

Voter Registration Literacy Test in Alabama, 1964

Sample

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Application for Registration, Questionnaire and Oaths

Part I

(This is to be filled in by a member of the Board of Registrars or a duly authorized clerk of the board. If applicant is a married woman, she must state given name by which she is known. Maiden surname, and married surname, which shall be recorded as her full name.)

Full Name: _____
Last First Middle

Date of Birth: _____ Sex _____ Race _____

Residence Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Voting Place: Precinct _____ Ward _____ District _____

Length of Residence: In State _____ County _____

Precinct, ward of district _____

Are you a member of the Armed Forces? _____

Are you the wife of a member of the Armed Forces? _____

Are you a college student? _____ If so, where _____

Have you ever been registered to vote in any other state or in any other county in Alabama?

_____ If so, when and in what state and County and, if Alabama, at what place did you vote in such county? _____

Highest grade, 1 to 12, completed _____ where _____

Years College completed _____ where _____

Part II

(To be filled in by the applicant in the presence of the Board of Registrars without assistance.)

I, _____, do hereby apply to the Board of Registrars of _____ County, State of Alabama, to register as an elector under the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama and do herewith submit my answers to the interrogatories propounded to me by the board.

(Signature of Applicant)

Are you a citizen of the United States _____

Where were you born? _____

If you are a naturalized citizen, give number appearing on your naturalization papers and date issuance

Have you ever been married? _____ If so, give the name, residence and place of birth of your husband or wife _____

Are you divorced? _____

List the places you have lived the past five years, giving town or county and state _____

Have you ever been known by any name other than the one appearing on this application? _____ If so, state what name _____

Are you employed? _____ If so, state by whom. (If you are self-employed, state this.)

Give the address of your present place of employment _____

If, in the past five years, you have been employed by an employer other than your present employer, give name of all employers and cities and states in which you worked

Has your name ever been stricken for any reason from any list of persons registered to vote? _____ If so, where, when and why? _____

Have you previously applied for and been denied registration as a voter? _____

If so, when and where? _____

Have you ever served in the Armed Forces? _____ If so, give dates, branch of service, and serial number _____

Have you ever been dishonorably discharged from military service? _____

Have you ever been declared legally insane? _____ If so, give details _____

Give names and addresses of two persons who know you and can verify the statements made above by you relative to your residence in this state, county and precinct, ward or district

Have you ever seen a copy of this registration application form before receiving this copy today? _____

If so, when and where? _____

Have you ever been convicted of any offense or paid any fine for violation of the law? _____ (Yes or No)

If so, give the following information concerning each fine or conviction; charge, in what court tried, fine imposed, sentence, and, if paroled, state when, and if pardoned, state when. (If fine is for traffic violation only, you need write below only the words "traffic violation only.")

(Remember of this form is to be filled out only as directed by an individual member of the Board of Registrars.)

Part III

Part III of this questionnaire shall consist of one of the forms which are Insert Part III as herein below set out. The insert shall be fastened to the questionnaire. The questions set out on the insert shall be answered according to the instructions therein set out. Each applicant shall demonstrate ability to read and write as required by the Constitution of Alabama, as amended, and no person shall be considered to have completed this application, nor shall the name of any applicant be entered upon the list of registered voters of any county until after such Insert Part III of the questionnaire has been satisfactory completed and signed by the applicant.

Insert Part III (1)

Instructions "A"

The applicant will complete the remainder of this questionnaire before a Board member and at his instructions. The Board member shall have the applicant read any one of more of the following excerpts from the U.S. Constitution using a duplicate form of this Insert Part III. The Board member shall keep in his possession the application with its inserted Part III and shall mark thereon the words missed in reading by applicant.

Excerpts From the Constitution

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, for prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

"The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another state, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state."

"Representative shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, continue the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed."

"The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes or incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration."

Instruction "B"

The Board member shall then have the applicant write several words, or more if necessary to make a judicial determination of his ability to write. The writing shall be placed below so that it becomes a part of the application. If the writing is illegible, the Board member shall write in parentheses beneath the writing the words the applicant was asked to write.

HAVE APPLICANT WRITE HERE, DICTATING WORDS FROM THE CONSTITUTION.

Signature of Applicant:
