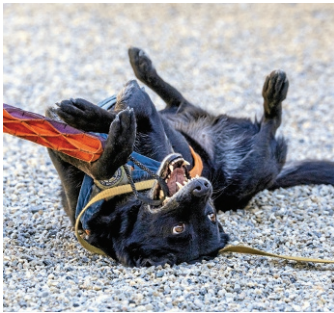


Conservationists look to scat-sniffing dogs

360



Forest bathing engages all of your senses and may help counteract stress

LIVELY

A Lee Enterprises, Incorporated Newspaper — Majority shareholder, David Hoffmann, Hoffmann Media Group

Thursday, October 22, 2026 • oanow.com

2026 GENERAL ELECTION

A VOTER GUIDE FOR LEE COUNTY



CANVA ILLUSTRATION

The 2026 general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

BRIONNA MCCALL
bmccall@oanow.com

On Nov. 3, voters will have the opportunity to choose their next governor, judges, members of congress and more.

The total number of registered of voters is more than 133,793 in Lee County, according to the Alabama Secretary of State.

Here's what you should know before you cast your ballot in the 2026 general election:

Voting deadlines

Here's the following voting deadlines:

Oct. 27: Deadline to apply for mail-in absentee ballots.

Oct. 29: Deadline to apply for in person absentee ballots.

Nov. 2: Deadline to hand deliver absentee ballots.

On Election Day, absentee ballots must be returned by mail by noon.

Where do I go to vote?

The polls will open from 7 a.m. to

7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Anyone who attempts to join the voting line after 7 p.m. will not be able to vote.

You can check both your voter registration status and designated polling place through the Alabama Secretary of State's website myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/voterview/. That applies to all counties in the state, as do the deadlines for registration and absentee.

What do I need to bring to the polls?

The voter must present an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Acceptable forms include:

- Valid Alabama driver's license, including ALEA digital driver's license (not expired or expired less than 60 days)
- Valid Alabama non-driver ID, including ALEA digital non-driver ID (not expired or expired less than 60 days)
- Alabama free photo Voter ID card

- Valid U.S. passport
 - Valid military ID
 - Valid tribal ID
 - Valid employee ID from the federal government, State of Alabama, county, municipality, board, or other entity of this state
 - Valid student or employee ID from a public or private college or university in the State of Alabama
 - Valid student or employee ID issued by a state institution of higher learning in any other state
 - Valid federal-issued ID
 - Valid state-issued ID (Alabama or any other state)
- Examples:**
- Valid pistol permit (photo required)
 - Valid AL movement/book-ing sheet from prison/jail system (photo required)
 - Valid AL Department of Corrections release temporary ID (photo required)

Please see **ELECTION**, Page A2

Board approves construction updates for Plains High, Plains Junior High

BRIONNA MCCALL
bmccall@oanow.com

The Auburn City Board of Education approved various items regarding Plains High School and Plains Junior High School during its recent regular meeting.

The board approved a deductive change order from Hoar Construction LLC that relates to the building package of Plains High School and also approved an easement to Alabama Power Company to help with utilities necessary to operate the building.

A deductive change is “a change resulting in a reduction in the contract price because of a net reduction in the contractor’s work,” according to the Federal Transit Administration.

The board also approved an easement to Alabama Power Company for installation utilities at Plains Junior High School.

The new high school and middle school are currently under construction with an expected opening date in the fall of 2028. Plains High School will be located along North Donahue Drive and will serve an additional 2,200 students, and both high schools will serve grades 9-12. Plains Junior High School will be located along Will Buechner Parkway and accommodate grades 7-8, and Drake Middle School will serve sixth grade.

Other board business

- The board approved an appointment of a local textbook committee. ACS Superintendent Cristen Herring said that this year ACS will be recommending books for the digital policy and computer science courses.
- The board approved a closeout for Auburn High School’s canopy connector enclosure. Herring said that the enclosure connects building one to both buildings two and three, and “promotes safe travel in inclement weather as well as helps to secure perimeter for safety.”
- The board approved a deductive change order from Bradley Plumbing & Heating to close out the HVAC renovation at Auburn Junior High School.
- The board approved financial statements for September.



O-A NEWS FILE PHOTO

The Auburn City Board of Education approved items regarding Plains High School and Plains Junior High School's construction during its recent regular meeting.

Alabama city scammed out of nearly \$15 million

LAWRENCE SPECKER
al.com

The city of Mobile has revealed that it may have lost more than \$14.7 million after being targeted in “a criminal scheme.”

In a sparse announcement made late Tuesday, the administration of Mayor Spiro Cheriogotis said that the scheme resulted in the transfer of the money to “a fraudulent entity.”

“As soon as the fraud was identified, the City notified the FBI and the Secret Service, and this matter is now under

active investigation,” said the statement.

“We are cooperating fully with investigators and taking every available step to recover the funds and bring the responsible party to justice.”

The city statement did not identify what department or departments were involved in the transfer, or what purpose the funds had been intended to serve. It said that the incident “will not affect the City’s financial stability, its ability to deliver services, or the completion timeline of capital projects.”



Views of the Mobile skyline.

JOE SONGER |
JSONGER@AL.COM/
AL.COM/TNS

Weather

Sunny and beautiful

High: 79 **Low:** 50

Forecast: A10

Inside

Advice	A6	Lively	D1	Sports	C1
Classifieds	C8	Nation/World	B1	Television	A6
Comics	D3	Opinion	A4	Weather	A10

