

City of Dadeville

MUNICIPAL CANDIDACY INFORMATION

2020 ELECTION GUIDE

The following information is general information pertinent to the Mayoral and City Council elections. This is not an all-inclusive list of all election laws and practices, but will hopefully provide an easy format for answers to questions frequently asked by candidates.

- ❖ ***The Municipal Election for Mayor and five City Council Members will be held Tuesday, August 25, 2020. If necessary, a Run-Off Election will be held Tuesday, October 6, 2020.***
 - Poll hours are from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
 - Polling place is located at the Dadeville Rec Center, 116 Kids Court

- ❖ ***The qualification period for candidates will begin on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 8:00 am and end on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm.***
 - Candidates qualify through the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.
 - The qualification fee for candidates seeking election for the office of Mayor is \$50.00, and \$25.00 for the office of City Council Member.
 - During the qualification period, candidates pay their qualification fee and file their Statement of Candidacy form with the City Clerk.
 - A candidate may withdraw as a candidate by giving written notice at any time prior to the date of the election.
 - Candidates must also file a **Statement of Economic Interests** form with the Alabama Ethics Commission (AEC) within five (5) days of the date the candidate files his or her Statement of Candidacy with the City Clerk. The election official / City Clerk must have written certification of this filing from the Ethics Commission or **the name shall not appear on the ballot.** For more information on the Statement of Economic Interests form or to complete it online go to **<https://ethics-form.alabama.gov/>** or contact the AEC at 334-242-2997. Candidates who already have a current Statement of Economics Interests form on file with the Ethics Commission do not have to file a duplicate statement at qualification. If online access is not available, paper forms will be available at the City Clerk's Office during the qualification period.
 - All candidates must be a registered voter of the municipality at the time of qualification and must have been a resident of the City of Dadeville for at least 90 days prior to the election.
 - **The Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA)** requires all municipal candidates to file with the **PROBATE JUDGE in the county where the city hall of the municipality is located.** §17-5-9(c). For the purposes of the FCPA, a person becomes a candidate whenever he or she either (1) reaches the disclosure threshold by either raising or spending one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or (2) qualifies to run for office. §17-5-2(a)(1). Every candidate must establish a principal campaign committee. Candidates may serve as their own committee, but they must still file a form to this effect with the PROBATE JUDGE. **THIS FORM MUST BE FILED WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS OF BECOMING A CANDIDATE. THIS FORM MUST BE FILED REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE CANDIDATE HAS REACHED THE \$1,000 THRESHOLD UNDER THE FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT.** Forms are available from the Probate Judge or the Secretary of State. §17-5-4. It is the candidate's responsibility to comply with the FCPA.

- ❖ **Political Signs** – Temporary political signs advertising campaigns of candidates for political offices or advertising, proposing, opposing, or relating views or positions upon a political question appearing or to appear upon an official election ballot may be erected in connection with elections or political campaigns. No political signs shall be allowed within or upon a public right-of-way. Within all other regular zoning districts, not more than two (2) signs per candidate or political sign which shall not exceed six (6) square feet are allowed. Political signs shall not be erected more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, whether general or special, for which the person or issue advertised will appear on the ballot. Such signs must be removed within five (5) days after the date of the election or run-off election (if necessary) has occurred.
- ❖ **Voter's List** – A candidate may obtain a list of the City of Dadeville voters from the Secretary of State. These lists are not available on a walk-in basis. A request can be made by calling the Elections Division at 334-242-7210 or 1-800-274-8683, www.sos.alabama.gov They will quote you a cost for the list.
- ❖ **Campaign Prohibitions** - Prohibited activities include making a contribution in someone else's name, buying votes, interfering with a person's right to freely cast a vote, soliciting money or anything of value by physical force, job discrimination, financial reprisals, or threats, or fraudulently misrepresenting oneself as acting for a candidate. Other prohibited activities are illegal voting such as casting more than one ballot for the same office, or knowingly attempting to vote when not entitled to do so. Also bribing or attempting to influence voters, buying votes, selling votes, altering or changing the vote of an elector, or disturbing an elector on election day.

On election day, except as electors (voters) are admitted to vote and persons to assist them and a law officer, election officers, and watchers, no person shall be permitted within thirty (30) feet of the polling place. The thirty (30) foot distance shall be measured from the door of the building in which the voting machines or ballot boxes are located.

NOTE: No voter, poll worker or poll watcher will be allowed to use personal cell phones or other personal communication device from inside the polling area. There is a state prohibition on recording or video-taping in the polling area as it violates the secrecy of the balloting procedure and can be construed as voter intimidation. A voter may snap a picture of his/her own ballot, but may not photograph the ballot of another person. Each Chief Inspector of a polling location will be allowed a cell phone to be used for voter verification purposes to reach the Board of Registrars and/or the Municipal Election Manager (City Clerk).

- ❖ **Poll Watchers** – Each candidate may name one poll watcher for each polling location. Poll watchers should arrive at 6:30 a.m. on election day and present their letter of appointment signed by the candidate for which he/she is observing, and must swear an oath administered by the Chief Inspector to faithfully observe the rule of law prescribed for the conduct of elections. Poll Watchers shall be permitted to be present from the time the polls are opened until all the ballots are counted. On the morning of the election, Poll Watchers may witness the breaking of the seal on the machine and on the envelope containing the key or keys to the voting machines, and, when the machine has been opened, the watchers shall carefully examine each and every counter to see that it registers zero. Poll Watchers may observe the proceedings, but may not interfere with election officials and may not disturb voters casting their ballots, attempt to influence voters, campaign, or wear any campaign material or buttons while inside the polling place. Poll Watchers observe the verification and counting of the absentee ballots. Poll Watchers may witness the opening of the machine to remove accumulated ballots, and at the close of the polls, may witness the vote totals taken from each machine and the tabulation of the votes cast at the polling location. The watcher's function is to observe the activities at the polling place. Watchers may not disturb voters, attempt to influence voters, campaign, or display or wear any campaign material or buttons while inside any

polling place. Cell phones will not be allowed in the polling place. A poll watcher does not have to be an elector in the city.

❖ ***The newly elected administration will take office on Monday, November 2, 2020.***

- As of the Census of 2010 the City of Dadeville population is estimated at approximately 3230.
- The City Council meets two (2) times per month. The current Council meets on the Second and Fourth Tuesday nights for pre-council at 5:00 pm and regular session of council at 5:30 pm. Each council sets out the date and time of their meetings at the organizational meeting.

❖ ***Open Meetings Act*** – Under the Alabama Open Meetings Act (OMA), municipal officials and municipal officials-elect may not meet in secret to discuss matters pending, or likely to be heard, before the City Council. All deliberations must take place in public. Serial meetings (a series of meetings attended by less than a quorum with a constant member at each meeting) may not be held. This includes discussions or deliberations between officials by e-mail or other electronic means. Any meeting or workshop of public officials or public officials-elect, either as a Council, a Council-elect, or any committee must be advertised, and the public must be allowed an opportunity to attend. There are very limited exceptions dealing with security and trade, but for the most part all discussion must take place in public. OMA also applies to all appointed city boards and committees.

❖ ***Disclaimer*** – This guide is provided as a service to candidates running in the municipal election. Use of this information is at the sole risk of the candidate. It is the responsibility of the candidate to verify information. The municipality or official distributing this form disclaim any responsibility or liability for failure to comply with any filing requirement or any other election law.

❖ ***For additional information:***

- Duties of the Mayor and Council
- Voter ID Guide, Absentee Ballot Voting Guide

- Alabama Ethics Commission 334-242-2997 – www.ethics.alabama.gov
- Secretary of State's Office/Election Division 334-242-7210 or 1-800-274-8683 – www.sos.alabama.gov
- Tallapoosa County Board of Registrars 256-825-1081
- Tallapoosa County Judge of Probate, Tallapoosa County Courthouse 256-825-4266
- City of Dadeville City Clerk's Office 256-825-9242 or debbie.minor1@gmail.com