

QUESTIONNAIRE MASTER LIST

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Alabama Policy Institute and Yellowhammer News 2018 Gubernatorial Questionnaire

POSTED AT <https://yellowhammernews.com/mayor-walt-maddox-responds-to-2018-gubernatorial-candidate-questionnaire/>

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES

What is your political philosophy and, if elected, how would it shape the way you govern?

- I believe in effective and transparent government based on sound policies, and ethical leadership that relies on best management practices.
- I offer Alabama a New Covenant where our leaders wake up every day ready to fight for the people without regard to party. By placing results above rhetoric, we will forge a way forward that will make a real difference in the issues facing Alabamians.
- My approach to policy proposals is to identify the issues, opportunities, and problems related to making Alabama better; learning all relevant facts; establishing policy goals that serve Alabama citizens; cataloging potential policy alternatives that support those policy goals; balancing the interests of all parties affected; and then through careful analysis determining the best policy moving forward.

How have you demonstrated your commitment to your political philosophy?

- As Mayor of Tuscaloosa, this approach to transparent and effective government has been part of my everyday practice in serving the people for almost two decades. Important data is posted on the web, policy initiatives are discussed openly in public meetings that are webcast and archived, the concerns of stakeholders are heard and considered, and policies are implemented in a fair and equitable manner.
- The Tuscaloosa Forward Plan that was developed in the recovery from the tornado of April 27, 2011 is an excellent example of how I see solutions to problems being developed by bringing all stakeholders together with experts and area leaders, to sort through what was often competing interests with both short and long term components, to find solutions that best meet the needs of the entire community.

What is the most important role of the governor?

- The governor must first and foremost fulfill the constitutional oath to support and defend the constitutions of the state of Alabama and of the United States, acting as the chief executive officer of the state to see that the laws are faithfully executed.
- Equally important, the governor must be a leader in proposing laws and policies that benefit all of Alabama, and be the face of the state who takes responsibility for its direction, progress, and

even mistakes.

What is the most challenging social issue facing families in Alabama? Does government have a role in helping to solve that problem, and if so, what would you propose?

- Perhaps the best answer is to identify the common theme underlying the solutions to most of Alabama's problems: they are opportunities for economic development. The expansion of Medicaid will not only provide insurance to our most vulnerable citizens, it also will stoke our healthcare industry with more high paying jobs and creation of advanced medical treatments. The Alabama Education Lottery will instill \$300 million new dollars per year into Alabama's economy even as it improves workforce development, making Alabama more attractive to new industries. Fixing our roads and bridges will not only make us safer, it will create jobs both directly through highway construction, and more importantly by providing the quality infrastructure that new factories and businesses look for in site selection.

Alabama has four abortion clinics operating across the state, and Planned Parenthood has announced plans to build a new clinic in downtown Birmingham. How do you feel about these clinics and what would you do as governor about any taxpayer funds they receive?

- I'm a pro-life Democrat who is concerned that many Republicans are more pro-birth than pro-life. Perhaps Sister Joan Chittister best summed up my feelings when she said "I do not believe that just because you're opposed to abortion, that that makes you pro-life. In fact, I think in many cases, your morality is deeply lacking if all you want is a child born but not a child fed, not a child educated, not a child housed. And why would I think that you don't? Because you don't want any tax money to go there. That's not pro-life. That's pro-birth. We need a much broader conversation on what the morality of pro-life is."
- Although I am personally opposed to abortion, under the law of the land a woman has a right to choose up until the point of fetal viability. The federal Hyde Amendment prohibits use of federal funds to pay for abortions except those that endanger the life of the woman, or that result from rape or incest, and Alabama law does not provide any state funds for abortions. The courts will ultimately decide which of Alabama's several laws regulating abortion are constitutional, including any restrictions on new abortion clinics. As a governor sworn to uphold the federal and state constitutions and the laws of Alabama, I will faithfully execute Alabama's laws within the constitutional limits defined by the Supreme Court.

EDUCATION

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Alabama is ranked number forty-seven on U.S. News and World Report's list of Best States for Education, and ranked number 1 in Pre-Kindergarten quality. As far as public education reforms, there have been many suggestions for improvement including increased investment in STEM education, distance learning, and reforming teacher tenure. What reforms would you propose or support to improve public education and prepare Alabama's children for school success and lifelong learning?

- Initiatives for reform arise from good intentions, but they all run head on into a major problem: chronic underfunding. My proposal for the Alabama Education Lottery will infuse Alabama with \$300 million new dollars annually, to be spent in four major areas: Universal First Class Pre-K,

to extend Alabama's top tier Pre-K program to all of our children instead of less than a quarter or a third of 4-year olds; The Foundation Program Promise, which will help close the funding gap between schools systems with fewer resources and those with more; Community Innovation Grants, which will provide wrap around services to address problems like mental health and poor family environments which prevent learning; and College Scholarships and Workforce Readiness, which will be there for our high school graduates to lift themselves even higher.

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Eric Mackey was recently named Alabama's next State Superintendent of Education. The governor serves as a voting member of the Alabama State Board of Education. What vision for Alabama do you share with the new superintendent and where do your philosophies differ? How will you prioritize Alabama's school children in your role on the Board?

- I look forward to working with Dr. Mackey and learning more about his philosophy of education. I agree with much of what I know about him, that Alabama needs long-term solutions instead of quick fixes, and that education curricula must be more rigorous, with an emphasis on preparing students for a 21st century economy based on information and technology. I admire his work in helping make Alabama Pre-K a highly respected program, which still needs to be expanded statewide. I will expect Dr. Mackey to elevate Alabama's public schools. That starts with closing the funding gaps between schools where property values are high and rural schools which struggle. Our schools also need more wrap around services because health, mental health, and social problems all stand in the way of learning. My Alabama Education Lottery will address all these issues as well as send more students to colleges, universities, and work force training.

SCHOOL SAFETY

The recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida reignited the discussion about school safety. President Trump has suggested arming teachers while others have argued for increased use of school resource officers and funding for mental health programs. As governor, how would you ensure the safety of Alabama's children in public schools?

- My School Safety Plan was released earlier this year and calls for five areas of action. (1) We must harden our schools through better design standards, use of technology, and the presence of armed law enforcement security officers. (2) Faculty, staff, and security officers at all schools must be trained in the proper reaction to active threats. (3) Ban weapons at schools except those possessed by trained security personnel. (4) Develop protocols to identify and act upon potential attackers. (5) Support reasonable gun control measures like universal background checks, higher age limits for the purchase of assault weapons, and keeping guns out of the hands of criminals, the mentally ill who are a danger to themselves or others, and those on the terrorist watch list.

SCHOOL CHOICE

In 2015, Alabama became the 43rd state to approve legislation to authorize charter schools. Many states now allow parents to transfer their child from a failing public school to a non-failing public

school, to utilize education savings accounts or school vouchers, or to send students to alternative schools using tax-credit scholarships, allowing parents greater control in their child's educational endeavors. How should school choice fit into Alabama's education system?

- I'm certainly for better schools but charter schools and use of public funds for private schools don't appear to be the answer their advocates claim. Rather they're just another source of controversy and a diversion of public funds from school that are already underfunded. What I'd prefer to see is all the momentum and energy behind advocating for school choice be put into making all our public schools better. Many of the ideas behind alternative schooling can be generalized, but this should be done within the system that serves all public school children.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

TAX CODE

[In Alabama](#), the bottom 20% of earners pay 10% of their income in state and local taxes while the top 1% only pays 3.8% of their income in the same taxes. If elected, what would be the future of the state income tax and do you see this disparity as a problem?

- Alabama's regressive tax structure problems involves more than just its income tax. Powerful land owners have long successfully lobbied to keep property taxes low. This in turn causes an unhealthy dependency on income, sales, and other taxes, which for the most part are not distributed according to wealth or ability to pay. Once Alabama is ready to have a serious discussion with itself and face the truth, it will be possible to enact revenue neutral tax reform that distributes the burden of operating state and local governments in alignment with how wealth is distributed. Those with an interest in keeping the current system falsely characterize such tax reform as tax increases or redistributions of wealth, and it is that perception that we must overcome before reforms win the support of the people.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

According to the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, Alabama boasts the [12th most regressive](#) state and local tax system in the nation. One contributor to this ranking is our combined 9% grocery tax (only four states tax groceries more than Alabama). In 2017, Governor Bentley proposed decreasing the grocery tax by 4%. If you are elected, would you suggest changes to the grocery tax?

- I support eliminating the state sales tax on groceries. But to do so we must offset the lost revenues with another source. One idea is to eliminate the state deduction for federal income taxes, which would require a constitutional amendment to be voted on by the people. Unfortunately, at the local level, state law limits sources of revenue municipalities and counties can adopt, which would make eliminating local sales taxes on groceries impossible unless a new source of revenue replaces it. We must look at ways to free up the dependency of local governments from sales taxes so that all taxes on groceries can be eliminated.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

US News [ranks](#) Alabama's roads and bridges as the 16th and 21st best in the country, respectively. Even so, every neighbor of ours—except Mississippi—has roads and bridges that rank in the top 10. Alabama also ranks 45th in terms of broadband access. If elected, what would you prioritize as the

most important infrastructure investment projects, and what innovative options would you propose to fund such projects?

- I support the plan put forth by the Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure, which was founded by the Business Council of Alabama, Chambers of Commerce across the state, businesses, industry associations, and professional groups – all of whom understand that quality roads and bridges are critical to improving Alabama's economy. Not only must we take a long, hard look at our decreasing fuel tax revenues, which today bring in the equivalent of 35 cents per gallon less than in the mid-1990s, we also must look toward the future as hybrid and electric vehicles continue to cause the same wear and tear on roadways while paying less in fuel taxes. We get what we pay for, and right now we're paying for roads and bridges that become more dangerous every day and are less attractive to new industries.

STATE-RUN LOTTERY

Most states resort to installing a state-run lottery to increase revenue and pay for government projects. Do you support a lottery to solve the state's fiscal woes? Why or why not?

- The Alabama Education Lottery is a cornerstone of my campaign. It will bring in \$300 million every year to make college more affordable for Alabama students, expand Pre-K to every child in the state, provide wrap around services to address health, mental health, and social problems that prevent learning, and close the funding gap between school systems in high and low property value districts.

THE RIGHT TO WORK

JOB CREATION

The Census Bureau [suggests](#) that Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee are creating more jobs than Alabama. As governor, how would you foster job creation that rivals our neighbors to the north, east, and south?

- The first thing we must do is get our workforce ready for jobs of the 21st century. This is an employer's number one concern and so it should be our number one priority. The Alabama Education Lottery will provide funding for workforce development and apprenticeships as well as higher educational attainment, and restructuring our workforce development efforts to be more effective and efficient will make every dollar invested in our future count. Second, we must rebuild our crumbling roads and bridges. Economic development cannot happen if new businesses and industries have no confidence that essential transportation infrastructure will be in place. Alabama is blessed with a strong work ethic, abundant natural resources, and a geographic location that puts us in position to lead the south in job and wage growth. All we need are the missing pieces of the puzzle that have been neglected for too long.

ROLE OF LABOR

Alabama is a right-to-work state. In your opinion, what is the proper role of organized labor and

should Alabama remain a right-to-work state?

- I support the right of labor to organize. The minds and muscles of Alabama workers are the backbone of all our industries, and those workers have a legal right to unite for the betterment of them all. Unions have done so much to help wage growth and job safety of working people. Understanding this, in 2016, Alabama voters included right to work as part of our constitution. Therefore, so long as it remains the law of Alabama, as governor I will be sworn to uphold the individual rights of all workers, even as I continue to support the right of workers to unite for their common good.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING IN ALABAMA

The state of Alabama licenses 151 different occupations and over 20% of Alabama workers need a license to work. If elected, how would address these regulations—regulations that both the Obama and Trump administrations have regarded as problematic?

- Much of Alabama’s occupational licensing structure is an inconsistent, ad hoc, unreasonable mess. Licensing should be about assuring only that individuals who perform services to the public are qualified and properly regulated, and should not be an income generator that squeezes money out of multiple layers of the same business and falls disproportionately on lower wage jobs. We should start with common sense reforms. Many lower level licenses can be subsumed by license holders who are responsible for their performance. For example, there’s no need to require a license to shampoo someone’s hair when a licensed cosmetologist is responsible for 100% of the training, approval, and supervision of the person doing the shampoo. We must eliminate duplicative and unnecessary licensing boards. We must align fees for licenses that legitimately have rigorous standards with the costs of administration.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

[According to the CDC](#), Alabama is the state highest-prescribed with opioids, with more prescriptions than people. Opioids are the main driver of overdose deaths and, in 2016, 756 Alabamians died from drug overdoses. As governor, how would you tackle Alabama’s share of this national crisis?

- The expansion of Medicaid is a major first step in overcoming many of Alabama’s problems, including opioid and other drug abuse. The expansion will increase the availability of and access to treatment and counseling that we so desperately need. We also need to improve prescription drug monitoring and make medical treatments more widely available, like Suboxone, which alleviates the pain of opioid withdrawal but is too expensive for most to afford without assistance. Detox units, residential and outpatient services, consultation among addiction specialists and other providers must be expanded. UAB’s Addiction Recovery Program provides an effective model that can be replicated statewide for a medically supervised approach to early sobriety including intensive therapy, 12-step fellowship, trauma and grief work, and family support. Overdose remedies like Narcan must be widely available to both emergency first responders and the general public. We must implement common sense initiatives like warm handoffs so that people who seek emergency medical treatment for drug overdoses are automatically connected to a treatment program – and, of course, that begins

by make sure treatment programs are available.

CRIME PREVENTION

Alabama has the [third highest murder rate](#) in the country. As governor, how would you address crime and what policies, specifically, would you propose?

- The governor should meet with leaders in law enforcement and experts in criminal conduct to find the most effective ways to reduce crime, with consideration given to such approaches as keeping children in school longer – a proven deterrent to criminal behavior; identification of threats in the community; behavioral intervention programs; using technology tools that detect patterns of criminal behavior and provide evidence to make arrests; providing our youth with opportunities for learning skills, recreation, and service to the community as alternatives to drugs and crimes; hot spot and focused policing – faster reaction to crime trends to proactively stop crimes from being committed; eliminate blighted housing; community policing; and responsible and reasonable gun laws.

PRISON REFORMS

Alabama has received national attention for the state of its prisons and a federal judge recently called inmate care “horrendously inadequate”. How would you address this issue, and do you support the use of private prisons?

- Alabama’s prison system is driven largely by court order or continuing efforts to stave off court orders, and private prisons are a pathway to even more headaches. Nobody like to talk about prisons, but it is our duty as a society to provide safe and secure prisons that comply with standards of human decency while also serving their punitive purpose. Our prison system is severely overcrowded and are at risk for federal court takeover. We are not rehabilitating our prisoners or treating those with mental health problems, which puts them at high risk to commit further crimes and return to prison. Once we embrace the fact that 90% of prisoners will one day return to society, then perhaps we can accept the fact that rehabilitation of prisoners – with educational opportunities, job skill training, and mental health and drug abuse treatment – is just as important as meting out punishment for the crime.

CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE

Some states are eliminating provisions that allow police to seize property without securing a criminal conviction. Do you support the use of civil asset forfeiture by law enforcement and the provision that allows agencies to keep the proceeds of seized property? Why or why not?

- Civil asset forfeiture can be an effective tool in combatting drug trafficking. However, there are too many stories about people who are never charged with crimes falling victim to the relatively low standards for seizing property when there is a mere suspicion of criminal activity. I believe in the 2nd amendment, but I also believe in the due process clause of the 14th amendment. But before we eliminate what can be an effective law enforcement tool, we need to gather evidence of how Alabama law enforcement agencies are using civil forfeitures. Therefore I support the bill that failed in the last legislative session to require detailed reporting by law enforcement agencies as to how and when assets are

seized, the suspected crime underling the seizure, how the funds or assets are used by the agency, whether there was ultimately a conviction in the case, and similar data. We also need to consider whether funds from forfeited assets should continue to go to the law enforcement agencies or instead into the general funds of state and local governments. This would remove the so-called profit motive from law enforcement. We must work toward the day when assets are not seized unless there's strong assurance they were used in criminal activity, ideally only after a conviction. Gathering data so that we may formulate strategies that fight crime effectively while retaining fundamental fairness in our justice system is the best start.

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ALABAMA ARISE QUESTIONNAIRE

POSTED AT

PART 1: <https://arisecitizens.org/index.php/publications-topmenu-32/fact-sheets-topmenu-36/state-government-topmenu-52/4209-governor-candidates-answer-arise-questions-on-taxes-budgets>

PART 2: <https://arisecitizens.org/index.php/publications-topmenu-32/fact-sheets-topmenu-36/state-government-topmenu-52/4210-governor-candidates-answer-arise-questions-on-housing-lending-transportation>

1. Alabama is one of three states that give no state tax break on groceries, and we have the highest income tax in the nation for a family of four at the poverty line. In most states, this family would not pay income tax at all. How would you change Alabama's upside-down tax system?

- I support eliminating the state sales tax on groceries. But to do so we must offset the lost revenues with another source. One idea is to eliminate the state deduction for federal income taxes, which would require a constitutional amendment to be voted on by the people. We also must find a way to amend the tax structure so that people living below the poverty line do not pay income taxes.

2. Alabama's General Fund budget has a chronic structural deficit, with stagnant funding sources that cannot keep up with ordinary cost growth in Medicaid, mental health care and corrections. How would you ensure adequate, stable revenue for the General Fund?

- The best way to secure funding is to grow the tax base by creating new and better jobs. Workforce training and affordable college is part of my Alabama Education Lottery. That, plus infrastructure improvements will attract new employers. Expanding Medicaid will infuse our economy over the first six years with \$28 billion in increased business activity, \$17 billion added to the state's gross domestic product, and \$10 billion added to the wages of Alabama workers; and create 30,000 new high-paying jobs. The solutions are there, they just need to be implemented.

3. The Legislature has now created the infrastructure for both an Alabama Housing Trust Fund and an Alabama Public Transportation Trust Fund. Would you commit to providing funding for these trust funds? If not, how do you propose to address the lack of affordable housing and transportation, especially in rural areas?

- Lack of housing and public transportation are persistent problems that must be addressed because, among other things, they contribute to chronic unemployment and underemployment. Helping people find and keep jobs is one of the most successful ways to eliminate poverty. I will reach across aisles and across the state to find agreement on ways to fund these programs.

4. Alabama law allows payday lenders to impose fees that add up to an Annual Percentage Rate (APR) as high as 456 percent. Would you favor extending the repayment period on payday loans in Alabama from the current 14 days to 30 days, effectively cutting their APR in half (from 456 percent APR to 213 percent)?

- By attaching outrageous interest rates to easy to obtain loans, predatory lending creates vicious cycles that can make desperate people even more desperate. I am open and committed to looking at various ways to protect vulnerable populations from such practices.

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ALABAMA TODAY QUESTIONNAIRE

CANNOT LOCATE ANY OF THEIR QUESTIONNAIRES ONLINE

1. Significant other? How long married? Kids?
 - Stephanie Maddox, married since 2010
 - Daughter, Taylor age 15
 - Son, Eli age 4

2. Education background? Professional background?

- I am a Tuscaloosa native and graduated from Central High School in 1991. I earned my bachelor's degree in political science and master's degree of public administration degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.
- In 1996, I began my professional career as a Field Director with the Alabama Education Association. In 2001, I was appointed Executive Director of Personnel for the Tuscaloosa City Schools. In that same year, I was elected as City Councilman for the Sixth District. In 2005, I was inaugurated to my first term as Tuscaloosa's 36th Mayor. I have been re-elected to four consecutive terms since.

3. What was your first job before college/adulthood and after?

- Bag boy at Bruno's

4. In 25 words or less, why are you running for office?

- I want to lead Alabama into the top ten, top five, or even first in quality of life rankings. Let's aim higher and do better!

5. Did you speak with anybody in your political party before deciding on running? Receive any encouragement? From whom?

- I received encouragement and guidance from many people on both sides of the aisle. First, of course, I discussed running with my wife and family, and we agreed that the personal sacrifices needed to run a successful campaign were fully justified by the gains and benefits our policies and leadership would bring to state office. My friends, politically savvy people in business, and current and former colleagues confirmed in my mind that my candidacy for governor was not only likely to be successful, but that the spirit and progress of Tuscaloosa could be scaled to the benefit of the state.

6. Who do you count on for advice besides significant other or clergy?

- My wife Stephanie is first chair among my advisors. Michael Putt – he is a dear friend that was on the UAB football team with me provides frank and valuable feedback. I have also been able to surround myself with a campaign staff who care about Alabama as much as I do and who work hard every day. I listen to the people who come to rallies and other events, because they know better than experts what's the problems are that should be addressed by state government.

7. Who is your political consultant? Campaign manager?

- Matrix, LLC
- Madolyn Kirby

8. Who was the first person to contribute to your campaign? Why did they donate?

- I was, because I believe in this campaign. I was advised that I could make a loan to my campaign and then repay myself through fundraising, but I would not put myself in a position to ask for contributions from others unless I was also ready to put my own money where my mouth was. I believe we will win, and so I'm a happy contributor.

9. Who, if anyone, inspires you in state government?

- First are the thousands of state employees and school teachers who show up every day with an attitude to help make Alabama better. While we can always find ways to be more efficient, and should always fight waste and bureaucratic red tape, the fact is that the state would grind to a halt without these dedicated men and women.
- Among elected officials, I'm inspired by all those who put the people first, ahead of party or ideology. In my mind, there aren't democratic solutions or republican solution, but Alabama solutions to the challenges we face. Whether it's getting a good education for your children, having access to quality healthcare, getting a job with good pay and benefits, or traveling safely on our highways, there are many issues facing everyday Alabamians, and together we can find solutions.

Why do people mistrust elected officials and what are you going to do about it?

- Past and current public officials too often have forgotten who elected them, who they serve, who the customer is. Catering to special interests and serving self have been the standard, and the people of Alabama are tired of that same old song. I was recently reelected in Tuscaloosa with 89 percent of the vote. I believe the citizens of Tuscaloosa trust me because they expect an open and honest government and that's what I would bring to Montgomery. I was recently reelected in Tuscaloosa with 89 percent of the vote. I believe the citizens of Tuscaloosa trust me because they expect and open and honest government and that's what I would bring to Montgomery.

10. What are 3 specific policy positions that you're running on? (Please don't simply say "education" or "improving the schools")

- Alabama Education Lottery. If the voters approve my lottery plan, it will bring in \$300 million every year to make college more affordable for Alabama students, expand Pre-K to every child in the state, provide wrap around services to address health, mental health, and social problems that prevent learning, and close the funding gap between school systems in high and low property value districts.

- Medicaid expansion. This will pump billions of dollars into Alabama's economy, help save our rural hospitals from further devastating closures, provide better services to children, the elderly, the disabled, and hardworking people who cannot afford health insurance; and act as an economic stimulus by creating high paying jobs, both in traditional healthcare and in the development of new medical technologies that benefit everyone.
- Roads and bridges. I will lead the Legislature to adopt the plan by the Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure to address critical needs for our roads and bridges.

11. What is a "disruptive" issue (i.e. ride-sharing) you are interested in?

- Both the neglect in Alabama of mental health services and the crisis in the Alabama prison system are major problems that only get larger the longer we ignore them.

12. Name one current state law you would want repealed?

- We need a change to the constitutional amendment that prohibits lotteries, so that we can create the Alabama Education Lottery and keep Alabama dollars here to help our own citizens instead of sending our hard earned money to surrounding states.

13. Who was the best governor in Alabama's modern history?

- Jim Folsom. His efforts in bringing Mercedes Benz have ignited our Tuscaloosa area economy since.

14. What will set you apart from other candidates in this race?

- I am focused on results, not rhetoric. Ideals, not ideology.

15. What's the first thing you read each morning?

- Emails. Whether it's a constituent, fellow public servant, or journalist, everyone has the right to expect an elected official to hear their concerns and respond in a meaningful way.

16. Where do you get your political news?

- I follow #alpolitics on Twitter because it leads to professional news reports on the issues of the day, and I love Morning Joe. I like to read a variety of news sources from the different realms of politics and journalism so that I make sure to not get stuck in a rut that merely reinforces my existing beliefs. All of us need to continually challenge our own world view to make sure it stands up in the long run.

17. Favorite TV series?

- Modern Family

18. Social media presence? Twitter handle? Facebook? Who posts you, campaign staff, combination?

- <https://www.facebook.com/WaltMaddoxAL/>
- Twitter: @WaltMaddox
- Instagram: waltmaddox
- Combination of posters are responsible for content. One person can't do everything.

19. In 140 characters, what's a Tweet that best describes your campaign message.

- Our state is in a crisis. If we don't do something today, there will not be a tomorrow with safe infrastructure, access to healthcare, and good paying jobs for hardworking Alabamians. #believe

20. Hobbies?

- Running, reading, studying WWII history, spending time with my family

22. Favorite sport and sports team?

- Football
- My alma mater: UAB Blazers

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2018 Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire

POSTED AT <http://www.conservationlabama.org/walt-maddox>

WWW.CONSERVATIONALABAMA.ORG

Will you protect the Forever Wild Land Trust?

- Yes, I fully support this important conservation program. I join the 84% of Alabama voters who

first authorized Forever Wild in 1992, and the 75% who renewed it in 2012, in applauding the success of its mission. Assuming the Trust continues its remarkable record in preserving Alabama's natural resources – something it has done for over a quarter century without raising taxes, without using tax revenues, and without the power of eminent domain – I would support another extension in 2032.

Will you publicly oppose any bills that threaten the Forever Wild Land Trust?

- Yes. I will oppose attempts to reverse the will of the voters who overwhelmingly approved the Forever Wild constitutional amendments. For example, backdoor legislation has been introduced – and thus far defeated – attempting to undermine Forever Wild by mandating new expenditures that would divert funds from its core mission. I will make sure everyone is reminded that the people of Alabama have spoken clearly in favor of Forever Wild and will veto any bill that threatens its primary purpose.

In order to protect our freshwater resources, do you support the completion of a comprehensive water plan for Alabama?

- Yes. Alabama needs to join its neighboring states and adopt a comprehensive, sustainable water management plan. With more than 130,000 miles of rivers and streams, over a hundred public lakes, 20 major aquifers, 55 inches of annual rainfall, and 15% of all surface water in the lower 48 flowing through our state, Alabama is blessed with abundant water resources that shouldn't be left to ad hoc management practices.

What is your vision for how oil spill dollars can be utilized to restore coastal Alabama?

- Funds related to disasters like the oil spill first should be used to remedy the direct problems caused by the disaster, and then be used to address the indirect and secondary effects. That Alabama has in the past tapped the oil settlement to plug unrelated funding gaps demonstrates how shortsightedness in Montgomery continues to cause long term problems. For example the use of oil spill compensation to fill Medicaid shortfalls means that Medicaid is still to this day underfunded (because we haven't accepted Medicaid expansion), and funds that should have been spent on oil spill remediation have been used for the wrong purpose.

Will you support legislation that would increase Alabamians' ability to choose solar energy for their homes and businesses?

- Policies should be instituted that encourage the use of renewable energy sources. We should recognize that people who install solar panels on their homes are making a choice that benefits all of society, and therefore consideration should be given to incentives that encourage both utilities and homeowners to shift to solar power.

What do you think are the most important conservation issues in Alabama right now?

- We need to make sure that everyone in Alabama benefits from our state’s beauty and recreational opportunities, not just those who can afford to buy large tracts of land from which the public is excluded.

In your opinion, what is the governor’s role in supporting conservation in Alabama?

- The governor must be a leader who sets priorities and values, who faithfully executes the conservation and environmental laws of Alabama, and who proposes policy changes to strengthen protection of Alabama’s natural resources

Please describe any experience you have with Alabama’s natural environment or with conservation.

- My experience has given me opportunity for both environmental protection and conservation. Under my leadership as Mayor, the City of Tuscaloosa has and continues to engage in these protections for our natural resources and environment:
 - Lakes Nicol and Harris and the surrounding lands were formally dedicated as parks, which means they cannot be sold or developed without a vote of the people of Tuscaloosa.
 - Following the catastrophic tornado of April 27, 2011, the City made the strategic decision to replace destroyed environmental service vehicles with recycling trucks, bringing universal curbside recycling to the people of Tuscaloosa.
 - City of Tuscaloosa Stormwater Management Program was awarded Silver Level designation for Innovation and Program Management by the Water Environment Federation.
 - The City’s sanitary sewer overflow notification system was updated to give public notice of each and every sewer overflow, whether or not notice is required by law.
 - Engineering Environmental Compliance Coordinator position was created to assure the City complies with federal and state environmental laws.
 - The City’s septic tank registration and inspection requirements were upheld against a court challenge that went to the appellate courts of Alabama. The City regulates septic tanks in the drainage basin of Lake Tuscaloosa, the City’s most valuable asset and source of drinking water for most of Tuscaloosa County.
 - The City continues with robust programs in land development regulation, flood plain management, water quality testing, water and sewer system upgrades, lake dredging, erosion control, drainage system upgrades, anti-litter ordinances, and enforcement actions.

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The Decatur Daily and TimesDaily Questionnaire

POSTED AT THEN SCROLL DOWN:

http://www.timesdaily.com/news/elections/democrats-where-gubernatorial-candidates-stand-on-issues/article_6a13e6fd-dac4-5016-a655-71a767802138.html#tncms-source=article-nav-next

Biography information

Name: Walt Maddox

Party: Democratic

City of residence: Tuscaloosa, AL

Age: 45

Family: Wife Stephanie, daughter Taylor, son Eli

Occupation: Mayor of Tuscaloosa

Previous elected office held and/or sought: Tuscaloosa City Council (2001-2005), Mayor of Tuscaloosa (2005-present)

Education: B.A. in political science and Master of Public Administration, both from UAB.

Platform:

- Our state is in a crisis. It's the same crisis we've been facing for the last seven years. Pretending everything is okay is not okay. If we don't do something today, there will not be a tomorrow with safe infrastructure, access to healthcare, and good paying jobs.
- It's time for a New Covenant between our leaders in Montgomery and the people they serve. A Covenant where our leaders wake up every day ready to fight for the people and not parties.
- By placing results above rhetoric, we will forge a New Covenant that will make a real difference in the issues facing Alabamians.

Issue questions:

1. **To date, Gov. Kay Ivey has not participated in debates. What's one question she should have to answer publicly?**

- Given that Medicaid expansion would infuse Alabama’s economy with billions and billions of new dollars without raising taxes, provide health insurance to hundreds of thousands of working Alabamians who are currently priced out of the market, help reverse the trend of rural hospital closings, foster new medical advances that benefit everyone, that expansion is the morally right thing to do, and that the former governor’s rationale to not expand was based on the lie that it’s a handout to able bodied people, why have you continued the mistake of declining free federal money and the backward policy of not expanding Medicaid?
- As a bonus question I’d also like to know why her political ads focus on the culture wars that divide us instead of the issues that affect the actual lives of everyday Alabamians.

2. Gov. Ivey and former Gov. Robert Bentley created task forces to study the state’s opioid crisis. What actions would you take as governor to curb opioid addiction and death rates?

- The expansion of Medicaid is a major first step in overcoming many of Alabama’s problems, including opioid and other drug abuse. The expansion will increase the availability of and access to treatment and counseling that we so desperately need. We also need to improve prescription drug monitoring and make medical treatments more widely available, like Suboxone, which alleviates the pain of opioid withdrawal but is too expensive for most to afford without assistance. Detox units, residential and outpatient services, consultation among addiction specialists and other providers must be expanded. UAB’s Addiction Recovery Program provides an effective model that can be replicated statewide for a medically supervised approach to early sobriety including intensive therapy, 12-step fellowship, trauma and grief work, and family support. Overdose remedies like Narcan must be widely available to both emergency first responders and the general public. We must implement common sense initiatives like warm handoffs so that people who seek emergency medical treatment for drug overdoses are automatically connected to a treatment program – and, of course, that begins by make sure treatment programs are available.

3. In the recent legislative session, multiple bills related to school safety were discussed, including one to arm teachers. Would you sign a bill that allowed teachers to carry firearms in classrooms? What, if anything, would you do to improve school safety?

- I would veto any bill that required or allowed school teachers to be armed. My School Safety Plan was released earlier this year and calls for five areas of action. (1) We must harden our schools through better design standards, use of technology, and the presence of armed law enforcement security officers. (2) Faculty, staff, and security officers at all schools must be trained in the proper reaction to active threats. (3) Ban weapons at schools except those possessed by trained security personnel. (4) Develop protocols to identify and act upon potential attackers. (5) Support common sense gun control measures like universal background checks, higher age limits for the purchase of assault weapons, and keeping guns out of the hands of criminals, the mentally ill who are a danger to themselves or others, and those on the terrorist watch list.

4. The 2019 General Fund, buoyed by the BP oil spill settlement money, had increases for many state agencies. That money won't be available in 2020. Most years, finding money to pay for state services is a struggle for elected officials. What might you do differently?

- The Alabama Education Lottery is a cornerstone of my campaign. It will bring in \$300 million every year to make college and work force training more affordable for Alabama students, expand Pre-K to every child in the state, provide wrap around services to address health, mental health, and social problems that prevent learning, and close the funding gap between school systems in high and low property value districts.
- Medicaid expansion is perhaps the most straight forward path to infusing billions and billions of dollars into Alabama's economy, shoring up our budgets and pushing Alabama forward. This is such an obvious step forward that our leaders who have declined the expansion based on falsehoods should be called to account for the disservice they've done to our citizens.
- I also support the Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure plan to address the critical needs for our roads and bridges, a deteriorating transportation system that inhibits economic development. By addressing work force development, the funding gaps created by failure to expand Medicaid, and fixing our crumbling roads and bridges, we enhance the quality of life through more and higher paying jobs, promote economic expansion by answering the needs of new businesses and factories looking for new locations, and expand our tax base.

5. During the recent public interviews of candidates for state superintendent, each mentioned inequities in per-student funding among the state's school systems,

with cities often spending more than rural systems. What, if any, changes in education funding need to be made in Montgomery?

- The basic funding mechanism for schools is the Alabama Foundation Program, which requires a minimum of 10 mils in property tax for each school district. This means that inequity is automatically built into our funding system because the value of a single mil in the more affluent districts is as high as \$5,000,000 whereas in other districts it can be as low as \$15,000. One component of my Alabama Education Lottery would proportionality distribute \$60,000,000 annually to school districts with lower mil values, without raising taxes and without taking away anything from districts that are better funded.

6. Alabama's GDP growth lagged behind most of its neighboring states between 2016 and 2017. Why?

- First of all we need to stop comparing ourselves just to our surrounding states and instead compare ourselves to the leading states in the country. If we aim higher, with the right leadership we'll start scoring higher marks.
- Better workforce development, improved roads and bridges, higher educational attainment, better and expanded healthcare through Medicaid expansion, and eliminating corruption in public office are all keys to moving Alabama forward to be a leader among states instead of always playing catch up.

7. What is the worst piece of legislation to become law in the last five years?

- HB 317 which inserted a huge loophole in Alabama's Ethics laws is a good example of terrible legislation. It was wrong on several levels. First, is the substance of the bill, allowing the use of "economic development" as a cover for lobbying activity. Anyone who approaches government asking for assistance with a project should be subject to the rules followed by lobbyists, including registration, reporting, and gift limitations. This broad brush exemption invites abuse and corruption without transparency and accountability. There are ways to address special needs for confidentiality for emerging economic development opportunities without gutting our ethics laws. Second, it sets the wrong tone, that Alabama politicians are so eager to talk to lobbyists without public oversight that we'll put loopholes in the Ethics laws. Finally, Alabamians should watch very carefully as this law sunsets next year – being alert that claims of "see, there's been no abuse" will be used to make it permanent. If that happens then "economic developers" – which is not defined in the law – will have full access to elected officials without the public having the right to know, and economic developers will start coming out of the woodwork.

8. What is the biggest challenge facing the state and how would you fix it?

- It's impossible to name just one. Alabama faces chronic underfunding for education and state services; resistance to policies that will make us better, such as Medicaid expansion; lagging workforce development; education inequality caused by the widely varying funding formulas for Alabama's public schools; and false culture wars that seek to divide us instead of unite us, are some of the most pressing issues. I'm not intimidated by these challenges, and I have put forth plans and ideas to address each one.

9. Why Should Alabamians elect you?

- My career has proven that as governor I will provide strong, ethical leadership, that I have the ability to work across party lines to implement effective policies, and that I will always put the people of Alabama first.



CLEAN AIR. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

POSTED AT, THEN MUST SCROLL DOWN AND CLICK ON "RESPONSES"

TAB:

<https://gaspgroup.org/2018-primary/>

Current Occupation/Office *

Mayor of Tuscaloosa

Campaign Website *

waltmaddox.com

Facebook URL

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltMaddoxAL/>

Twitter Handle

[@WaltMaddox](https://twitter.com/WaltMaddox)

1. Do you support the Clean Air Act, which allows the EPA and state agencies to set science-based air quality standards for criteria pollutants (e.g., ozone and particulate matter), air toxics (e.g., arsenic and benzene), and greenhouse gases (e.g., carbon dioxide and methane)? Please explain your answer.
 -
 - Yes, I support the Clean Air Act. Environmental regulations may be the best example of the adage that forgetting the past dooms one to repeat it. Before the landmark environmental laws of the 1960s and 1970s, our air and water were in serious trouble. Smoke filled the skies, releasing dangerous pollution that affected health and productivity, and our rivers were catching fire. The science based approaches of our environmental laws means that regulations have a legitimate purpose based on facts. A recent study found that the Clean Air Act not only significantly reduced air pollution, it also put extra dollars in workers' paychecks.
2. Describe your position on climate change and related policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
 - I embrace the indisputable science that proves that climate change is real and highly affected by human activity. We should take reasonable measures to reduce our dependency on pollution-causing fossil fuels by supporting solar, wind, and other clean energies. Of course there's limited effect an individual state can have without strong national and international policies. For that reason, I encourage the Trump administration to revisit its policies that reduce the effectiveness of our environmental laws, so that there is an effective, coordinated effort to reduce greenhouse gasses.

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3. How will you promote energy efficiency and clean energy in Alabama?

- We need to spread the truth about the relationship between clean energy and the economy. Solar, wind, and other innovative energy technologies are an opportunity to build on Alabama’s history of creating jobs in more traditional fields such as coal and methane production. Georgia has 4,310 solar jobs, Tennessee has 4,411, and South Carolina has 2,829, but Alabama has fewer than 500 solar jobs, ranking us 49th per capita in solar energy employment. We want coal miners to go back to work, but the truth is that solar and wind industries employ nine times more workers than coal. In fact, the only occupations expected to double by 2026, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, are clean-energy jobs like solar-panel installers and wind-turbine technicians. We should be investing in the abundance of free sunshine throughout the state and where feasible, wind power along the gulf coast.

4. What will you do to work for climate justice and a just transition to an equitable and sustainable economy?

- We must recognize that minority communities have long received the brunt of our polluting activities and receive slow responses with few answers when the negative effects are felt. Eight Mile community near Prichard has been suffering from a mercaptan chemical spill for years. As governor, I would declare Eight Mile an emergency calling for a strong response. Children in Lowndes County play near open sewage that’s so bad that hookworm – once thought to be eradicated in America – has caused widespread infestations on par with developing countries. Our urban centers are not immune. Birmingham ranks in the top 15 urban areas in the United States that have the largest disparity between predominantly white communities and predominantly African American communities in nitrogen dioxide levels, with African Americans exposed to 38 percent more of this dangerous pollutant compared to white people. Exposure to nitrogen dioxide can cause lung and heart disease, and contributes to early death.
- To combat these trends, as governor I will direct ADEM and other state regulators to consider environmental justice factors in all actions related to polluting activity, to the maximum extent allowed by law.

5. For you, what does a comprehensive and far-reaching climate resiliency plan for Alabama look like?

- It is very challenging for a state to go it alone in fighting a problem that readily crosses state and international borders. That's why I encourage the federal government to reverse its current trend in going backward in environmental protection. What Alabama can do is promote the economic benefit of clean energies, effectively addressing two major challenges at the same time: more and better jobs plus a cleaner environment.
6. Explain your stance on the goal of transitioning Alabama to a 100% carbon-free energy state?
 - Every state action that affects polluting activity should be subject to review. Of course we cannot undermine our economy by forcing sweeping changes that do not make economic sense. But if all costs and benefits of renewable, clean energies are factored in, we will soon see that it makes sense both environmentally and economically to transition toward a carbon-free energy world.
 7. What would you do to strengthen our public health systems to address the challenge of climate change?
 - Expand Medicaid. This would give hundreds of thousands of working and impoverished Alabama citizens access to healthcare they currently do not have. Once Medicaid is expanded, many other opportunities to enhance healthcare through new medical technologies will take place, while also growing jobs and wages,.
 8. What steps will you take to increase funding for public transit? How will you help improve walking and bicycling infrastructure in Alabama's cities?
 - Unfortunately the state has for far too long neglected its transportation system for motor vehicles, which endangers lives and prevents job growth. So that fundamental problem has to be addressed first. But we need to simultaneously realize that both our health and the economy are enhanced by more human-powered transportation. In Tuscaloosa, our Tuscaloosa Forward plan emphasizes pedestrian and bicycle friendly networks, and encourages or mandates installation of walking and biking features in transportation infrastructure. That same mindset should be brought to the entire state.
 9. Do you believe public utility companies like Alabama Power should be able to charge customers additional fees for installing solar panels on their own homes?
 - Policies should be instituted that encourage, not discourage the use of renewable energy sources. People who install solar panels on their homes should pay no more for electricity they buy from a

power company than is justified by the cost of providing that power, like any other customer.

10. What are your ideas on how to address the health disparities in communities located in close proximity to large facilities that emit a lot of pollution?

- The first thing we must do is address health disparities across the state. Expanding Medicaid will give hundreds of thousands working and impoverished citizens access to healthcare that they currently do not have. Next, we must assure that the review process for approving facilities that emit significant pollution is fair and equitable.

11. Alabama has seen widespread public corruption in every branch of government and at every level in recent years. Please describe your view on ethics and transparency in government and how to prevent future corruption.

- The key to fighting corruption is full transparency and accountability, compliance with all reporting and disclosure requirements, actively guarding against conflicts of interest, and total dedication to putting the interests of the people I serve first. The ethics law should be amended to prohibit persons from working in state government who are paid by someone other than the state; to prohibit misuse of state resources even when there is no personal gain; to cover those in romantic relationships with government officials or employees, in addition to spouses; and to prohibit those in authority from directing, initiating, or receiving reports on criminal investigation for political or personal purposes. I will mandate that all staff and cabinet members under the governor's control fully disclose all potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from any matter for which their impartiality reasonably could be questioned. Under my administration, the Governor's Office will implement the following office practices:
 - Disclose visitor logs of all who meet with the governor on official business
 - Disclose all assistance offered by the state for economic development
 - Mandate full compliance with public meeting and open records laws
 - Seek and facilitate public comment on significant proposals that would commit state resources
 - Exception will be allowed only for sensitive preliminary discussions and preparatory actions related to a major opportunity for the state that could be lost if confidentiality is not provided or maintained for a

period of time, and then only when conducted in full compliance with the law.

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- 12. What is your position on accepting campaign contributions from large businesses that pollute our air and water such as fossil fuel companies and utility companies? Please be specific.
 - Unfortunately, campaigns run on money, and I don't have enough to afford the luxury of turning down donations. But I make this promise to the people of Alabama: I will always put their interests first. I will never take any action for the purpose of pleasing a donor or securing the next contribution. If people who give money to my campaign don't like my actions in office, they are free to never donate again. I can't be bought and I won't be sold.
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[League of Women Voters Questionnaire](#)

CANNOT LOCATE ANY OF THEIR QUESTIONNAIRES ONLINE

1. **What are the three priority issues for the State of Alabama that you will address during your term in office? Please specify how you will do this.**
 - Alabama Education Lottery. If the voters approve my lottery plan, it will bring in \$300 million every year to make college more affordable for Alabama students, expand Pre-K to every child in the state, provide wrap around services to address health, mental health, and social problems that prevent learning, and close the funding gap between school systems in high and low property value districts.
 - Medicaid expansion. This will pump billions of dollars into Alabama's economy, help save our rural hospitals from further devastating closures, provide better services to children, the elderly, the disabled, and hardworking people who cannot afford health insurance; and act as an economic stimulus by creating high paying jobs, both in traditional healthcare and in the development of new medical technologies that benefit everyone.
 - Roads and bridges. I will lead the Legislature to adopt the plan by the Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure to address critical needs for our roads and bridges.

2. What is your long-term plan to address healthcare needs for children in Alabama? Specifically, how can we sustainably support the Alabama Medicaid Agency and ALL Kids?

- The failure to have already expanded Medicaid is one of the great shames in state government, especially since the rationale was based on the falsehood that it amounts to a handout to the able bodied. In reality, Medicaid is a lifeline for the elderly, disabled, children, and working people who are priced out of the insurance market. Expansion will infuse our economy with billions of new dollars and tens of thousands of new high paying jobs and provide advanced medical care to grow to the benefit of all Alabamians.

3. As the Alabama economy continues to grow and diversify, what specific actions will you take as Governor to ensure that Alabama is not actually or perceived as hostile to diverse cultures and beliefs to ensure continued economic growth and appeal to businesses?

- We must repudiate racism and tell the truth about the value of all people instead demonizing segments of our population with false claims that our jobs and culture are being stolen. When the odious Alabama Immigration Act was passed in 2011, and the city of Tuscaloosa was forced to comply with its mandates, as mayor I directed that our compliance statements in contracts and other transactions make it expressly clear that these measures were mandated by state law and were not city measures. It was important to me that those who had business dealings with the city of which I'm mayor understand that the unwelcoming mandates were required by state law, not the city. I will bring that same viewpoint to the governor's office.

4. As our climate changes, shifts in rainfall, increases in temperature, and sea-level rise will all have major impacts on economies and quality of life. What specific actions will you undertake to support Alabamians preparing for climate change?

- Alabama must promote the economic benefit of clean energies, effectively addressing two major challenges at the same time: more and better jobs plus a cleaner environment. We should spread the truth about the relationship between clean energy and the economy. Solar, wind, and other innovative energy technologies are an opportunity to build on Alabama's history of creating jobs in more traditional fields such as coal and methane production. Other southern states have many thousands of solar jobs, but Alabama has fewer than 500, ranking us 49th per capita in solar energy employment. We want coal miners to go back to

work, but the truth is that solar and wind industries employ nine times more workers than coal. In fact, the only occupations expected to double by 2026 are clean-energy jobs like solar-panel installers and wind-turbine technicians. We should be investing in the abundance of free sunshine throughout the state and where feasible, wind power along the gulf coast.

5. What single issue associated with Prison Reform are you most interested in pursuing? Please explain why and outline how you would address that issue.

- Rehabilitation. We are not preparing the 90% of our prison population that will one day reenter society with the skills needed to become productive citizens. We are returning inmate to society who have not been rehabilitated, which puts them at high risk to commit further crimes and return to prison. We must assure that inmates have access to and are incentivized to receive workforce training, education, counseling for drug and alcohol abuse, and mental health treatment. These initiatives will pay huge dividends in the long run. Prison should not be a picnic, but neither should it be a breeding ground for recidivism, and under my administration we will close the revolving doors that keep drawing the same people back into our prisons.

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[WVTM Questionnaire](#)

CANNOT LOCATE ANY OF THEIR QUESTIONNAIRES ONLINE

Candidate Name: Walt Maddox

Birth Date / Location: December 27, 1972/ Tuscaloosa

Family: Wife -- Stephanie Roberts Maddox, Daughter Taylor Maddox, Son Eli Maddox

Hometown: Tuscaloosa

Education: Central High School, University of Alabama at Birmingham where I earned both a bachelor's degree in political science and master of public administration degree.

Career: Alabama Education Association Field Director, Tuscaloosa City Schools Executive Director of Personnel, Tuscaloosa City Councilman, Mayor of Tuscaloosa

Campaign website, email, mailing address and campaign manager name:

Website: www.WaltMaddox.com

Email: info@waltmaddox.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 2233, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

Campaign Manager: Madolyn Kirby

Campaign Facebook and Twitter:

Facebook: @WaltMaddoxAL

Twitter: @WaltMaddox

Improving the Economy & Jobs:

- Today, 600,000 Alabamians are either unemployed or working in jobs that don't match their skills or their needs. Making matters worse, over 100,000 Alabamians commute to other states for work. The first thing we must do is get our workforce ready for jobs of the 21st century. This is an employer's number one concern and so it should be our number one priority. The Alabama Education Lottery will provide funding for workforce development and apprenticeships as well as higher educational attainment, and restructuring our workforce development efforts to be more effective and efficient will make every dollar invested in our future count. Second, we must rebuild our crumbling roads and bridges. Economic development cannot happen if new businesses and industries have no confidence that essential transportation infrastructure will be in place. Alabama is blessed with a strong work ethic, abundant natural resources, and a geographic location that puts us in position to lead the south in job and wage growth. All we need are the missing pieces of the puzzle that have been neglected for too long.

Handling the Opioid/Drug Crisis:

- The expansion of Medicaid is a major first step in overcoming many of Alabama's problems, including opioid and other drug abuse. The expansion will increase the availability of and access to treatment and counseling that we so desperately need. We also need to improve prescription drug monitoring and make medical treatments more widely available, like Suboxone, which alleviates the pain of opioid withdrawal but is too expensive for most to afford without assistance. Detox units, residential and outpatient services, consultation among addiction specialists

and other providers must be expanded. UAB's Addiction Recovery Program provides an effective model that can be replicated statewide for a medically supervised approach to early sobriety including intensive therapy, 12-step fellowship, trauma and grief work, and family support. Overdose remedies like Narcan must be widely available to both emergency first responders and the general public. We must implement common sense initiatives like warm handoffs so that people who seek emergency medical treatment for drug overdoses are automatically connected to a treatment program – and, of course, that begins by make sure treatment programs are available.

Improving Health Care:

- Alabama's health ranking is 47th in the nation, and if you live in rural Alabama, then your life expectancy is six months less than your fellow Alabamians and three years less than the rest of the nation. In the past seven years, eight rural hospitals have closed or are scheduled to be closed. Pediatricians, dentists, nursing home providers and mental health professionals are leaving smaller communities jeopardizing the continuum of care for tens of thousands of Alabamians, and eroding peace of mind for many more. Knowing all of this, Montgomery has refused to expand Medicaid which would have provided a \$1.8 billion infusion annually into Alabama's health care system by providing medical coverage for 331,000 working Alabamians, veterans, children and disabled. Expansion would mean Alabama will receive about a 20 to 1 return for each state dollar spent, infusing our economy over the first six years with \$28 billion in increased business activity, \$17 billion added to the state's gross domestic product, and \$10 billion added to the wages of Alabama workers; create 30,000 new high-paying jobs; and advancing new technologies like precision medicine and genetic therapies that will benefit everyone. Instead, solely because of politics, medical care in Alabama has been vastly diminished and an opportunity to grow a new economy has been wasted.

Tackling Immigration Issues:

- As Mayor of Tuscaloosa, I have seen the red tape and burden Alabama's senseless immigration statute caused when it was adopted in 2011. Indeed, one study at the University of Alabama showed that Alabama's Immigration Law, if it had been fully implemented without intervention by the courts, would have harmed Alabama's Gross Domestic Product by \$2.3 to \$10.8 billion per year! That means the law not only was for the most part unconstitutional, it was bad business. In opposition to such oppressive measures, I supports common sense efforts to

reform an immigration system that is dysfunctional. I call on the federal government to reform federal immigration law to make it compassionate and workable, and never should involve separating parents from their children. State governments should not pass unconstitutional laws in regards to immigration just to score political points with their base. Offering the welcome mat to immigrants is not some new age, liberal idea. It's a time honored tradition that is responsible for the great country America is today.

Thoughts on Gun Control:

- I strongly believe that the 2nd Amendment must be protected and upheld as part of our Bill of Rights. I believe in responsible gun ownership, and therefore will push for common sense gun laws will help make our society safer. As we uphold our rights under the 2nd amendment – for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes – we must also take reasonable measures such as universal background checks, higher age limits for the purchase of assault weapons, and keeping guns out of the hands of criminals, the mentally ill who are a danger to themselves or others, and those on the terrorist watch list.

Stance on Abortion:

- I'm a pro-life Democrat who is concerned that many Republicans are more pro-birth than pro-life. Perhaps Sister Joan Chittister best summed up my feelings when she said "I do not believe that just because you're opposed to abortion, that that makes you pro-life. In fact, I think in many cases, your morality is deeply lacking if all you want is a child born but not a child fed, not a child educated, not a child housed. And why would I think that you don't? Because you don't want any tax money to go there. That's not pro-life. That's pro-birth. We need a much broader conversation on what the morality of pro-life is." Although I am personally opposed to abortion, under the law of the land a woman has a right to choose up until the point of fetal viability. The courts will ultimately decide which of Alabama's several laws regulating abortion are constitutional. As a governor sworn to uphold the federal and state constitutions and the laws of Alabama, I will faithfully execute Alabama's laws within the constitutional limits defined by the Supreme Court.

Stance on Minimum Wage:

- Although movement on the federal level would be better, I fully support a

statewide law to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour, and tie it to the consumer price index so that the floor for wages keeps up with the cost of living.

Cost of College Education:

- The cost of higher education prices far too many capable students out of college. My Alabama Education Lottery would provide over \$300 million annually including \$125 million to assist Alabama students with college and workforce training. For many years we've talked about college as the best step toward high paying jobs, but increasingly alternative paths to a strong workforce are available. My lottery plan makes pathway for all these ways forward affordable and realistic.

Political Atmosphere:

- Our state's legislators have lead by putting political parties first and not the hardworking people of Alabama. This way of leadership has lead to our state being ranked at the bottom of every category of life list and this trend must stop. We must have leadership which puts people first so that citizens of Alabama will again trust their leaders.

First Job: Bag boy at Bruno's

First Car: El Camino

Current Car: Jeep

Favorite Food: Fried chicken

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Peanut butter

What's on Your Pizza? Pepperoni

Favorite Alabama Restaurant: River in Tuscaloosa.

Favorite Alabama "Spot": Nokomis, Alabama

Favorite Movie: A Few Good Men

Favorite TV Show: Modern Family

Favorite App: ESPN

Your Web Home Page: Google

Favorite Sports Team: UAB Blazers

Favorite Music: The Black Crowes

Role Model Growing Up: Ruby Davis, my grandmother

Any Pets? Terrier mix puppy from the Tuscaloosa Animal Shelter named Lucy