

ALABAMA

PROGRAM

Alabama Election Protection organized a dispatch program in Birmingham, which was supported by the 1-866-OUR-VOTE Hotline. The dispatch program consisted of attorneys who were on call to investigate problems reported at precincts in the city.

Voters in Alabama encountered provisional ballot problems, attempted voter challenges, and confusion over the restoration of voting rights after felony convictions.

BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Attempted Challenger Activity

Election Protection became aware of a challenge to the right of the students of Oakwood University to vote in the county where they attend university. Oakwood University is a historically black university in Huntsville. It was reported to Election Protection that a representative from True the Vote had requested information about registered Oakwood students living on campus. Alabama state law affirms that students are entitled to register and vote as residents of the college community where they reside and are attending school. Oakwood University refused to respond to True the Vote's request for student information.

ELECTION DAY

Voter Registration

Through the 1-866-OUR-VOTE Hotline, Election Protection received a significant number of calls indicating that due to some failure in the registration process, eligible voters were erroneously provided provisional ballots in situations in which they should have received regular ballots. In some cases, eligible voters were not allowed to vote at all. One instance in particular involved a service member from Scottsboro who had registered during primary elections. When he went to vote, he was informed that he was not on the voter rolls. The voter was not provided the opportunity to vote a regular ballot, nor was he provided a provisional ballot. He was told that he would be registered for the next election.

2012 VOTING PROBLEMS IN ALABAMA



Felony Disenfranchisement

Confusion over the restoration of one's voting rights after a felony conviction was also a prominent problem in Alabama. A caller believed that his rights had been restored, but he did not have the certificate indicating that this was the case. Therefore, he could only vote a provisional ballot.