

WELCOME TO ACTION TEAMS

FIRST THINGS FIRST!

1. FIX YOUR PLATE AND GRAB A DRINK
2. PICK A TOPIC OF CONCERN AND FIND YOUR TABLE
3. MAKE A NAMETAG AND SIGN IN ON YOUR TABLE
ROSTER
4. GET TO KNOW YOUR TEAM
5. WE WILL START AT 6:00

LEGISLATIVE 101

SESSION LENGTH- 105 CALENDAR DAYS; 30 LEGISLATIVE DAYS

Starts in February, ends sometime in mid to late May

Special Session can be called by the Governor, but only for listed subjects.

Bills can be introduced starting in November before the regular session begins in February.

Currently over 450 have been submitted.

How a bill becomes a law- See handout- Steps 1-6

Three Critical times for ACTION!

Step 2- When the bill is assigned to a chamber committee **contact the Committee Chairman with recommendations of YEA or NAY.** The Chairperson decided if it even gets considered by the Committee. It may never get on the list for consideration.

If it is up up for consideration, then contact ALL the committee members. This is where the content is decided. Once it goes to the floor for a vote it is TOO LATE!

If approved on the floor, it moves on to the other chamber and the process 1-4 repeats.

Second Opportunity for Action

Step 5- The process is repeated in the other chamber and the Chairman again decided if the bill moves to the committee for review. **Now is the time for ACTION!**

Contact the Chairperson and it may die there. If it makes it to that chamber's committee, contact those legislators.

It gets voted on and goes back to the originating chamber if any changes are made.

Then it goes to the Governor for signature or veto.

Third Opportunity for Action

Step 6- The Governor receives the finished bill. **NOW is the time for ACTION!**
Contact their office and share your opinion!

It could be signed into law or vetoed.

If vetoed the legislature can override it with 51% vote. The ACLU will announce swing votes to help us reach them before an override vote is made.

NOTE: If the law passed was a good one, **ALWAYS** thank the Committee members, Chairperson, and your legislators for doing the right thing! If goes a **VERY** long easy to having their ear the next time!

HOW TO KILL BILLS

1. Before it is introduced.
2. Committee meetings have the most impact.

When a bad law passes, don't forget who voted on it. Keep a list!

When it fails to work for the citizens, continue to reach out to those who voted for it and let them know how they disappointed the public.

And that you are going remember their participation at election time!

HOW TO CONTACT ELECTED OFFICIALS

**DO NOT IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A DEMOCRAT!
JUST BE A CONCERNED CITIZEN!**

1. Attend Public Meetings-It's hard to ignore people in the room.
2. Testify at a hearing- need to request to testify. 2 mins max
3. Visit legislative offices unannounced to speak with staff- most effective!
4. Set up appointment with actual legislators- great one-on one, but can be hard to do
5. Call legislative offices-Keep their phone lines jammed! Keep to one topic/call, but call on every topic that concerns you.
6. Write op-ed articles and send them to legislators so they see their names in publications. It hits home that this creates public awareness!
7. Write or email legislators-generally just results in a Y/N tabulation
8. Marches and demonstrations-raises awareness, but doesn't typically influence legislators

SOURCES FOR BILLS AND TRACKING

We will send this to your email so you have links and phone numbers you can add to contacts.

Congress.gov

- Federal Bills by subject and policy

Legiscan.com

- Can be used for Federal and State

Billtrack50.com

- Ballotpedia uses this tracker. You can sign up for a free account as a citizen.

Alabama Legislature <https://alison.legislature.state.al.us>

- Track Alabama Legislation

Alabama Daily News - Legislature <https://aldailynews.com/category/legislature-2025/>

- Daily legislative briefs

League of Women Voters lwv.org

- Archived meetings

FEDERAL BILLS

Indivisible indivisible.org

- Grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda.
- Weekly zoom- Thursdays 2:00 CT: What's the Plan? A Weekly Discussion with Indivisible's Co-Founders for the latest updates and Q&A. Sign up on their website.
- Facebook, newsletter

Alabama Arise alarise.org

- Priorities: Safety Net, Tax Reform, Voting Rights, Medicaid Expansion, Budgets, Criminal Justice, Health, Public Transportation
- News Releases on Website
- Action Items on Social Media

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ACIJ) acij.org

- Facebook feed includes events and action items
- Also follow Kimberly Fasking on FB, Morgan County Dem. Chair/Immigration Attorney

ACLU of Alabama www.aclualabama.org

- Priorities: Civil Rights, Voting Rights, Gender Justice, and Criminal Legal Reform
- 2025 Legislation updates: www.aclualabama.org/en/2025-lege-action-hub

Alabama Equality Group alabamaequality.org

- Advancing LGBTQ+ rights
- FB, newsletter, training, etc.

Alabama Values alvalues.org

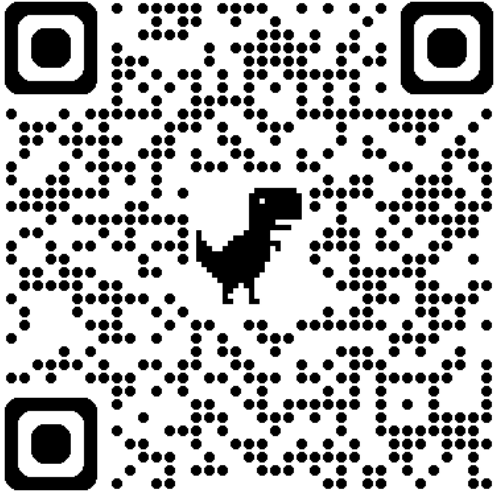
- Priorities: Voting Rights, Civic Engagement, Communications & Messaging
- FB, newsletter, etc.

Alabama Voting Rights Coalition associated with SPLC

- Facebook

DOWNLOAD APPS

5 CALLS



SLACK

Only DCDC members can be invited to our site.

- Easy to use communication threads called Channels, similar to texting, but you can follow several conversations.
- Each Action Team currently has one with the Team Leader as the admin.
- Make sure all team members have the app and are invited to your team. **Anyone can be added to help you take action.**
- **Currently all teams are private** because of confidentiality but each team can decide if they want to open the conversations up to the entire membership.

CURRENT BILLS TO WATCH

HB89-Just passed out of House with 102 Yeas! Sponsored by M. Lands-

Presumptive eligibility for pregnant Medicaid applicants to receive pre-natal care first; then ascertain benefits eligibility. **Call State Senators NOW in support!!**

HB77-Defines disabilities along Federal guidelines, which would provide more opportunities for absentee ballots.

HB4-Librarian Bill-sponsored by Ledbetter-items of purient interest to minors could result with librarians being charged with a crime.

HB97-Provides transparent voting process for absentee ballots. Both applications and ballots would be screened so they could be counted. Currently if there is a technical error, they are not reviewed or counted.

CURRENT BILLS TO WATCH

SB19- Right to Conception-Recognize that individuals have the right to engage in contraception and that health care providers have the right to both dispense contraceptive devices and provide information about their use.

SB101-In Committee-age of consent for medical services (mental health, sexual health, etc.) raised from 14 years old to 18 years old.

SB157- Bi-partisan bill to allow incarcerated person to participate virtually at their parole hearing. Currently they ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT!

BEFORE YOU LEAVE TONIGHT...

1. Copy your contact sheet and give to Joan.
2. Share your contact information with each other.
3. Decide how you are going to communicate-Slack, email, text, etc.
4. Decide who is going to track legislation.
5. Decide on an action plan. Decide on at least 2 specific steps you are going to make by your next meeting.
6. Decide on your next meeting date and time. Do this at each meeting so you stay on track.
7. Decide what resources you need and let Lynn know.
8. Agree to committing time, energy and talents wherever you can help!

Alone we struggle. Collectively we can fight!

**THANKS FOR COMING AND PARTICIPATING IN
KEEPING OUR DEMOCRACY ALIVE!!**