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**Q-and-A with Alabama's  
Gubernatorial Candidates  
2022**

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The questionnaire parameters given to the candidates are as follows:

- Should not include labels or attacks of any type.
- Should not reference another candidate or other elected officials (past, present or future).
- Should not reference any political party outside of noting their particular party in the intro.

# Yolanda Flowers

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*Party: Democrat*

This candidate did not submit a response to the Q-and-A by the May 21 deadline nor had it arrived as of May 23 at noon.

# Patricia Jamieson

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*Party: Democrat*

This candidate did not submit a response to the Q-and-A by the May 21 deadline nor had it arrived as of May 23 at noon.



# Arthur Kennedy

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*Age: 54*

*Years in public service: 24*

*(21 in Army, 3 in public education)*

*Party: Democrat*

*Tell us about your faith journey.*

I accepted my calling as a minister of the gospel in 1997 while serving the United States Army. I was ordained in 1999 as a Deacon/Minister. Thereafter, appointed as Pastor in 2002 at Abundant Love Outreach Ministry in Killeen, Texas. I was attacked in my body in 2003, and trusted in the Lord for a complete recovery. I believe God is always in control. My trails of life are my testimonies that Jesus is faithful. 2006, the Spirit called me to move back to Alabama to start my ministry, "Where Are Thou Ministry". I had to trust God even when I got shot in 2017 doing a military operation. I retired in 2020 for my preparation to run for governor. Through it all, I am still Trusting, leading and fulfilling my call to serve both spiritually and naturally.

*How does your faith inform your leadership style and decision making?*

My focus is not to lean on my understanding and be guided by the Holy Spirit. I stand, knowing faith without works is dead. Faith leads as I adhere to His voice. My hope is not in man my hope is in the Lord. I will not believe in the possibility of man's strength. My prayer life helped me make decisions not depending on my natural abilities. I will be an honest leader as I follow Him.

*In your opinion, what is the most pressing challenge facing the state of Alabama and how would you address the issue if you were to be elected governor?*

If I am elected the opportunity to be Governor, I will handle all challenges with prayer and fasting. As Governor, my focus will be education, prison reform, and minimum wage. The education program school will go year-round with the seasonal break, increase wages for teachers, and encourage a program for students to be teachers. My focus with the prison system is to put more programs in action to help none violent inmates attend technical schools to find jobs and thrive in communities. Also this will be a one or two years program with monthly counsel etc.



# Chad Chig Martin

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*Age: 54*

*Years in public service: 0*

*Party: Democrat*

*Tell us about your faith journey.*

I am a Christian for my entire life. I try my best to treat people with dignity and respect. I always show sympathy and compassion for those with problem in their life. I always turn to God for strength. I pray for those that need and I always ask God to guide me. I always ask for forgiveness of my sins.

*How does your faith inform your leadership style and decision making?*

I always depend on God to show me the light and lead the way. I will always study and weigh important decisions out but the end of the day God puts the answer to the problem in my heart. I then move forward.

*In your opinion, what is the most pressing challenge facing the state of Alabama and how would you address the issue if you were to be elected governor?*

Poverty, Access to Healthcare and Quality Jobs

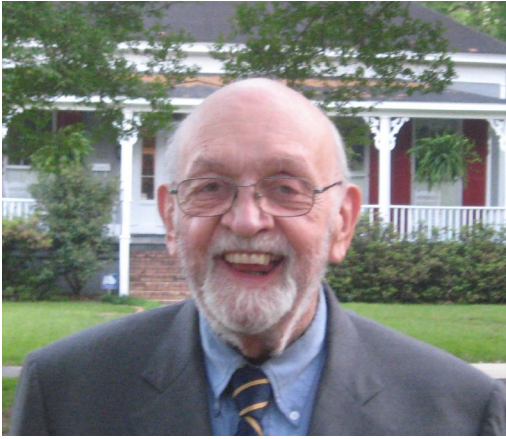
I will work hard to recruit new industry that will be placed throughout the state as to provide hard hit area's with opportunities. Due to lack of opportunity for gainful employment many children of families are without basic healthcare. I would work hard to expand Medicaid to help take care of those less fortunate.

# Malika Sanders-Fortier

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*Party: Democrat*

This candidate did not submit a response to the Q-and-A by the May 21 deadline nor had it arrived as of May 23 at noon.



# Saul Douglas Smith

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*Age: 83*

*Years in public service: 50+*

*Party: Democrat*

*Tell us about your faith journey.*

I never knew anything but Christianity. My mother died when I was a little over 6 months old and I was raised by two Godly Aunts.

I was born on the kitchen table on a frosty morn in Geneva County without a Hill-Burton Hospital at the end of the Great Depression so I know what it is like to do without. Fate sent me to a Church College where I studied the required theology and Bible courses and fell in love with philosophical theology. My major professor forced me to add to practicum concentrations, and I of course gravitated to economics (the study of distribution of scarcity) and math to support it.

When I was graduated, I attended grad school and got all the courses I could in the new field of developmental economics with the Gospel of Matthew as my North Star. "If you are asked for bread, will you give a stone?" and "I was sick and you comforted me." Even, "I was in prison and you visited me." That is the stuff of developmental economics.

I went to work for my congressman on the Appropriations Subcommittee for USAID and was put to work developing the impoverished Asian Tigers (So. Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan). Two Governors saw my work and asked me to come home to develop Alabama, and I started over 250 industrial parks and my economic engines recruited Mercedes Benz, Sikorsky, Boeing, Honda, Lockheed, 3-M, Hyundai, producing over 360,000 well-paying jobs that snatched Alabama out of the cotton patch and into the industrial age.

All my years of school, grad school and law school cannot account for the economic miracle that occurred in sleepy old Alabama. It was that God was at my shoulder keeping me upright for constant 60 and 80 hour weeks. But it is written, "They will run and not grow weary." I did not preconceive the developmental system: it was as if the Almighty was saying take a step and Faith will show you where the next rock is under the rushing waters for you to step upon.

Outside of government, I have taught Sunday School at First United Methodist Church in Montgomery for over 60 years until the Pandemic. A friend once told me that if you do not understand why an Ordinance is there, teach about it and preach about it and you will come to understand. He was right.

*How does your faith inform your leadership style and decision making?*

Proverbs says the nations fail for lack of many counselors. It is wise for a leader to surround him or herself with many counselors who are smarter than they.

*In your opinion, what is the most pressing challenge facing the state of Alabama and how would you address the issue if you were to be elected governor?*

The basic, most pressing are the purity of the vote cast and will we choose to continue the democratic experiment that our Founding Fathers started. Dr. Ben Franklin was approached outside Constitution Hall and asked following the Constitutional Convention, "What kind of government do we have?" Ben Franklin replied, "A Republic if you can keep it."

The people must decide, "Will we keep our Democratic Republic?" or will we fritter it away on the junk heap of civilizations who in a fit of passions and evocative, visceral feelings followed an autocrat or dictator or tyrant like Cyrus who went completely mad and started eating grass.

Once those issues are addressed, the foundation issue becomes economic. That allows us to feed people healthfully, receive healthcare, education and reconstruction of the soul and mind in prison. My system worked well for over 35 years, and I will put it back to work plus a new engine of a Bank for New Small Businesses to utilize the talents of our entrepreneurs because new small businesses produce 60 to 80% of our good new jobs.





# Lynda Blanchard

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*Age: 62*

*Years in public service: 5*

*Party: Republican*

*Tell us about your faith journey.*

Life is growing awareness as He reveals himself to you. So the church I grew up in, my grandparents were the founders of the church. I was baptized at 14 after coming to faith in Jesus Christ. Soon after that, as my faith became stronger, I taught Wednesday night class, Sunday school, and did visitation. That's the basis how I live, the decisions I make. But I feel like I was reborn in my faith after the death of Christopher. My faith got deeper after the death of my son Christopher, how to be that person, not just in the church, but also living it outside the church. Looking back, I was a Christian before I got baptized but I think you grow deeper the older you get, with your relationship, and see things more that he's done and is doing around you and certainly after the death of my child, how real heaven is.

Better than it has ever been. Easier to humble yourself and get on your knees when you are talking to the Father, and he has directed you your whole life. A closeness. Our values and our faith is under attack on a daily basis. Reassured everyday that the message is clear. The enemy is real. We are all under attack every day. Our values, our faith, how we educate our kids, run our businesses, are always under attack, and we wrestle not with principalities of this world, but of another world. Because there is evil out there. God gave us a work ethic for a reason and we must protect that — because we are to look to God for our rights and our blessings, not the government.

*How does your faith inform your leadership style and decision making?*

As my faith has grown, I find it easier to do as Scripture says, humble yourself and get on your knees when you are talking to the Father, and he has directed you your whole life. A closeness. It is in those moments, when I am in His Word, and humbling myself before Him that wisdom comes. Our values and our faith is under attack on a daily basis. But I am reassured everyday that the message is clear. The enemy is real. Our values, our faith, how we educate our kids, run our businesses, are always under attack, and we wrestle not with principalities of this world, but of another world. Because there is evil out there. God gave us a work ethic for a reason and we must protect that — because we are to look to God for our rights and our blessings, not the government. However, let me return to one point — I believe in prayer and now more than ever I'm seeking his guidance — We are commanded to pray without ceasing — and I want to follow His guidance. I have been taken to my knees quite a bit. And most of prayers are prayers of thanks and gratitude, thanking him for my family, the opportunity to serve, to give, to be a part of the church, and thanking him everyday that I can follow in his will.

*In your opinion, what is the most pressing challenge facing the state of Alabama and how would you address the issue if you were to be elected governor?*

When I served as a grand jury secretary, they said, what's going to change — is when the churches get involved. We need to get back to not just pew-warming, but heart-warming, and helping each other and bringing this state up together with Christian values, otherwise we'll lose what makes Alabama great and the ability to address issues like education, business creation, and helping our farmers — from a Christian perspective. And as governor, I will use my megaphone to try to coordinate the Christian people in Alabama to rally, not for denomination, but for the sake of our Christian values. Not denomination, but His nation. Our values are under attack from corporate... media, Hollywood, from those who look to change the entire family of what this nation stands for and what we were founded on. [Some aspects of culture], is making us fearful for standing for our values. We need a governor who will stand for life, stand for our churches and stand in the gap for our faith.



# Lew Burdette

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*Age: 63*

*Years in public service: 0*

*Party: Republican*

*Tell us about your faith journey.*

I grew up in Roanoke, a little town in east Alabama. God was always important to me growing up. I was saved at a February 1974 youth retreat. Later that year on Friday, December 27, 1974, my life as a happy, outgoing 15-year-old, high school sophomore was turned upside down.

It was two days after Christmas, and I was leaving work from my dad's grocery store at about 6:00 pm that evening. Though our store's closing time was around 8 pm, I convinced my dad to let me leave early because I was excited to have a date with a cheerleader from a neighboring school in Wadley, AL. As I walked across the dark, back alley behind our store, two young men pulled a handgun and forced me into their car at gunpoint. They explained that they were kidnapping me for a ransom of \$250,000, and wanted to know if my dad could get them the money that night. I realized that this was not a well-conceived plan, but I had no idea of the horror I would be facing in the minutes ahead.

I was sitting in the backseat as one of the guys pointed the gun at me. They drove me way out in the country, and down a "backwoods" dirt road, finally stopping on the side of the road in the middle of nowhere. I was directed out of the car at gunpoint and told to start walking into the woods through thick brush. After walking about 40 yards away from the dirt road, they abruptly stopped me and within seconds violently bashed my head with the butt-end of the gun, leaving a gaping wound and blood flowing. Almost losing consciousness, I collapsed to the ground.

Within minutes, one of the men slammed his fist into my chest, and immediately, I felt a sharp, piercing pain, and I had been stabbed with a knife. Blood was now spilling over my stomach along with my head bleeding profusely. I rolled over, and they stabbed me in the back three more times. Now, blood was pouring from all these wounds.

Both took an arm and dragged me over the rugged terrain. I wondered, "Where could they be dragging me?" Suddenly, I was falling. They had dumped me in an old, abandoned water well, splashing thirty feet underground now mired in mud, muck, and water to my chest. In an attempt to cover up my body, they began dropping large boulder-like blocks of "brick and mortar" on top of me. The pain was excruciating as these blocks crushed my head and back.

Soon they shined a flashlight down on me and began shooting that pistol. The first shot missed me hitting between my legs as well as the second. It was terrorizing to think which bullet would hit as the third shot also missed. But the fourth shot didn't miss and ripped right into the back of my head. At that point, they left me for dead.

For about two hours, I fought for my survival at the bottom of that well, all while experiencing an avalanche of feelings. Hopelessness overcame me and in desperation, I fought for my life. I screamed, scratched, clawed, pushed, and pulled, but there was just no way out; nothing worked. I gave up any more futile attempts of trying to get out and began giving up hope.

Sitting in freezing muddy water, I shifted my focus of escaping this deathtrap and began reflecting on my short life of only 15 years. It dawned on me how much I had taken for granted. I recalled all of the Bible verses and songs I learned in church and was “made” to memorize at a young age; even reciting them out loud. The verse that meant the most at that moment was Psalm 23:4, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me...” From that moment on, I quit worrying so much about dying because I knew God was with me. This was such comfort as I struggled to stay alive and to literally keep my head above water.

I was so weak and near death that I did not have the strength to sit up straight. As I battled to remain conscious and to keep myself from sliding underwater and drowning, I reached up and felt a hole in the side of the well that I was able to hang onto. I began to wonder if there was any possible way to get my foot in that hole as it seemed an impossible task so far above my head. I prayed and asked God to help pull myself up as my foot slid into that hole. Only by His strength was I able to climb up while dangling over the water below. Soon, I found more of these “holes” as I slowly and painfully worked my way up, asking God with each step to provide me with strength I truly did not have. Miraculously, He gave me a way to climb out of the well. With the loss of blood, severe shock, and injuries I had suffered, there was no physical way I should have been able to climb out of that well. Paraphrasing 2 Corinthians 12:9, when we are the weakest; He’s the strongest. God is undeniably the only explanation for my exit.

Once out of the well, I asked God for the “impossible” again (Mark 10:27- Believe God for the impossible) and began crawling toward a ramshackle, old house I had noticed back up the dirt road about a mile away. For two more hours, I literally crawled a few inches or on rare occasions, a few feet at a time, crying out to God for more strength and help. Life was literally draining out from the wounds inflicted by the two kidnappers.

Finally making it to this dilapidated “shotgun” house, I beat on the door for someone to let me in. I could hear a car with a loud muffler coming down the road that sounded like the one driven by the guys who kidnapped me. As the door opened, I collapsed inside attempting to explain that two guys tried to kill me; that I had been shot, stabbed, and thrown in the water well.

Within seconds I could hear the car park out front; in walked the two kidnappers. Of course, I screamed, “Those are the guys who tried to kill me!” Thankfully, when the kidnappers saw me, they immediately turned and ran. Later, I learned that this was the home of one of the kidnapper’s grandmothers and they were having an after-Christmas family gathering of about a dozen people. One of the family members took control of the situation and began calling help.

This rural area of Alabama in Randolph County was so remote that the first ambulance got lost, and it took about two hours to finally get me to the hospital. After two more hours in the emergency room, where doctors and nurses were trying to save my life, they gave me only a 5-10% chance to live until morning. The doctor told my parents that because of my extensive wounds, collapsed lung from the stabbing, loss of blood, and severe shock, I’d be “too weak to survive”. He continued to prepare my parents that even if I made it through the night, pneumonia and infection would set in, likely leading to death within a couple of days.

Miraculously, I never experienced pneumonia or infection; doctors could not explain my incredible recovery. I was released from the hospital in less than two weeks and was so thankful to be alive. God unquestionably healed me. I left the hospital with a new perspective and appreciation for the life I had been given back. My faith in God grew stronger, and I no longer took life for granted. December 27, 1974, is a night I will remember forever. God has taught me so many amazing lessons through this near-death experience that He’s used to grow and shape me.

Everyone faces difficult times in life when we might lose hope for a variety of reasons: failed relationships, poor health, abuse, and personal failure.

We all experience pain, suffering, disappointment, and loss; it's just part of living in a "fallen" world. It's a bond we all share, and it's a bond I share with King's Home residents, as they tell me: "I have no hope". For this reason, I count it such an honor and privilege to serve at King's Home, to help victims of abuse, neglect, abandonment, and homelessness find hope in Christ from these devastating circumstances. One of our favorite verses at King's Home is Jeremiah 29:11 — God has a plan, hope, and future for your life."

Now, God is leading me on a new journey to run for Governor of our great state in 2022. With Him all things are possible.

*How does your faith inform your leadership style and decision making?*

I will lead with a Biblical world view, and continually seek God for wisdom and revelation knowledge to guide decisions. Keeping God in the center of all we do is essential including deliberant daily prayer for guidance.

*In your opinion, what is the most pressing challenge facing the state of Alabama and how would you address the issue if you were to be elected governor?*

Education is the #1 issue facing Alabama and must be the top priority to move our state forward.

Why have we been ranked at the bottom in education decade after decade? It is sad and unnecessary. When I am elected, I will work to change this dismal result, making education my #1 top priority.

All Alabamians should believe in the ability to accomplish their dreams. This starts with a solid education that prepares our children for a life full of hope and opportunity. Quality of education at every level shapes our children for a bright future and better jobs.

Excellence in education must be our standard. Classroom instruction must reach the same level of excellence. Teachers need continued opportunities for development to assist with ever-changing challenges in the classroom and they must be supported and compensated competitively. Teachers need better resources and proper budgeting in order to fund their individual classroom challenges.

Common Core must go and school choice that works are two immediate actions to improve education. Yet, school choice is not always a viable answer for rural Alabama. We must also have effective literacy programs to help kids catch up when they fall behind. We need dual enrollment to better prepare high schoolers for successful career paths and Community colleges to focus on a practical curriculum for great paying career tech jobs. As a state, we need to evaluate the possible reorganization of enormous-sized school districts that are unmanageable and that fail to properly support individual schools and our children.

In our state, simple  $2 + 2$  will always equal 4, and removing common core will get us out of dead last in math at 52nd. In addition, we will not allow the Critical Race Theory or SEL curriculum to be taught in our school systems.

Most Alabamians believe lack of money is the cause for our poor education system. This is simply not true. We currently have a surplus and a massive rainy day fund. Money is not the issue; it is how we budget. We are one in five states that allow unlimited campaign contributions; this will change under my administration. Over 90% of our budget is earmarked annually, big campaign donations equal big promises, follow the money. We must have full financial transparency in Montgomery in order to effect change. As your Governor, I do not owe favors and I will have the freedom to use our funding on programs to support progress and support much needed educational change.

Quality education enables every child the opportunity to reach their dreams, creates a path for success, and a rewarding future. If children receive an excellent education, it changes their a) lifetime earning potential b) outlook on life c) and hope for the future. I will work tirelessly to raise the standard of education for each and every young person in this state.



# Stacy Lee George

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*Age: 53*

*Years in public service: 8  
(Morgan County Commissioner)*

*Party: Republican*

*Tell us about your faith journey.*

I was saved in a Baptist church on January 6, 1994. I wanted to be dunked quickly so the Church of Christ was willing to baptize me within a couple of days so I went ahead and let them immerse me in water. I just didn't want to wait 2 weeks. I have had ups and downs in my faith but I consider my faith and relationship with Jesus the best it has ever been in my life. I have come a long way. I am so glad GOD has patience.

*How does your faith inform your leadership style and decision making?*

I consult with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit daily before making decisions. I no longer make decisions until I hear from them. I even ask them where to park.

*In your opinion, what is the most pressing challenge facing the state of Alabama and how would you address the issue if you were to be elected governor?*

Justice is the most pressing and challenging issue. I will answer the following question in Alabama according to GOD. At what point does punishment become revenge in the Alabama judicial system? I believe in catching criminals and if you read my book (Let Stacy Lee George Do It) you will see I caught several criminals including Governor Bentley and a local Sheriff when I was Morgan County Commissioner and others in the last 20 years. I believe people should do time in jail and prison but I believe in second chances because GOD has given me many. I work as a Corrections Officer in the largest prison in Alabama and I perform salvation, healing and deliverance ministry every night that I work. I see people who should never get out of prison but I see so many that could make it if they had one more chance. There are so many people in prison that should be in a mental facility due to mental illness but our politicians have chosen to put the most vulnerable in the same prison as the most violent. This is not justice according to the way Jesus taught us to be. As Governor, we will separate the mentally challenged from the violent criminals and house them in different facilities. That in itself is the most serious problem that we have.



# Kay Ivey

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*Age: 77*

*Years in public service: 19  
(statewide office)*

*Party: Republican*

*Tell us about your faith journey.*

From my earliest days on our family farm in Wilcox County, to my teenage years when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and every day since, my faith has always been a priority to me. Faith in God is more than just beliefs, it's a way of life, and no law or government should ever stand in the way of your walk of faith. That's why as the Governor, protecting religious freedom and our values, remains my top priority.

*How does your faith inform your leadership style and decision making?*

Five years ago, I laid my hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution, and as your governor, I've stood strong in my commitment to do so. That's why I've made sure Alabama has been the leader of defending the conservative values that have been under attack across the nation. As a pro-life conservative, I believe we must be the voice for the unborn — so I signed the strictest pro-life bill into law in the nation. And most recently, when Alabama high school Oakwood Adventist was penalized for forfeiting a basketball playoff game due to religious obligations, I demanded answers from the Alabama High School Athletic Association. I met with those courageous boys and was so proud to hear their testimony of why they stood up for their religious convictions. Few things are more important to Alabamians than their faith, and I will continue to govern with the conservative values that are so deeply rooted within this great state.

*In your opinion, what is the most pressing challenge facing the state of Alabama and how would you address the issue if you were to be elected governor?*

I hope to see Roe v. Wade overturned so our abortion ban — which is the strongest pro-life bill ever passed — will take effect and become law. I'm proud to have led the way back in 2019 by signing the Human Life Protection Act which makes Alabama the safest place in America for the unborn.





# Tim James

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*Age: 60*

*Years in public service: 0*

*Party: Republican*

*Tell us about your faith journey.*

Mine is a story of God's presence maturing into my foundation. I was born to Christian parents in Opelika, Alabama. While both of my parents were believers, Mother was the spiritual leader of our family. She understood and exemplified the teachings of our Lord to her core. Mother's spiritual maturity had a profound impact on our family. It was through her prayers and guidance that I became a believer at a very early age.

As the middle of three brothers, I grew up loving sports and the outdoors. I attended Lee Academy but transferred to Baylor School for Boys in Chattanooga in my junior year of high school.

Like my father before me, I went on to play football at Auburn University. I joined the Class of 1980 on a football scholarship and graduated with a degree in finance 1985. While Dad's business career was successful and we had the opportunity to learn from his work ethic, I started my career in real estate right after graduation. I then shifted my focus to the construction industry with the purchase of an asphalt company and pursuing other opportunities to help create jobs. In 1995, I sold both companies and turned my focus to development of private infrastructure.

As you know, my dad had the great privilege to serve the citizens of Alabama for two terms as governor. While in his first term, Mom's faith leadership informed my dad's understanding of the terrible impact of removing prayer from our schools on our culture and society. I ran for Governor in 2002 and in 2010. The 2010 campaign was exciting and highly competitive, and I missed the run off by only 158 votes. After that race, I went into a "political wilderness" with no plans to return to politics.

Yet our Lord had other plans! As my faith grew, my understanding of the world and how God works in the world also matured.

A year ago, I began to feel a leading to run again for Governor. I shared that leading with my wife Angela, and after 11 years of leaving politics in my rear-view mirror, we agreed to pray and seek our Lord's guidance. After many months of prayer together and separately, we were moved by God's leading to offer ourselves once more to serve our state and her citizens.

After sharing God's urging with our family and their prayerful consideration, the James Family is "all in" with the desire to serve the Great State of Alabama.

Angela and I are returning to the campaign trail as a result of a spiritual journey of faith and obedience. God's relentless presence in my life — from the shining light of my mother's example to the blessing of my beautiful family — has led me to this moment. We are humbled and excited for the opportunity to travel the state and share our vision for Alabama.

*How does your faith inform your leadership style and decision making?*

In the creation story, we see that God worked six days and rested on the seventh. On day six God, “created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him.” In Genesis 2:15, “God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” God gave man a stewardship of work.

As man moved through the ages, the stewardship of work enabled him to subdue the earth and provide for his family, community, and nation. As man’s work grew, so did the nature and creativity of man’s work, resulting in entrepreneurship and free markets.

From the time of the very establishment of these United States, the entire world has been blessed by the innovation, invention, and provision for the needs of humanity that has come because of wealth generated by initiative and productivity from our beloved country. In the Parables of the Talents, the Lord Jesus told of an investor who expected his servants to generate a profit with his money. The Apostle Paul has declared, “God gives us all things to richly enjoy.” I Timothy 6:17

The people of Alabama have always appreciated the Judeo-Christian work ethic and know that God honors hard work. As Governor, I will work to remove hindrances to productivity and investment, allowing businesses to create jobs and raise our standard of living. Government should stand out of the way of legitimate enterprise and allow individuals to benefit from their labor.

*In your opinion, what is the most pressing challenge facing the state of Alabama and how would you address the issue if you were to be elected governor?*

It is always difficult to take the many important issues we face in Alabama and isolate only one. However, there are some big issues that bring with them many sub-issues as symptoms of the larger issue. For instance, one of the most significant issues we face is federal overreach. [Some] are using federal power... to cram down their agenda on America. That one big issue brings with it policies we should oppose such as Common Core, critical race theory, transgenderism, violation of private property rights, personal health mandates, and giving away our state and national sovereignty to organizations like the World Health Organization... One of the biggest state issues that I will address as governor is our failing education system. We have fallen to almost dead last in the nation in the most important categories. My agenda for education is simple. I call it the P-P-R-R-R Agenda. Prayer — Parents — Reading, ‘Riting, and ‘Rithmetic. We need to restore voluntary prayer and recognition of God in our education system, give parents school choice and recognize their rights over curriculum, and then get back to the basics. If our third graders can read, write, and perform math well, they will continue to excel the rest of their educational career. This will pay off major dividends in dealing with crime, workforce shortages, and job creation.

# Donald Jones

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*Party: Republican*

This candidate did not respond to the Q-and-A request after several attempts by The Alabama Baptist to contact him.



# Dean Odle

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*Age: 54*

*Years in public service: 35 (in ministry)*

*Party: Republican*

*Tell us about your faith journey.*

I first gave my life to Jesus at Northside Baptist Church in Opelika when I was 11 years old. Unfortunately, my parents divorced, we stopped attending church and I did not continue to live for Jesus. I enrolled at Troy State University (now Troy University) and started my freshman year. At that time, I pledged Sigma Chi Fraternity and began taking my teenage years of drunkenness and partying to a new level. It was during the summer break of 1987, while visiting my dad in the Midwest that all of my years of running from God came to an end. I had a dramatic encounter with Jesus Christ and soon after, I answered His call to the ministry. Since then, I have shared my story and the gospel of Jesus Christ in Israel, the Island of Mauritius, Nigeria, and all over America. I have served as a youth pastor, senior pastor, church planter, educator, counselor, leader, I authored four books and have been in the ministry for 35 years.

*How does your faith inform your leadership style and decision making?*

My faith is my moral foundation.

*In your opinion, what is the most pressing challenge facing the state of Alabama and how would you address the issue if you were to be elected governor?*

The most pressing issue facing Alabama is the mishandling of the Coronavirus and Covid-19 vaccines because it has and continues to cost lives and destroy families. The unnecessary deaths MUST stop! I will push for legislation to make Hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin and other early treatment protocols available over the counter, as well as procure a stockpile of life saving treatments like monoclonal antibodies. I will also press for legislation like ... HB31 to be passed to stop ALL vaccine mandates in Alabama.

The next challenge we face as a state is corruption. Unfortunately, Alabama is known for its political corruption, but many do not realize that it reaches further and deeper than politics. I will begin a campaign to eradicate corruption in our prisons, mental health facilities, hospitals, courts, and child protective services. In addition, I will aggressively deal with the human trafficking industry that plagues our great state. It will be the priority of my administration to protect all lives but especially the helpless like our children and elderly population.

Most every Alabamian knows that our state-controlled education system has failed our children. Our first step to correct this problem will be removing any remnants of Common Core, Critical Race Theory (CRT), Social Emotional Learning (SEL), or any other indoctrination program in our schools. Secondly, we will move toward a complete school voucher program and get the state out of the education business. Free market competition will make good schools better and bad schools disappear.



# Dave Thomas

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*Age: 57*

*Years in public service: 10*

*Party: Republican*

*Tell us about your faith journey.*

My walk began in my youth and continues to this day. Time and time again, I'm reminded that He is in control, has a plan, and knowing that, provides the peace that passes understanding. I rely on my faith to guide my decisions throughout each day.

*How does your faith inform your leadership style and decision making?*

Simply put, faith and honor guide my decisions. At the end of the day, it's my faith, my family and helping others that's the basis for all my decisions, personally, professionally, and politically.

*In your opinion, what is the most pressing challenge facing the state of Alabama and how would you address the issue if you were to be elected governor?*

The greatest challenge facing the state of Alabama elected officials has been to adopt policies which lift up and empower citizens, economically and socially. As a constitutionalist governor, I will embody our state's motto... We Dare Defend Our Rights... and lead by example as we all pursue our life, liberty and happiness. And the most impactful manner of doing so is to lighten the burden of taxpayers.

# Dean Young

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*Party: Republican*

This candidate did not respond to the Q-and-A request after several attempts by The Alabama Baptist to contact him.