December 18, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Hicks
The Honorable Matthew Masterson
The Honorable Christy McCormick
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
1335 East West Highway
Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: NVRA Form State Instructions

Dear Commissioners:

As the chief election official for the State of Alabama, I am writing to formally request that the Election Assistance Commission revise the state-specific instructions for Alabama on the National Voter Registration Application form. The requested changes are as follows:

1. In the paragraph titled “Registration Deadline,” replace “ten” with “14.” Alabama state law has been amended to change the voter registration deadline from the tenth day before an election to the 14th day before an election. See Code of Alabama 1975, section 17-3-50 (2014). In accordance with the new deadline, applications must be postmarked or delivered by the 15th day prior to the election.

2. In paragraph 6 titled ID Number please change the language to read as follows:

   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 identifier will be provided for you.
3. In paragraph 9 titled Signature please add the following language in accordance with Code of Alabama 1975, section 31-13-28:

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.

4. In paragraph 9 regarding felony convictions, please change the language to read as follows:
- not have been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude (or have had your civil and political rights restored.)

Since the information regarding documentation of U.S. citizenship and conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude is necessary to enable voter registrars to assess the eligibility of an applicant, I would appreciate your prompt attention to these requested changes. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Jim Bennett
Secretary of State