



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Office of the Honorable Frank Barger  
Probate Judge – Madison County, Alabama  
Media Contact: 256-532-3332 / fbarger@madisoncountyal.gov

**Judge Frank Barger Issues Update on Concerns Related to the Primary Runoff Election**

**Madison County, Alabama – March 17, 2020** – Over the last several days Judge Frank Barger and Election Officials, Sheriff Kevin Turner and Circuit Clerk Debra Kizer have been in constant communication about preparation for the March 31 Primary Runoff Election. Based on the situation with COVID-19 there are numerous concerns and obstacles that not only Madison County, but all Election Officials throughout the state, are working to address. We are anxiously awaiting the opinion from Attorney General Steve Marshall and, if favorable for postponement, how Governor Ivey will move forward.

Madison County Election Officials take the responsibility of elections administration seriously and are proud of our history of delivering well-run, efficient, and transparent elections. Due to the situation with COVID-19, we have serious concerns about the ability to safely and effectively manage the election.

Our concerns include:

- Citizens gathering to vote based on the CDC recommendation that groups of people should not exceed 10
- Exposure of our available election workers to the general public as many are in the most at-risk category
- Lack of enough election workers necessary to execute the election based on their concerns about exposure and desire to practice social distancing
- Voting locations that might not be available due to their closure to public access or complete shutdown
- The ability to procure necessary supplies to provide proper protection to citizens and election workers – this includes hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, etc.

We encourage our state leaders to move forward quickly to review how these issues might be addressed for our entire state. Judge Frank Barger, Sheriff Kevin Turner, and Circuit Clerk Debra Kizer share Secretary of State John Merrill's opinion that the election should not move forward in our current environment.

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