



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

January 29, 2016

Honorable John H. Merrill
Alabama Secretary of State
Alabama State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Suite S-105
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Secretary Merrill:

This letter is in response to a request dated December 18, 2014, by former Secretary of State Jim Bennett. Secretary Bennett sent correspondence to EAC Commissioners Christy McCormick, Thomas Hicks, and Matthew Masterson requesting that the EAC revise the state-specific instructions for Alabama on the National Voter Registration Application form.

On February 19, 2015, you sent a follow-up letter to the Commissioners requesting that those same changes be made.

Upon review of your request, I write to inform you that the changes requested to the State of Alabama instructions on the national mail voter registration form (Federal form) have been made and posted to the EAC website.

The changes and additions *in italics* that were made to the Federal Form State Instructions for the State of Alabama are:

Registration Deadline- Voter registration is closed during the *14* days preceding an election. Applications must be postmarked or delivered by the *15th* day prior to the election.

6. ID Number. *Your social security number is requested (by authority of the Alabama Supreme Court, 17-4-122) (now omitted)* If you have one, you must provide your Alabama driver's license number or Alabama nondriver identification card number. If you do not have an Alabama driver's license or nondriver identification card, you must provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If you have not been issued any of these numbers you must write the word "NONE" and a unique identified will be provided for you.

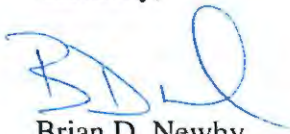
9. Signature. To register in Alabama you must:

- be a citizen of the United States. The county board of registrars shall accept any completed application for registration, but an applicant shall not be registered until the applicant has provided satisfactory evidence of United States citizenship.
- be a resident of Alabama and your county at the time of registration
- be 18 years old before any election
- not have been convicted of a felony *punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary (or have had your civil and political rights restored (now omitted) involving moral turpitude (or have had your civil and political rights restored.)*

If the changes do not accurately reflect your request, please notify me immediately. Further, we have begun a systematic process with all states to update State-Specific Instruction Changes regularly. Please look for a separate mailing from us in the coming days and notify us if any additional State-Specific Instructions are in need of modernization or further calibration with your procedures.

If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 301-563-3959 or at bnewby@eac.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BDN', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Brian D. Newby
Executive Director