

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



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JIMMY EVANS
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ALABAMA

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ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
11 SOUTH UNION STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
AREA (205) 242-7300

Honorable James M. Campbell
State Representative, District 36
1231 Glenwood Terrace
Anniston, AL 36201

Voter Registration - Voter
Registration Advisory Board

The Voter Registration Advisory Board has the duty to oversee the establishment, operation and maintenance of the statewide voter registration file. The Advisory Board does not have authority to oversee other areas of the election process.

Dear Representative Campbell:

This opinion is issued in response to your request for an opinion from the Attorney General.

QUESTION

Please clarify the duties and mission of the Voter Registration Advisory Board created pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, § 17-4-210. Specifically, does the Board have duties as an oversight board in election areas other than the statewide voter registration file?

FACTS AND ANALYSIS

Code of Alabama 1975, § 17-4-210, et seq., provides for the creation of a Voter Registration Advisory Board, a

Director of Voter Registration and the establishment, operation and maintenance of a centralized statewide voter registration file. With respect to the Advisory Board, Section 17-4-210 states:

"As an oversight board for such system, there is hereby created and established a state voter registration advisory board composed of nine members, to be appointed as . . .

"The voter registration advisory board shall have the following duties:

"(1) To oversee the statewide voter registration file created in this article;

"(2) To advise and consult with the director of voter registration, as established in this article, concerning the statewide voter registration file maintenance system created in this article;

"(3) To recommend to the legislature and the governor any needed improvements or legislation in regard to the statewide voter registration file;

"(4) To make studies of conditions and problems pertaining to voter identification and registration in the state;

"(5) To keep abreast of the latest developments in the field of voter identification and registration; and

"(6) To promote honesty, fairness, and integrity in lists of qualified voters, the voter registration process, and the election process in the state of Alabama."

All of the duties of the Voter Registration Advisory Board as listed above relate to the establishment, operation and maintenance of the statewide voter registration file. Any legislation, studies, or developments that have an impact upon the statewide file may be considered by the Advisory

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Board. The Board may advise and make recommendations to the extent that the legislation, studies, or developments affect the statewide file. The Advisory Board does not have broad authority to oversee other areas of the election process.

CONCLUSION

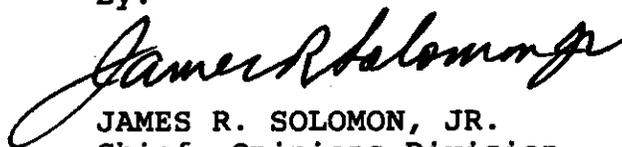
The Voter Registration Advisory Board has the duty to oversee the establishment, operation and maintenance of the statewide voter registration file. The Advisory Board does not have authority to oversee other areas of the election process.

I hope this sufficiently answers your question. If our office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

JIMMY EVANS
Attorney General

By:



JAMES R. SOLOMON, JR.
Chief, Opinions Division

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