

League of Women Voters of Alabama
Off Site Voting Study
Consensus Questions

Consensus Questions with Summary Information for Local Leagues

Study: Off-Site Voting

- **Purpose:** To review the off-site voting procedures used by other states, with a focus on Alabama's existing system

- **To examine the process**
 - for "today's situations"
 - for citizen participation in the process without compromising the integrity of the system.

Definitions: For the purpose of this LWVAL study, we will use the following definitions. We feel we need to specify them as they have been used in a different fashion by different states.

"Off-site voting" is any voting not performed in person by the voter at the voter's assigned polling place on Election Day.

Early Voting is voting in person at county offices or at other satellite voting locations. This may be with or without an excuse required. Note some states may call this advance voting.

Vote by Mail is when all ballots are mailed to all registered voters. Voters return ballots by mail, drop boxes, or in person.

Convenience voting is voting in person but not at the regular polling place established by your residence but at a site that may be close to work, in a mall or centrally situated. Generally there would be fewer sites established for convenience voting. Currently states using convenience voting do so for early voting only.

Electronic Voting is voting using any of the following

- Punch Cards
- Optical Scanners
- Private and Public Networks (Internet)
- Direct-Recording Electronic voting systems (DRE)

Questions: Please place an “X” by the yes/no and other choices. Circle the priority level based on your thoughts. Please add comments where requested.

Any change in voting procedures not specified by our questions below that you feel is needed, please add or indicate in the question regarding further study.

1. Do you support :

Early voting on site

Yes ____ No ____

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----|
| Priority | | |
| High | Medium | Low |

Convenience voting

Yes ____ No ____

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----|
| Priority | | |
| High | Medium | Low |

Mail voting for all

Yes ____ No ____

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----|
| Priority | | |
| High | Medium | Low |

Absentee voting with less restrictions

Yes ____ No ____

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----|
| Priority | | |
| High | Medium | Low |

Which do you consider most appropriate?

2. If off-site voting were expanded to any of the following, what time frame would you support? (Place the letter of your response next to each off-site voting option.)

- a. 30 days prior to election day
- b. 21 days prior to election day
- c. 14 days prior to election day
- d. other _____

- _____ Early Voting
- _____ Convenience Voting
- _____ Mail Voting for all
- _____ Absentee voting with less restrictions

3. What are appropriate sites for convenience or early on-site voting?
 (Check all that apply)
- Government buildings such as city hall, courthouse, libraries, government annexes
 - Non-governmental buildings, such as shopping malls, empty store fronts, mobile units (like blood mobiles)
 - Other _____

Comments: _____

4. What considerations should be used in choosing sites for convenience or early on-site voting? (Check all that apply)
- Sufficient parking
 - Protection from weather such as rain
 - Security of the balloting process
 - Prevention of abuses in the voting process
 - Other: _____

Check

Comments: _____

5. Are changes needed in the current absentee voting process for citizens?

Yes ____ No ____

| Priority | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----|
| High | Medium | Low |

6. Check all you would accept in the absentee voting process:

- _____ Simplify the absentee application process _____
- _____ Eliminate the excuse requirement _____
- _____ Use signature recognition software to eliminate one envelope and identification requirement _____
- _____ Require more identity verification _____
- _____ Expand allowable excuses _____
- _____ Other (Please specify: _____) _____

In the second blank, prioritize your selection.
 (1 being your first choice, 2 your second choice, etc.)

7. Would you like to see a broader study on the voting system in to include fraud and abuse of the voting system?

Yes ____ No ____

| | | |
|------|-----------------|-----|
| | Priority | |
| High | Medium | Low |

8. What other topics relating to Alabama voting would you like to see studied at the State level?
Please list.

9. What changes are needed in our current LWVAL Position on Election Law Reform?

____ no change is needed
____ change is needed

Please explain: _____

10. Considering the answers to the previous questions, should our positions be updated to address off-site voting?