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Honorable L.W. Noonan
Judge of Probate
Mobile County
P.O. Box 7
Mobile, AL 36601

RE: PROBATE JUDGES - ELECTIONS -
VOTERS LISTS

Probate Judge may publish
voters list as required by
§17-4-129 in an alphabetical
format with the ward or precinct
appearing beside each elector's
name.

Dear Judge Noonan:

The office of the Attorney General is in receipt of your
opinion request regarding Code of Alabama 1975, §17-4-129.
Section 17-4-129 states, in pertinent part, as follows:

"The judge of probate shall publish a
correct alphabetical list of qualified
electors by precinct, district or sub-
division wherein each elector is
registered to vote, in some newspaper
with general circulation in the county,
on or before the twentieth day pre-
ceding the regularly scheduled primary
election...."

You state that, in accordance therewith, the Probate Court of Mobile County has previously published voters lists in the following manner:

"Voting Center
P-35-105-10

Adams, John
Adams, Luke
Adams, Maggie
and etc...."

However, you believe that the citizens of Mobile County "would be better served if the said list could be published as a strict alphabetical listing with the ward or precinct designation appearing beside each elector's name in a format as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Voting Center</u>
Adams, John	P-35-105-10
Adams, Luke	P-35-105-10
Adams, Maggie	P-35-105-10
Adams, Paul	MW-33-97-01
Adams, Roger	MW-34-100-05
	and etc...."

In light of such, you ask:

"Would it be legally permissible pursuant to Section 17-4-129 for the Judge of Probate to publish the voters list as required in said Section in a strictly alphabetical format with the ward or precinct appearing beside each elector's name?"

It is our opinion that the Judge of Probate may publish the voters list required by §17-4-129 in a strictly alphabetical format with the ward or precinct appearing beside each elector's name. The purpose of §17-4-129 is to notify electors of the precinct or ward in which they are registered. In our opinion the wording of the statute--i.e., "...an alphabetical list of qualified electors by precinct, district or subdivision wherein each elector is registered to vote..."--simply means that the published list must identify the precinct or ward of each voter in some manner.

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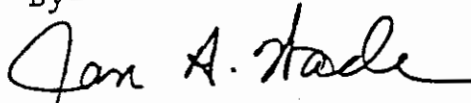
Therefore, said voters lists may be published in a strictly alphabetical format as long as the electors can clearly discern the precinct or ward in which they are registered. In fact, we believe that publication in such a manner might more easily enable electors to find their precincts or wards by allowing them to simply look for their names on the alphabetical list rather than having to look through the lists for the various precincts.

I do hope this response sufficiently answers your inquiry. If, however, we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES A. GRADDICK
Attorney General

By-



JAN A. WADE
Assistant Attorney General

CAG/JAW/cg