

Press Conference - Montgomery Municipal Runoff Election
Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 10:00 AM

- Section 17-1-3 of the *Code of Alabama* names the Secretary of State as the chief elections official in the state and authorizes him to provide uniform guidance for all election activities.
- Due to numerous constituency concerns from the August 27 City of Montgomery Municipal Election, I am authorizing my staff to observe the Runoff Election on October 8, 2019.
 - Five monitoring teams of two staff members each from my office, who have been properly trained, will be observing the election from the opening of polls at 7:00 AM until the polls close that night at 7:00 PM.
 - These observers will be traveling to all 46 polling locations throughout the day to ensure the electoral process is continuing efficiently and without interference.
 - I will be issuing letters to each of the ten election observers from my office authorizing them to monitor each of the polling locations. These letters will be used to authenticate the identity of the observers to local election officials.
- This is not without precedent. In years past, the Secretary of State's Office has monitored the following municipal elections:
 - August 23, 2016: City of Enterprise
 - August 23, 2016: City of Lake View
 - March 7, 2017: City of Tuscaloosa
 - August 1, 2017: City of Dothan
 - August 22, 2017: City of Birmingham
 - August 22, 2017: City of Mobile
 - August 28, 2018: City of Bessemer
- The City of Montgomery has a contract with the Montgomery Election Center to conduct the municipal election.
 - The Office of the Secretary of State has communicated to the Montgomery City Clerk's Office that reports of pre-election testing of voting equipment may not have been conducted prior to the August 27 election.
 - The City plans to meet with Montgomery Election Center officials to address these concerns and to ensure all equipment to be used in the Runoff Election is properly tested prior to the election.
- I am dedicated to making it easy to vote and hard to cheat, and I will continue to work with all 67 counties as well as all 463 municipalities to provide that free and fair elections are occurring across the State of Alabama.

General Suggestions for Pre-Election Testing:

(Disclaimer: This list is not inclusive of all testing requirements. It is meant to serve as a simplified listing)

1. Ensure all polling places are disability accessible, the electricity is working and doors are able to be unlocked.
2. Ensure all electronic poll books are charged and loaded with poll lists.
3. Ensure that disability accessible voting equipment is functional and have fresh ink cartridges.
4. Ensure receipt from the ballot production vendor that all ballot materials and ballot styles are proofed.
5. Ensure all printers are stocked with toner/ink and are functional for election night printing.
6. Ensure all poll workers are prepared and instructed where to be on Election Day.
7. Ensure all ballot materials, styles, and machines are delivered to the proper polling location before Election Day.

ELECTION RESULTS MANAGEMENT (ERM) TESTING SUGGESTIONS

(THIS IS THE COMPUTER WHERE ALL ELECTIONR RESULTS ARE UPLOADED AT
THE COUNTY ELECTION CENTER ON ELECTION NIGHT)

1. Locate ERM computer and hook up all accessories (mouse, monitor, keyboard, etc.)
2. Load the reporting key thumb drive into ERM.
3. Set up all reports and reporting groups.
4. Read all precinct thumb drives into ERM including the DS850 thumb drive.
5. Print Election Summary report and compare to precinct tapes (DS200 & DS850)
6. Reset ALL counted precincts to ZERO.

DS200 PRECINCT BALLOT COUNTER TESTING SUGGESTIONS

(THESE ARE THE BALLOT TABULATORS USED AT THE POLLING LOCATIONS)

1. Match the correct thumb drive to the proper machine. Insert the thumb drive into the DS200.
2. Press Close Polls When the System Initialing Screen appears. This will lead you to calibrate the touch screen.
3. Calibrate the touch screen.
4. Save and Exit.
5. Open the polls and feed the entire test deck through the machine (**ALWAYS CHECK THE DISPLAY ON THE PUBLIC COUNT FOR ACCURACY AS YOU FEED EACH BALLOT**).
6. Close the polls and print the totals report. Verify polling location matches the report, that the totals match the test deck, and that the time and date are accurate.
7. If the totals **DO NOT** match, first check that you have used the complete test deck provided.
8. If the totals **DO** match, then continue.
9. Zero the DS200.
10. Replace the Paper Roll.
11. Fold down and lock the screen, close the carrying case lid and seal it with the appropriate seal.
12. Record the seal number on the top of the DS200 totals printout next to the precinct name (all tapes should be kept for records).
13. Keep **ALL** test ballots (marked and blank) along with all totals print outs for records. (These are “live” election ballots and should **NEVER** be left in the ballot box or laying around).

IMPORTANT: Be sure to check all spare DS200 machines.

DS850 BALLOT TABULATOR TESTING SUGGESTIONS

(THIS IS THE BALLOT TABULATOR USED TO COUNT ABSENTEE BALLOTS)

1. Insert the election EQC thumb drive.
2. Clear and Initialize the election.
3. Remove EQC thumb drive.
4. Insert Election definition thumb drive.
5. Load election.
6. Remove Election definition thumb drive.
7. Adjust output trays to correct ballot length.
8. Scan test deck.
9. Print the totals report. Verify polling location matches the report, the totals match the test deck, and that the time and date are accurate.
10. If the totals DO NOT match, first check that you have used the complete test deck.
11. Export totals to a results thumb drive.
12. Zero all results.
13. Turn off the DS850
14. Keep ALL test ballots (marked and blank) along with all totals print outs for records.
(These are “live” election ballots and should NEVER be left in the ballot box or laying around).