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Local.  
News.  
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ALABAMA NEWS | DECISION 2026

# Pledge of Allegiance amendment on Nov. 3

REFLECTOR | Alabama voters will decide in November whether to amend the state constitution to require school boards to adopt policies the daily recital of the Pledge of Allegiance in schools and student-led prayer, as well as the broadcast of the Star-Spangled Banner every week.

Amendment 3, sponsored by Rep. Reed Ingram, R-Pike Road, requires K-12 public schools to adopt policies on the Pledge of Allegiance to draft another policy that would allow for student-led prayer. The House of Representatives approved the measure on a 94-3 vote last spring; the Senate

approved it 30-0.

Ingram said in an interview he tried for several years to get a bill related to school prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance approved in the Legislature.

The bill requires school districts to create a policy that requires students to "voluntarily" recite the Pledge of Allegiance toward the U.S. flag.

"We give the tax dollars for the kids to go to school, and we would like the kids to know that this is America and that is where your tax dollars are coming from," Ingram said.

HB 511 also requires school districts to adopt a policy to allow prayer in

school that is "initiated by and led" by a student.

"A lot of kids do not have the opportunity to have meals at home, just like they don't have the opportunity to pray at home or go to church," Ingram said in an interview Tuesday. "This gives them that opportunity."

Alabama state law since 1976 has required schools to conduct the Pledge of Allegiance each day. Students can not be coerced into reciting it. In addition, students are already allowed to pray in public schools when not doing school activities or participating

in instruction. Ingram said his amendment would protect both policies from lawsuits.

"The Pledge of Allegiance is the law now, but a lot of schools are not doing it," Ingram said. "This takes it to a constitutional amendment where if there is any litigation, then it would eliminate the litigation in the future." Ingram did not say which schools were not conducting daily recitals of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The legislation does not require students to participate in any prayer or

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HURRICANE ISAIAS

## Storm kills two across Alabama; 1,800 lose power in Cherokee Co.

REFLECTOR | At least two people died in Alabama Saturday as Hurricane Isaias brought heavy wind and rain to the state.

The deaths occurred as the storm left a trail of damage in south Alabama and hundreds of thousands of Alabama residents without power.

The Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency confirmed one fatality after a tree

fell onto a house in the east side of Birmingham shortly after 5 a.m. this morning, according to Shea Hess, an

emergency management officer.

A driver in Barbour County died following a motor vehicle wreck involving fallen trees, according to the Alabama Emergency Management Agency.

"The person was transported out of Barbour County to a medical facility in Dale County where the person died," said Josh Johnson, who works in external affairs with the AEMA.

Gov. Kay Ivey said in a statement late Saturday morning that she was "praying for their loved ones" and expressed thanks for crews trying to clear debris and restore power.

"There are still some road closures due to downed power lines, and our linemen are working to clear that as soon as possible," the statement said. "In Escambia County, for example, our folks are still working on reopening a portion of US-31 north of Brewton."

About 127,000 customers were without power as of 5:30 p.m., according to the website poweroutage.us, which tracks power outages in the U.S. Most of the customers without power are in the southern half of the state. Houston County has 16,500 people without power; Coffee County had about 15,000 people who still needed electricity while Geneva County still had about 10,000 people without power.

Nearly all of Conecuh County was without power as of 5:30 p.m.

Alabama Power said that as of 3:30 p.m., more than 275,000 customers statewide have

## CLEARING THE PATH



Earlier this month the Little River Canyon National Preserve welcomed Vacation Volunteers as part of the American Hiking Society volunteer program. They helped us clear overgrown vegetation from our DeSoto Scout Trail, working on 6 miles of trail through heat, humidity, and rain. Special thanks to Glen, Diana, Peter, Diane, Paresh, Peter, and Steve for coming to Little River Canyon and helping make our trail a great place to hike. For more information visit the Little River Canyon National Preserve page on Facebook.

CHEROKEE COUNTY | CITY OF CENTRE

## Main Street Alabama report expected to aid revitalization

By Terry Dean  
POST-HERALD NEWS EDITOR  
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CENTRE | In the coming months, the City of Centre will learn how to make the most of its many assets as it becomes more active in Main Street Alabama.

A feedback meeting was held recently at Centre City Hall. The event was conducted by Shelley Paasch, program development specialist with Main Street Alabama.

Local citizens and community leaders were invited to give their input and in the next few weeks

Paasch will complete an 8-10 page report on what she learned. Among those in attendance were Mayor Jay Howell, members of the City Council and former Mayor Mark Mansfield, a local businessman.

"I have been doing this kind of work for about 20 years," said Paasch. "And I have done this in other states, recently in the state of Kansas. I moved here four months ago. It has been wonderful."

"We are going to give you an overview about what Main Street is and how it works in communities," said Paasch. "And then we are going to ask you questions. Just basically

saying, 'What is going on in your community?'"

Main Street Alabama, Paasch said, was formed in 2004 under the Alabama Historical Society.

"They have 36 designated communities in the state," said Paasch. "We take one to three every year. You have to be in a network community for at least a year."

"It depends on how much community investment you have, how many people get alongside of you," she said. "We also have 34 network communities."

"We follow a lot of the statistics and data analytics that are out there so we



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SECTION B

PREP AND  
COLLEGE BALL

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local and SEC teams

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