

Republican Women of Madison General Meeting, May 20, 2020 Via Zoom

- Sheila began the Web meeting at 11:30. She announced that minutes are now available on the info@rwmadison website and in the newsletter.
- John Merrill, Secretary of State, spoke to us electronically from his office, covering his campaign to honor our veterans, and the ongoing effort to identify U.S. citizens using photo IDs.
- Recently mechanisms were instituted for the Governor to delay an election. Our run-off for the US Senate will be July 14, as opposed to March 31. Commercials and press releases are reminding that absentee ballots can be obtained online (alabamavotes.gov), and submitted with a driver's license. Since mail-in ballots increase the likelihood of fraud, ballots will not be mailed to every registered voter, as they are in some states. Oregon, Colorado, and Washington State now vote entirely by mail.
- With 3,593,235 registered voters, Alabama spends about \$5.5 million per election cycle and \$18 million for the primary election. Turn out is generally in the 30-35% range; with 4 percent voter participation.
- Hard copies of ballots are retained for two years after an election, and voting fraud results in jail time. Alabama ballots are official as they move through a chain of custody, and voting fraud results in jail time. 880,000 have already been removed from the voter rolls.
- Poll workers are all chosen at the local level. Elected officials serve as election officers. Because of Covid 19, alternate voting sites and poll workers should be ready to step in. Federal funds are being provided for protective measures such as masks, disinfectants, etc.
- Merrill said the Secretary of State's office is currently up-to-date on all business filings, but with 30% less employees than before his tenure.
- Merrill said our economy was strong before the coronavirus, and he feels it will bounce back quickly with, perhaps, a new level of normalcy. He said Kay Ivey has done a good job of looking at the data and consulting with the experts.
- Sheila announced she is reaching out to judicial candidates and Senatorial candidate, Tommy Tuberville, to speak; Jeff Sessions spoke via conference call last week.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:07. Thirteen attended by computer hook ups.

Carol Wissmann, secretary