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New school safety and security legislative advisory committee holds first meeting

The newly formed Legislative Advisory Committee on School Safety and Security held its organizational meeting at the Alabama State House on Tuesday, with the chair, state Rep. Terri Collins (R-Decatur), touting the broad partnerships represented on the committee.

The panel, which was created by Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon (R-Monrovia) and tasked with reviewing and vetting legislation involving school security issues, is comprised of legislators, law enforcement officials, educators and mental health professionals.

McCutcheon, who addressed the meeting, explained that he hopes it will serve as a valuable resource for lawmakers by providing advice, input and counsel on school security measures that are introduced in upcoming sessions of the Alabama Legislature.

Collins, who is considered one of the state's leading voices on education issues, previously led a similar Emergency Task Force on School Safety and Security that was formed in 2016. This past task force recommended several school security statutes that have since been passed into law and enacted.

“Because of the work of the previous task force and now this committee, Alabama is ahead of the curve nationally, and we are leading many other states in the area of school safety and security,” Collins said in a press release. “As a result of the partnerships we’ve formed among the groups represented on this committee, we are all working to ensure our schools, our children, our teachers, and our administrators are safe, secure and prepared to react if the unthinkable ever happens.”



Terri Collins
@RepTerriCollins

Thank you Mr Speaker, it was great to have the School Safety gang back together!!

Speaker McCutcheon @MacDistrict25

Replying to @MacDistrict25

With @RepTerriCollins as Chairman, the primary purpose of the School Safety Advisory Commission will be to review and make recommendations on legislation concerning school safety for the members of the House and suggesting legislation to further school safety initiatives.



4:31 PM - Oct 16, 2018

9 See Terri Collins's other Tweets

State Rep. Alan Baker (R-Brewton), who is a retired public school teacher, also serves on the new advisory committee and has previously sponsored and passed key school security measures into law.

“This committee will serve as a great resource to any lawmaker who is considering legislation related to school safety and wants their ideas vetted before being introduced,” Baker outlined. “Everyone involved in school safety from law enforcement to school administrators to mental health to the Legislature is represented on this committee, and I am proud to be a part of its efforts.”

The committee will hold its next meeting prior to the 2019 regular state legislative session, which begins in March, in order to review state budget recommendations and pre-filed legislation related to school safety and security.

In addition to Collins and Baker, members of the committee include state Rep. Rex Reynolds (R-Huntsville), state Rep. Rod Scott (D-Fairfield), Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones, Alabama Department of Mental Health Legislative Affairs Director Holley Caraway, School Superintendents Association of Alabama Executive Director Ryan Hollingsworth, Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools Executive Director Vic Wilson, Alabama Homeland Security Director Shirrell Roberts, Alabama Department of Education Administrator Greg DeJarnett, Lee County Deputy Sheriff Pamela Revells, Alabama Department of Mental Health Commissioner Lynn Beshear and Elmore County Public Schools Counseling Coordinator Emilie Johnson.

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Sean Ross ([Https://Yellowhammernews.Com/Author/Sean-Ross/](https://yellowhammernews.com/author/sean-ross/)) 1 min ago

Three takeaways from latest statewide campaign fundraising reports

The latest campaign finance reports for statewide candidates running in the November 6 general election were due on Monday, and the numbers revealed some clear storylines with voting to occur in less than three weeks time.

The reports were the first “weekly” disclosures due in the lead up to the election, with the next ones being due on Monday, October 22. Generally, Republican dominance continued in the top contested races, with the exception being the race for Chief Justice.

Here are the top three takeaways:

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Dale Jackson ([Https://Yellowhammernews.Com/Author/Dale-Jackson/](https://yellowhammernews.com/author/dale-jackson/)) 1 hour ago

7 Things: Ivey and Maddox clash on abortion, Alabama candidates load up on cash for the final stretch, “Horseface” and “Tiny”, and more ...

7. Secretary of State John Merrill wants the state to go after those who are committing voter fraud. (<https://yellowhammernews.com/merrill-urges-prosecution-of-voter-fraud-if-you-want-to-straighten-it-up-youve-got-to-straighten-it-up/>)

– While speaking to Dale County Republicans, Secretary Merrill made it clear that current laws on voter fraud not being enforced is a serious problem for his office, and a lot of the fraud is absentee voter fraud taking place in Alabama and elsewhere.

– Merrill cited the work done by his office but sees bigger problems with local officials being unwilling to pursue these cases. “We’ve had four convictions on voter fraud,” said Merrill. “We’ve had three elections that have been overturned since I’ve been the secretary. We want some more of that to happen because we have identified people that have broken the law. We just got to have some prosecutors that are willing to step up and help us take it and make it happen at the district attorney level, as well as those that would be assigned by [Alabama Attorney General] Steve Marshall. So, we got to work together to get that done.”

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2 hours ago

Tips on smoking brisket the right way

By Thomas Cox

I have tried to cook brisket numerous times and have screwed it up most of them.

Brisket is hard to cook because of timing.

- If you don't cook it long enough, it is inedible
- If you cook it too hot, the bark is too hard and it, again, is inedible.
- If you cook it too long, it falls apart and that is not what you want.

So, there are a lot of ways to screw it up.

This method worked out wonderfully. We did a video, but left out some of the details.

You can watch it here:

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Sean Ross (<https://yellowhammernews.com/author/sean-ross/>) 4 hours ago

‘You’re like family to me’: Ivey releases new campaign ad

Governor Kay Ivey released her new campaign ad (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZ9OLDhSuJk>) on Tuesday, which marked exactly three weeks until Alabamians vote in the November 6 general election.

In the ad, Ivey is seated with her dog, “Bear.” She talks about the priorities in her life and what being governor means to her.

Watch:

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Jeff Poor ([Https://Yellowhammernews.Com/Author/Jeff-Poor/](https://Yellowhammernews.Com/Author/Jeff-Poor/)) 15 hours ago

Roby makes push for agricultural disaster area declaration in Hurricane Michael’s wake

Because of Hurricane Michael and the path of destruction left in its wake last week, Alabama farmers are looking at potentially \$100 million in losses (<https://abc3340.com/news/local/hurricane-michael-causes-100-million-loss-for-cotton-in-southeast-alabama>) from the toll it took on the cotton crop alone.

Before the storm, farmers in southeastern Alabama were looking at harvesting a bumper cotton crop that was on the verge of being ready for harvest.

Add to that the impact the storm had on livestock, peanuts, timber and other aspects of the Wiregrass region's agriculture, and farmers have a crisis on their hands, as Rep. Martha Roby (R-Montgomery) put it in an address to the Dale County Republican Party Executive Committee on Monday night.

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