professor of Law teaching multiple courses, including Constitutional Law and Constitutional Theory. She received multiple awards and accolades as a professor and produced a large body of scholarship. She was appointed by President Donald Trump in 2017 to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She did all of this while bearing and birthing five and



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raising seven children who were all in the home at the same time. (The oldest is 19 now.)

Justice Barrett is devoted to preserving, valuing, and honoring the Constitution of the United States of America and valuing the traditions of family, life, religious liberty, and hard work. Therefore, we should celebrate the day of her confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court as a major victory for all Americans.

Mary Baschab Haslacker served as Legislative Counsel for Sen. Jeff Sessions on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee from 2011 to 2012, as Staff Attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit from 2012 to 2014, as Law Clerk for U.S. District Judge Inge Johnson from 2014 to 2015, and as a U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer from 2015 to 2019.

The Conservative Policy Warrior Award for 2020 Goes to: AL Rep Andrew Sorrell

Recently the President of the Alabama Policy Institute, AL Sen Phil Williams called our



state representative, Andrew Sorrell, to let him know that he'd been chosen to receive the Conservative Policy Warrior award for 2020. Andrew joins two

other recipients this year, including AG Steve Marshall and Mr.

Tom Dekle (CEO of Milo's Hamburgers).

Past recipients include good friend of the CCREC and frequent visitor Judge Matt Fridy, who won last year.



Rep Sorrell is being recognized for his votes



against the gas tax increase, both of the proposed 2020 budget acts that increased the size of government at rates

far exceeding the state's growth rate, and the \$1.25 billion bond issue. In this last vote, Andrew explained to me that the state legislature, after realizing COVID-19 relief efforts had driven interest rates down, had expanded the size of the bond issue to pay for school improvements. Besides this expansion of spending, he also objected to the use of a bond in the first place, stating that rushing to spend money using bonds ultimately costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars when the bonds are paid back over the next 20 years.

I congratulate Rep Sorrell on this award and recognition of his consistent stance as a low-tax and minimum government conservative in the face of opposition from members of his own Party.

For more information about this year's API Conservative Policy Warrior awards, follow the link below.

<https://www.aldailynews.com/alabama-policy-institute-announced-2020-policy-warrior-awards/>

Colbert County Republicans Political Plan

This is a continuation from previous months' updates about CCREC efforts to communicate to voters and our fundraising progress to enable those efforts.

Back in September it became apparent that CCREC fundraising efforts in 2020 would



break all records, and it was necessary for the Executive Committee to authorize a flexible budget for spending on political communications to maximize the impact for our candidates. I asked for a motion at the September CCREC meeting to grant authority to a subcommittee made up of myself and our four candidates running with Democrat opposition (David Isom, Chris Hand, Jackie Witt, and Darol Bendall) to make expenditures on electioneering to the extent that funds became available. The motion was passed, and this has allowed us to become able to make quick decisions that will hopefully help spread the word as affectively as possible.

Since September, we have made the following expenditures:

\$6,872.14 for 12,000 postcards mailed to Colbert County voters

\$2,600.00 for radio ads with Big River Broadcasting and Singing River Media Group

With approximately \$1,500 left, we plan to spend \$700 for robo-calls as well as Facebook “boosts” to help reach any voters we haven’t already with postcards and radio.

There is still time for volunteers to make personal calls to voters, and this doesn’t cost a dime. If you’d like to get a list of numbers to call, just let me know.

October Agenda

The Committee will approve the minutes for our last meeting on September 28th, as well as the October treasurer’s report.

We will review the numbers from the successful Chicken Stew fundraising event

held on October 17th, and make plans for future events.

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
October 26, 2020	CCREC regular meeting
October 31, 2020	Hot Dog Lunch and Halloween “Trump or Treat” in Cherokee
November 3, 2020	Statewide General Election
November 16, 2020	CCREC regular meeting
No meeting in December	

CCREC Special Events for 2020

Look for more information in emails and on Facebook about the hotdog and cookout and Trump or Treat event that will be hosted by County Commission candidate David Isom in Cherokee on October 31st.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT STATEWIDE

Lots of people have asked about the Republican Party’s position on the proposed constitutional amendments that appear on the statewide ballot for the November 3rd general election. It is important to remember that for either the Alabama State Republican Party (ALGOP) or the Colbert County Republican Executive Committee to take a formal position on any of these amendments, it would require a formal resolution, passed by the executive committee. This has not happened, and therefore no official position



from the state or county parties can be published.

It is important to remember, however, that all six of the amendments appearing on the ballot on November 3rd were passed overwhelmingly by the Republican controlled State House of Representatives and Senate. When I spoke to Representative Andrew Sorrell about the amendments, he told me that he had voted for all 6. In Andrew's words, they are "Republican amendments."

However, because the amendments were all proposed and passed by elected Republicans, does that mean that you should vote for them? Not necessarily. I think this is an important point. Since the Republican party is involved in qualifying candidates for our Party's primary for each election cycle, it is not a problem to tell voters that the Republican Party endorses all Republican candidates. However, these amendments, while they were passed by elected republicans, did not go through the same process of approval by the Party leadership.

As we have seen recently, some amendments have been extremely unpopular with Republican voters, like Amendment 1 that appeared on the March 3 primary ballot. This was the amendment that proposed to convert the state school board from an elected body to one made up of commissioners appointed by the governor. This amendment was defeated by voters statewide 75%-25%, and by Colbert County voters 79%-21%. The outcome was an illustration that Republicans can obviously still disagree.

In the following review of the amendments, I have put first the text of each amendment,

followed by a synopsis provided by the Alabama Secretary of State's office, which is also referenced on the ALGOP website.

<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/ballot-measures/statewide>

<https://algop.org/2020-proposed-statewide-constitutional-amendments/>

In some cases I have added my own comments. I encourage all Republicans to consider each amendment in the context of our core Republican principles, as described in the Colbert County Republican Creed.

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 1

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to amend Article VIII of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 177 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, to provide that only a citizen of the United States has the right to vote. (Proposed by Act 2019-330)

From AL Sec of State:

The state constitution grants the right to vote to U.S. citizens who meet certain requirements. This amendment does not change those requirements.

If a majority of voters vote "yes" for Amendment 1, the state constitution will grant the right to vote to "only" those U.S. citizens who meet the requirements.

If a majority of voters vote "no" for Amendment 1, the state constitution will continue to grant the right to vote to "every" U.S. citizen who meets the requirements.



There is no cost for Amendment 1.

From AL Sec of State:

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 2

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to increase the membership of the Judicial Inquiry Commission and further provide for the appointment of the additional members; further provide for the membership of the Court of the Judiciary and further provide for the appointment of the additional members; further provide for the process of disqualifying an active judge; repeal provisions providing for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justices and appellate judges and the removal for cause of the judges of the district and circuit courts, judges of the probate courts, and judges of certain other courts by the Supreme Court; delete the authority of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to appoint an Administrative Director of Courts; provide the Supreme Court of Alabama with authority to appoint an Administrative Director of Courts; require the Legislature to establish procedures for the appointment of the Administrative Director of Courts; delete the requirement that a district court hold court in each incorporated municipality with a population of 1,000 or more where there is no municipal court; provide that the procedure for the filling of vacancies in the office of a judge may be changed by local constitutional amendment; delete certain language relating to the position of constable holding more than one state office; delete a provision providing for the temporary maintenance of the prior judicial system; repeal the office of circuit solicitor; and make certain nonsubstantive stylistic changes. (Proposed by Act 2019-187)

This amendment proposes six changes to the state's judicial system. In summary, this amendment:

1. Provides that county district courts do not have to hold city court in a city with a population of less than 1,000;
2. Allows the Alabama Supreme Court, rather than the Chief Justice, to appoint the Administrative Director of Courts;
3. Increases from 9 to 11 the total membership of the Judicial Inquiry Commission and determines who appoints each member (the Judicial Inquiry Commission evaluates ethics complaints filed against judges);
4. Allows the Governor, rather than the Lieutenant Governor, to appoint a member of the Court of the Judiciary (the Court of the Judiciary hears complaints filed by the Judicial Inquiry Commission);
5. Prevents a judge from being automatically disqualified from holding office simply because a complaint was filed with the Judiciary Inquiry Commission; and
6. Provides that a judge can be removed from office only by the Court of the Judiciary.

If a majority of voters vote "yes" on Amendment 2, these provisions become law.

If a majority of voters vote "no" on Amendment 2, there will be no change to current law.



There is no cost for Amendment 2.

In my conversation with Rep Sorrell about this amendment, he was convinced that implementing the measures in this amendment would bring needed continuity to the court that is currently lacking due to the frequent turnover caused when new chief justices are elected.

It is interesting to note that this amendment excludes the state legislature from the impeachment process for state judges, and reserves that responsibility for the Court of the Judiciary. This court is made up of 5 judges and lawyers plus 3 “nonlegal professionals” appointed by the governor. This could be seen as further insulating judges from accountability to the representatives of the people.

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 3

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that a judge, other than a judge of probate, appointed to fill a vacancy would serve an initial term until the first Monday after the second Tuesday in January following the next general election after the judge has completed two years in office. (Proposed by Act 2019-346)

From AL Sec of State:

This amendment changes the initial term of a judge that is appointed to fill a vacancy due to death, resignation, retirement, or removal. The current law and this proposed amendment do not apply to probate judges.

Under current law, the initial term of office for a person appointed to fill a vacancy in a judgeship shall last until the first Monday after the second

Tuesday in January following the next general election held after the person has completed one year in office or the remainder of the original term of the judge elected to the office which is vacant, whichever is longer. The term of the appointment could vary widely due to the years left in the original term. At the election, the judicial office shall be filled for a full term.

Under this amendment, a judge appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve an initial term lasting until the first Monday after the second Tuesday in January following the next general election held after the person has completed two years in office. At the election, the judicial office shall be filled for a full term.

If the majority of the voters vote “yes” on Amendment 3, the initial appointment to fill a judicial vacancy will last until the first Monday after the second Tuesday in January after two years of service before a general election to fill the judicial office.

If the majority of the voters vote “no” on Amendment 3, then the length of appointment to fill a judicial vacancy will not change.

There is no costs to Amendment 3.

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 4

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to authorize the Legislature to recompile the Alabama Constitution and submit it during the 2022 Regular Session, and provide a process for



*its ratification by the voters of this state.
(Proposed by Act 2019-271)*

From AL Sec of State:

Alabama's constitution can be changed only during a constitutional convention or when a majority of voters approve a constitutional amendment.

If a majority of voters vote "yes" on Amendment 4, the Alabama Legislature, when it meets in 2022, would be allowed to draft a rearranged version of the state constitution. This draft could only (1) remove racist language, (2) remove language that is repeated or no longer applies, (3) combine language related to economic development, and (4) combine language that relates to the same county. No other changes could be made.

Even if passed by the Alabama Legislature, this rearranged version would not become law until it was approved by a majority of voters.

If a majority of voters vote "no" on Amendment 4, the Alabama Legislature could not draft a rearranged version of the state constitution.

There is no cost for Amendment 4.

Rep Sorrell emphasized to me, as mention above, that this amendment only allows for redrafting of language in the state constitution in a very narrow scope, and does not allow for a rewrite of the whole constitution. He further emphasized that any

changes must then be ratified by popular vote of the people.

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 5

Relating to Franklin County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that a person is not liable for using deadly physical force in self-defense or in the defense of another person on the premises of a church under certain conditions. (Proposed by Act 2019-194)

From AL Sec of State:

Alabama's "Stand Your Ground" law allows a person to legally use physical force against another person under certain conditions. The law does not require the person to retreat before using physical force.

If a majority of voters in Alabama vote "yes" on Amendment 5, and if, in addition, a majority of voters in Franklin County vote "yes" on Amendment 5, the state constitution would contain a special "Stand Your Ground" law that applies to churches in Franklin County only.

If a majority of voters in Alabama vote "no" on Amendment 5, or, if a majority of voters in Franklin County vote "no" on Amendment 5, the state constitution would not contain a special "Stand Your Ground" law that applies to churches in Franklin County.

There is no cost for Amendment 5.

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 6

Relating to Lauderdale County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of



1901, to provide that a person is not liable for using deadly physical force in self-defense or in the defense of another person on the premises of a church under certain conditions. (Proposed by Act 2019-193)

From AL Sec of State:

Alabama's "Stand Your Ground" law allows a person to legally use physical force against another person under certain conditions. The law does not require the person to retreat before using physical force.

If a majority of voters in Alabama vote "yes" on Amendment 6, and if, in addition, a majority of voters in Lauderdale County vote "yes" on Amendment 6, the state constitution would contain a special "Stand Your Ground" law that applies to churches in Lauderdale County only.

If a majority of voters in Alabama vote "no" on Amendment 6, or, if a majority of voters in Lauderdale County vote "no" on Amendment 6, the state constitution would not contain a special "Stand Your Ground" law that applies to churches in Lauderdale County.

There is no cost for Amendment 6.

Rep Sorrell explained to me that the only reason this amendment was required to appear as a statewide amendment was because Rep Mary Moore (Dem) voted "no" causing this amendment to be state-wide "resolution of application." This is in line with her party's stance in opposition to the rights of citizens to keep and bear arms for their own personal defense.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF LOCAL APPLICATION TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT IN ONLY THE COUNTY OF APPLICATION COLBERT COUNTY

Relating to Colbert County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that a person is not liable for using deadly physical force in self-defense or in the defense of another person on the premises of a church under certain conditions. (Proposed by Act 2020-90)

This is an amendment with the same language as amendments 5 and 6 above, and applies only to Colbert County. There is no synopsis provide by the Sec of State.

For additional discussion about these amendments, follow the link below to the Goat Hill Intelligencer article about them.

<https://alabamapolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-Constitutional-Amendments-Final.pdf>

Trump 2020 Campaign Merchandise

Donations for Trump 2020 and CCREC merchandise continue to roll in. The total intake for Trump merchandise donations over \$2,000. We currently have yard signs for minimum donation of \$5, and two designs of Trump flags, (3'x5') with donation of at least \$15.





<https://trumpwholesaleproducts.com/>

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

Alabama is currently under a [Safer at Home Order](#), amended September 30 that expires on November 8. 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>