



Alabama adds Tennessee 4-star LB to '27 recruiting class

SPORTS, 1B

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Alabama AG seeks records from Southern Poverty Law Center

Ralph Chapoco
Alabama Reflector

The Alabama Attorney General's Office on May 11 subpoenaed the Southern Poverty Law Center a couple of weeks after the U.S. Department of Justice filed criminal charges against the organization.

The office said in a news release on Monday that it was seeking records from

a now-defunct program in which the SPLC paid informants within white supremacist and extremist groups to obtain information on the groups' activities.

"We have always suspected that they were monetizing hate and trading on race-baiting, it was just a matter of proving it," said Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall in the news release. "Thanks to the U.S. Justice Department's action to deal with the SPLC, the State's

efforts have now received a shot in the arm."

A spokesperson for SPLC said in a statement on Monday that SPLC received word of the subpoena and that people are "currently reviewing" it.

A grand jury last month indicted the civil rights nonprofit on an 11-count indictment alleging that the payments to

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SPLC interim President and CEO Bryan Fair speaks during a wreath laying ceremony at the Southern Poverty Law Center Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery on March 5.

JAKE CRANDAL/ADVERTISER

AL city among best in U.S. for first-time home buyers

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Buying a first home is a major financial challenge in the U.S., but some metro areas now offer a more realistic path for buyers.

The city's median home sale price is about \$135,000, roughly 24% below the national average.

One big standout is an Alabama city that ranked among the 8 best U.S. cities for first-time homebuyers.

The ranking, published by Travel + Leisure using Zillow data, evaluated the 50 largest U.S. metropolitan areas based on affordability, home availability and competition for starter homes.

Here's the Alabama city noted as one of the best for first-time homebuyers.

What is the best city in Alabama for first-time homebuyers?

Birmingham ranked No. 2 on Travel + Leisure's list for affordability. The city's median home sale price is about \$135,000, roughly 24% below the national average. As a result, 56% of homes are considered affordable to the median household. Travel + Leisure says Birmingham gives first-time buyers more room to enter the housing market without facing the intense competition seen in larger metro areas.

What to know about Birmingham

Beyond housing affordability, Birmingham has been drawing attention for its broader quality-of-life appeal.

Known as the "Magic City," Birmingham has developed a growing reputation for its:

- Expanding restaurant and barbecue scene.
- Local breweries and nightlife.
- Live music venues and cultural attractions.
- Access to parks and green spaces.

What are the 8 best cities in the U.S. for first-time homeowners?

Travel + Leisure ranked the

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ANALYSIS

AI-integrated cameras raise alarms

E-ZPass readers and license plate-scanning cameras are seen in 2025 in New York City. Many such camera systems are using artificial intelligence to create a vast, searchable database that can be integrated with other law enforcement data repositories. MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

License plate tracking systems in thousands of U.S. cities

Jess Reia University of Virginia | THE CONVERSATION

For decades, cars dictated urban planning in the United States. • Few could have predicted that they would one day also double as nodes for surveillance. • In thousands of towns and cities across the United States, automatic license plate readers have been installed at major intersections, bridges and highway off-ramps. • These camera-based systems capture the license plate data of passing vehicles, along with images of the vehicle and time stamps. More recently, these systems are using artificial intelligence to create a vast, searchable database that can be integrated with other law enforcement data repositories.

As a scholar of technology policy and data governance, I see the expansion of automatic license plate readers as a source of deep concern. It's happening as government authorities are seeking ways to target immigrant and transgender communities, are already using AI to monitor protests, and are considering deploying AI systems for mass surveillance.

Eyes on the road

Using cameras to track license plates dates to the 1970s, when the United Kingdom was embroiled in a long-

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Automatic license plate reader databases have been shared with federal immigration agencies to monitor immigrant communities. Recently, Customs and Border Protection was granted access to over 80,000 Flock cameras, which have also been used to surveil protests. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

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