



Alabama DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Find Your *Story*

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
October 21, 2019

Media Contact: Georgia Ann Hudson
Georgiaann.hudson@archives.alabama.gov
(334) 353-3312

**ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES *WE THE PEOPLE: ALABAMA'S DEFINING DOCUMENTS*,
AN EXHIBITION OF ALABAMA'S SIX CONSTITUTIONS, OPENING AT THE MUSEUM OF ALABAMA NOVEMBER 3, 2019;
MUSEUM OF ALABAMA OPEN EXTENDED HOURS DURING EXHIBITION**

Montgomery, AL (10/21/19) – The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) will present a special bicentennial exhibition, *We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents*, at the Museum of Alabama, located inside the ADAH in Montgomery, beginning **Sunday, November 3, 2019**. This exhibition will be **on view through December 31, 2019**. Admission to the Museum of Alabama is always free.

We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents will feature all six of Alabama's constitutions, along with the 1861 ordinance of secession, which declared Alabama's separation from the Union on the eve of the Civil War. This exhibition will explore how these documents, some of the most important in state history, reflect their framers' values, hopes, and fears.

The exhibition is curated and designed by the staff of the ADAH, where the documents permanently reside. In preparation for the celebration of Alabama's bicentennial year, extensive conservation work was conducted on the documents by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) in Andover, Massachusetts.

"We the People provides a rare opportunity for Alabamians to examine the documents that set the course of state history and heavily influenced events at the national level. They are the foundation stones of Alabama history and politics, and vital for understanding issues that remain at the heart of public-policy debates today," said Steve Murray, ADAH director.

The public is invited to a **ribbon cutting ceremony** on Sunday, November 3, at 1:00 pm. At 2:00 pm, Julian Butler, Chairman, Huntsville-Madison County Bicentennial Committee, will present *The 1901 Alabama Constitution: Questions of Race, Gender, and Economic Status*. He will be followed by Kathryn Boodle, Associate Conservator, Northeast Document Conservation Center, who will discuss the painstaking process of conserving Alabama's constitutions.

During the exhibition, the Museum of Alabama will offer extended hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from November 5 through December 12, excluding Thanksgiving week. ADAH staff will offer gallery talks on these evenings beginning at 6:00 pm. The ADAH's Museum Store will also be open.

For a complete schedule of gallery talks and more information about the exhibition, visit www.wethepeoplealabama.org or call (334) 353-3312.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government-records repository, a special-collections library and research facility, and home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-4364.

###