Alabama Constitution of 1901

ARTICLE VIII.

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS.

SECTION 177

Age and citizenship qualifications of electors.

Every male citizen of this state who is a citizen of the United States, and every male resident of foreign birth, who, before the ratification of this Constitution, shall have legally declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, twenty-one years old or upwards, not laboring under any of the disabilities named in this article, and possessing the qualifications required by it, shall be an elector, and shall be entitled to vote at any election by the people; provided, that all foreigners who have legally declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, shall, if they fail to become citizens thereof at the time they are entitled to become such, cease to have the right to vote until they become such citizens.

SECTION 178

Residency, registration and poll tax requirements for electors.

To entitle a person to vote at any election by the people, he shall have resided in the state at least two years, in the county one year, and in the precinct or ward three months, immediately preceding the election at which he offers to vote, and he shall have been duly registered as an elector, and shall have paid on or before the first day of February next preceding the date of the election at which he offers to vote, all poll taxes due from him for the year nineteen hundred and one, and for each subsequent year; provided, that any elector who, within three months next preceding the date of the election at which he offers to vote, has removed from one precinct or ward to another precinct or ward in the same county, incorporated town, or city, shall have the right to vote in the precinct or ward from which he has so removed, if he would have been entitled to vote in such precinct or ward but for such removal.

SECTION 180

Persons qualified to register as electors Prior to December 20, 1902.

The following male citizens of this state, who are citizens of the United States, and every male resident of foreign birth who, before the ratification of this Constitution, shall have legally declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and
who shall not have had an opportunity to perfect his citizenship prior to the twentieth
day of December, nineteen hundred and two, twenty-one years old or upwards, who,
if their place of residence shall remain unchanged, will have, at the date of the next
general election the qualifications as to residence prescribed in section 178 of this
Constitution, and who are not disqualified under section 182 of this Constitution,
shall, upon application, be entitled to register as electors prior to the twentieth day of
December, nineteen hundred and two, namely:

First. - All who have honorably served in the land or naval forces of the United States
in the war of 1812, or in the war with Mexico, or in any war with the Indians, or in the
war between the states, or in the war with Spain, or who honorably served in the land
or naval forces of the Confederate States, or of the State of Alabama in the war
between the states; or,

Second. - The lawful descendants of persons who honorably served in the land or
naval forces of the United States in the war of the American Revolution, or in the war
of 1812, or in the war with Mexico, or in any war with the Indians, or in the war
between the states, or in the land or naval forces of the Confederate States, or of the
State of Alabama in the war between the states; or,

Third. - All persons who are of good character and who understand the duties and
obligations of citizenship under a republican form of government.

SECTION 181

Same After January 1, 1903.

After the first day of January, nineteen hundred and three, the following persons, and
no others, who, if their place of residence shall remain unchanged, will have, at the
date of the next general election, the qualifications as to residence prescribed in
section 178 of this article, shall be qualified to register as electors; provided, they shall
not be disqualified under section 182 of this Constitution.

First. - Those who can read and write any article of the Constitution of the United
States in the English language, and who are physically unable to work; and those who
can read and write any article of the Constitution of the United States in the English
language, and who have worked or been regularly engaged in some lawful
employment, business, or occupation, trade or calling, for the greater part of the
twelve months next preceding the time they offer to register; and those who are unable
to read and write, if such inability is due solely to physical disability; or,
Second. - The owner in good faith in his own right, or the husband of a woman who is the owner in good faith, in her own right, of forty acres of land situate in this state, upon which they reside; or the owner in good faith in his own right, or the husband of any woman who is the owner in good faith, in her own right, of real estate situate in this state, assessed for taxation at the value of three hundred dollars or more, or the owner in good faith, in his own right, or the husband of a woman who is the owner in good faith, in her own right, of personal property in this state assessed for taxation at three hundred dollars or more; provided, that the taxes due upon such real or personal property for the year next preceding the year in which he offers to register shall have been paid, unless the assessment shall have been legally contested and is undetermined.

SECTION 182

Certain persons disqualified from registering and voting.

The following persons shall be disqualified both from registering, and from voting, namely:

All idiots and insane persons; those who shall by reason of conviction of crime be disqualified from voting at the time of the ratification of this Constitution; those who shall be convicted of treason, murder, arson, embezzlement, malfeasance in office, larceny, receiving stolen property, obtaining property or money under false pretenses, perjury, subornation of perjury, robbery, assault with intent to rob, burglary, forgery, bribery, assault and battery on the wife, bigamy, living in adultery, sodomy, incest, rape, miscegenation, crime against nature, or any crime punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary, or of any infamous crime or crime involving moral turpitude; also, any person who shall be convicted as a vagrant or tramp, or of selling or offering to sell his vote or the vote of another, or of buying or offering to buy the vote of another, or of making or offering to make a false return in any election by the people or in any primary election to procure the nomination or election of any person to any office, or of suborning any witness or registrar to secure the registration of any person as an elector.

SECTION 183

Qualifications as elector required to participate in primary elections, party conventions, mass meetings or other methods of political party action.

No person shall be qualified to vote, or participate in any primary election, party convention, mass meeting, or other method of party action of any political party or
faction, who shall not possess the qualifications prescribed in this article for an elector, or who shall be disqualified from voting under the provisions of this article.

SECTION 188

Certain information to be furnished prior to registration.

From and after the first day of January, nineteen hundred and three, any applicant for registration may be required to state under oath, to be administered by the registrar or by any person authorized by law to administer oaths, where he lived during the five years next preceding the time at which he applies to register, and the name or names by which he was known during that period, and the name of his employer or employers, if any, during such period. Any applicant for registration who refuses to state such facts, or any of them, shall not be entitled to register, and any person so offering to register, who willfully makes a false statement in regard to such matters or any of them, shall be guilty of perjury, and upon conviction thereof shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years.

SECTION 194

Poll tax Amount; maximum age for payment; when due and payable; when delinquent; returns of collections to be separate from other collections.

The poll tax mentioned in this article shall be one dollar and fifty cents upon each male inhabitant of the state, over the age of twenty-one years, and under the age of forty-five years, who would not now be exempt by law; but the legislature is authorized to increase the maximum age fixed in this section to not more than sixty years. Such poll tax shall become due and payable on the first day of October in each year, and become delinquent on the first day of the next succeeding February, but no legal process, nor any fee or commission shall be allowed for the collection thereof. The tax collector shall make returns of poll tax collections separate from other collections.

SECTION 195

Same Payment of tax of another; advance of money for payment in order to influence vote.

Any person who shall pay the poll tax of another, or advance him money for that purpose in order to influence his vote, shall be guilty of bribery, and upon conviction therefor shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years.