



## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**AUGUST 2017**

### **Director's Comments:**



This month, elections were held throughout the state for a United States Senate seat, as well as locally for Mayor in two of our state's largest cities - Birmingham and Mobile. The Senate primary was held on August 15th, while the Mayoral elections took place a week later on August 22nd. One has to wonder why officials could not have scheduled the elections to fall on the same day, which would have likely increased the voter turnout.

There were only 578,326 votes cast in the August 15th primary to help select Alabama's next U.S. Senator. That figure represents a turnout of just 17.62 percent of registered voters in our state.

The low turnout may be based on a number of factors. However, if you were one of the ones that failed to vote in the Senate election, you will have two more opportunities. On September 26th, Republicans Luther Strange and Roy Moore will battle in a runoff to determine who will face the Democratic challenger, Doug Jones, in the December 12th general election.

If you reside in Birmingham, you will also be able to go to the polls again on October 3rd for a runoff election between Mayor William Bell and challenger Randall Woodfin. Mayor Bell came in 2nd place with only a 27% voter turnout.

Mayor Sandy Stimpson was successful in his bid to win a 2nd term as Mobile Mayor, and will look to continue to build on the success of his first term while keeping the #MobileMomentum.

AUCA strongly encourages all members to exercise your right to vote whenever you have the opportunity.

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*Tim*

**Upcoming Events:**

***AUCA Board of Directors Meeting***

September 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Montgomery, AL

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***Birmingham Area Lunch Meeting***

September 20, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.

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***Huntsville Area Lunch Meeting***

September 21, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.

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***U.S. Senate Special Election***

***(Republican Runoff - Luther Strange vs. Roy Moore)***

September 26, 2017

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***AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot***

October 19, 2017

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery



## *Upcoming Events:*



**September 26 – 28, 2017**  
**Embassy Suites Montgomery**

### ***Who Attends this Event?***

- Excavators, locators, utility personnel including gas, water, electric and telecommunications
- Municipal and county personnel
- Regulatory agency personnel (both state and federal)
- Alabama 811 personnel
- Individuals who are involved in installing or protecting underground utility lines
- All stakeholders interested in keeping Alabama a safer place to live and work

### ***Session Topics to be Covered Include:***

- Insured but not covered
- Litigation Involving Public Utilities & Strategies to Reduce Risks
- Locating 101
- Making sense out of DOT Permitting
- The Impact of Damaging Cable

Additional details about the Summit and registration information can be found at:

**[www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com](http://www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com)**



## News & Notes:

### **Tuscaloosa Area Lunch Meeting - August 3rd**

*Guest Speaker: Senator Trip Pittman*



State Senator Trip Pittman visiting with AUCA Members at the August Tuscaloosa Lunch Meeting. Senator Pittman was a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate seat, but failed to garner enough votes to make the runoff.

### **Mobile Area Lunch Meeting - August 17th**

*Guest Speaker: Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson*



Mayor Stimpson speaking to members at the AUCA Mobile Meeting about his re-election bid, and his plans to continue the #MobileMomentum. Mayor Stimpson was elected to a 2nd term on August 22nd.



## News & Notes:

### **Trump Executive Order Targets Environmental Permitting Delays**

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on August 15th, "establishing discipline and accountability in the environmental review and permitting process for infrastructure projects." The Order echoed the overarching theme of the President's 2017 Infrastructure Week address, reiterating that the current environmental process is cumbersome, often unnecessarily delaying and even blocking projects from getting built.

The transportation and utility industry sees this guidance as essential to speeding up project rollout, as it aims to reduce approval time to two years or less by creating mechanisms for agency goals and accountability in addition to a "One Federal Decision" protocol to help shepherd projects through the reviews and permitting process. The Order also revokes an Obama-era executive order that required federal projects to account for flooding, sea level rise and other consequences of climate change.

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### **AUCA 2018 Board of Directors Nominations:**

The AUCA Nominating Committee is seeking interested AUCA members for consideration to serve on the 2018 AUCA Board of Directors.

Nomination Forms will be sent out electronically to all member companies. Please complete and return the form to the AUCA office by fax or email no later than August 31, 2017 to indicate your willingness to serve on the AUCA Board, or to nominate an individual member you know that would make a good candidate.

The Nominating Committee will review the nomination forms of those desiring to serve on the 2018 Board at the September 13th AUCA Board Meeting. The proposed slate of nominees will be announced to the membership 30 days prior to the October 19th General Meeting, where the candidates will be voted on by the members in attendance.

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### **Form I-9 Form:**

USCIS released a revised version of Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, on July 17th. Download instructions are available on the Form I-9 page. Employers can use this revised version or continue using Form I-9 with a revision date of 11/14/16 N through Sept. 17. On Sept. 18, employers must use the revised form with a revision date of 07/17/17 N. Employers must continue following existing storage and retention rules for any previously completed Form I-9.



## News & Notes:

### **AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle**

Tickets will be distributed to AUCA member companies beginning in early September for the annual AUCA raffle. This year we will once again be raffling two great prizes:

- YETI Cooler
- Shotgun

Tickets will be \$10 each, and will allow you two (2) chances to win. The drawing will be held at our October 19th General Meeting / Sporting Clay Shoot in Montgomery. You do not have to be present at the event to win.

All money raised from the raffle will go towards the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our Legislative efforts in Montgomery and Washington.

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### **Alabama One-Call Notification System Study Commission Update:**

The One-Call Study Commission met on August 3rd in Montgomery. The group was established in 2015, and is continuing the efforts to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature regarding the expedience and validity of only having a single One-Call notification system to serve the entire State of Alabama, including the appropriate governance, legislative oversight, and membership outreach practices of the organization; the adequacy of the enforcement provisions of current law; and other items related to the One-Call Law that may increase the level of safety of its citizens.

A draft copy of the final report will be released to the Commission during the week of 9/4, and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2017 at the Alabama Power's office in Clanton.

If you would like to attend the meeting, or provide any feedback, please contact the AUCA office.

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### **HD Supply Waterworks Changes Name:**

HD Supply Waterworks announced that their company name has changed to Core & Main LP. Address and phone numbers will remain unchanged.





## AUCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: **Knapheide Truck Equipment**



Knapheide Truck Equipment Center Birmingham is the premier provider of truck bodies, van interiors, truck equipment and accessories serving the state of Alabama, as well as much of Mississippi and Central Tennessee.

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## *Hurricane & Flood Safety:*

*Provided by National Weather Service*

### **Hurricane Safety Tips and Resources**

Hurricanes are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena. On average, 12 tropical storms, 6 of which become hurricanes form over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season which runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. In the Central Pacific Ocean, an average of 3 tropical storms, 2 of which become hurricanes form or move over the area during the hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. Guam, the Northern Marianas and Micronesia experience typhoons all year round but the main season is in July through November with a peak from mid-August to mid-September. Over a typical 2-year period, the U.S. coastline is struck by an average of 3 hurricanes, 1 of which is classified as a major hurricane (winds of 111 mph or greater). By knowing what actions to take before the hurricane season begins, when a hurricane approaches, and when the storm is in your area, as well as what to do after a hurricane leaves your area, you can increase your chance of survival. If you, or someone you know, have been a victim of a hurricane, please share your story, including the town and state you were in and the year the event took place.. Please note that NS will then have permission to use your story for educational campaigns. Sharing this information may help save someone's life in the future.

### **Hurricane Hazards**

While hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property, tropical storms and depression also can be devastating. The primary hazards from tropical cyclones (which include tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes) are storm surge flooding, inland flooding from heavy rains, destructive winds, tornadoes, and high surf and rip currents.

- Storm surge is the abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. This hazard is historically the leading cause of hurricane related deaths in the United States. Storm surge and large battering waves can result in large loss of life and cause massive destruction along the coast.
- Storm surge can travel several miles inland, especially along bays, rivers, and estuaries.
- Flooding from heavy rains is the second leading cause of fatalities from landfalling tropical cyclones. Widespread torrential rains associated with these storms often cause flooding hundreds of miles inland. This flooding can persist for several days after a storm has dissipated.
- Winds from a hurricane can destroy buildings and manufactured homes. Signs, roofing material, and other items left outside can become flying missiles during hurricanes.
- Tornadoes can accompany landfalling tropical cyclones. These tornadoes typically occur in rain bands well away from the center of the storm.

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## *Hurricane & Flood Safety:*

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- Dangerous waves produced by a tropical cyclone's strong winds can pose a significant hazard to coastal residents and mariners. These waves can cause deadly rip currents, significant beach erosion, and damage to structures along the coastline, even when the storm is more than a 1,000 miles offshore.

### **Heavy Rainfall & Inland Flooding**

Tropical cyclones often produce widespread, torrential rains in excess of 6 inches, which may result in deadly and destructive floods. In fact, flooding is the major threat from tropical cyclones for people living inland. Flash flooding, defined as a rapid rise in water levels, can occur quickly due to intense rainfall. Longer term flooding on rivers and streams can persist for several days after the storm. When approaching water on a roadway, always remember Turn Around Don't Drown.

Rainfall amounts are not directly related to the strength of tropical cyclones but rather to the speed and size of the storm, as well as the geography of the area. Slower moving and larger storms produce more rainfall. In addition, mountainous terrain enhances rainfall from a tropical cyclone.

### **Flood Safety**

During a flood, water levels and the rate the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television outlets. Avoid flood waters at all costs and evacuate immediately when water starts to rise. Don't wait until it's too late!

When flood waters recede, the damage left behind can be devastating and present many dangers. Images of flood destruction depict destroyed homes and buildings, damaged possessions, and decimated roadways. However, what you can't see can be just as dangerous. Floodwaters often become contaminated with sewage or chemicals. Gas leaks and live power lines can be deadly, but are not obvious at first glance.



## ***Clean Water Construction Coalition Report***

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

### **Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**

In light of recent progress in the House toward a reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water SRF, the Coalition has drafted a template letter in support of Rep. Harper's bill, HR 3387. The Drinking Water System Improvement Act would facilitate much-needed upgrades to drinking water systems across the country by authorizing up to \$8 billion for safe drinking water over the next five years, in addition to approving up to \$750 million for the Public Water System Supervision grant program.

\$8 billion in capitalization grants for FY 2018 through FY 2022. Specifically, it authorizes:

- \$1.2 billion in FY 2018
- \$1.4 billion in FY 2019
- \$1.6 billion in FY 2020
- \$1.8 billion in FY 2021
- \$2.0 billion in FY 2022

Passing HR 3387 would be the first reauthorization of the SRF since 2001 and the first to move forward with bipartisan support.

We ask that you and your members send this letter to your congressional delegation and help grow momentum for this important bill.

[www.cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org](http://www.cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org)



## Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

*Continued from Page 10*

# SAMPLE LETTER

DATE

Honorable XXXX  
Address  
Address  
Washington, DC

Congressman XXXX,

We write you today to voice our strong support for HR 3387, the “Drinking Water System Improvement Act,” and ask that you consider becoming a co-sponsor of this critical legislation.

It’s no secret that America’s water systems are in dire need of repair, and The Drinking Water System Improvement Act would facilitate much-needed upgrades to drinking water systems across the country. Sponsored by Mississippi Congressman Gregg Harper, HR 3387 would authorize up to \$8 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund over the next five years, in addition to approving up to \$750 million for the Public Water System Supervision grant program.

This bipartisan bill is timely, and over a decade in the making. The State Revolving Funds are the primary source of funding for the repair and replacement of our nation’s beleaguered water systems, yet they have not been fully authorized since 2001. Contamination from lead and other toxins causes serious harm to our most vulnerable populations, and this legislation will help give communities the tools they need to build healthier and more efficient water systems.

In late June, HR 3387 was unanimously approved by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and now heads to the floor for a full vote. We sincerely hope you will consider signing-on to this bipartisan effort to help ensure that every American has safe and healthy water to drink.

Sincerely,



Alabama Utility Contractors Association  
P.O. Box 383185  
Birmingham, AL 35238-3185  
Phone: 205-582-9436  
Fax: 205-582-9155  
E-mail: tim@aluca.org

**AUCA IS A MEMBER-DRIVEN, NEEDS  
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SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE  
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