

October 2014

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On the first Tuesday of November every two years we have a general election. In the general election, candidates from the political parties face off for the Alabama State Legislature, U.S. Congress, and other executive offices, including the Governor's this year. Additionally, in general election years there are usually proposed constitutional amendments to the Alabama Constitution.

We are already seeing the airwaves cluttered with advertisements for political candidates. These are only marginally helpful to inform voters and, unfortunately, sometimes mislead uninformed voters. One of the most important duties and privileges of a citizen is to vote for his or her representative government and for important laws that affect his or her quality of life. We always hope that voters cast an informed vote. If that is true, then a truly representative government will be elected and will likely be a very good government.

It is important that we all participate in the campaigns leading up to the November 4 general election. Participation may be no more than educating yourself on the candidates and amendments, and then sharing that information with others so that they too may cast an informed vote. Some of us may become involved in candidates' campaigns. Most of those campaigns rely on volunteer help. We encourage you to get involved and participate to the fullest extent you are able.

There are five statewide constitutional amendments this year, as well as several local amendments. Local amendments affect only the persons in the counties named, but we vote on those statewide. The statewide amendments affect all of us.

Of particular importance is Statewide Amendment 1. It is to approve the American and Alabama Laws for Alabama Courts Act. It is fully explained in this month's Educational Update. We cannot emphasize enough how important this constitutional amendment will be. Please study our Educational Update carefully, share it with others and, if you do nothing else, campaign on behalf of this amendment.

If you have any questions about the amendment, please contact us. We cannot campaign for candidates and therefore cannot share any information that we may have. However, we can actively support this amendment. We began several years ago drafting it and shepherding it through the Legislature. We are now at the end of that journey and we hope to see it added to our Constitution.

Your financial support makes our efforts possible. This past summer was difficult for us. Thank you for as generous a gift as you can possibly make.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston