


[Past Week](#)

[Advanced](#) | [Browse](#) | [Help](#)
[Register](#) | [Sign In](#)
[Home](#)

Marketplace

[Classifieds](#)
[Jobs](#)
[Homes](#)
[Autos](#)
[Place an ad](#)

Sections

[News](#)
[Columns](#)
[Sports](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Lifestyle](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Photo Gallery](#)
[Communities](#)
[Weather](#)
[Email Extra](#)
[Mobile News](#)
[RSS](#)
[1-Month View](#)
[Search](#)

Service Center

[Service Home](#)
[Circulation](#)
[Home Delivery](#)
[Back Issues](#)
[Vacation Stops](#)
[NIE](#)


Protecting health and safety

By Chasity Brown

The Daily Sentinel

Published June 3, 2006

Rural Jackson County voters will make a choice on whether to give local government a limited amount of decision making through a referendum on the ballot for Tuesday's primary.

The referendum, which would give the Jackson County Commission the authority to establish programs to deal with specific health and safety issues, will appear only on ballots for voters who live in unincorporated areas of Jackson County. Cities already have this authority, so the votes will only come from residents who live in unincorporated areas of the county.

The Alabama legislature passed the Alabama Limited Self-Governance Act which allowed this amendment to be on the ballot. The act specifies how the vote will be conducted, the powers that the commission can exercise and a public hearing process that must be followed before any action can be taken.

The act would give the county commission the authority to deal with nuisance abatement in only the areas of weeds, junkyards, litter and rubbish, noise, pollution, unsanitary sewage and animal control.

Currently, the commission must ask the legislature to pass a local act to take care of any of those issues.

Voters can read the act and find out more information about self-governance at the website www.selfgov.net.

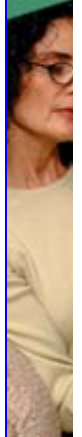
"For years, the hands of local officials have been tied behind their backs as they have waited for legislators in Montgomery to make decisions that should be made on the local level," said Jackson County Commission Chairman James Tidmore. "But in 2005 the legislature approved this local referendum process, making the June elections the first opportunity for local citizens to take control of these local issues."

Sub

EXTRA

We
D
The
Yo

Stay
Subs
The D



Tidmore pointed out that the referendum will not give the commission any authority to levy taxes or establish planning and zoning programs. It only deals with these specific "health and safety issues."

"The issue for our voters to decide is not a 'home rule' issue, but whether we want to be able to ensure the health and safety of our rural areas or if we want to continue to allow those decisions to be made in Montgomery," Tidmore said.

The act also includes a safeguard that allows rural voters to circulate a petition to put the question back on the ballot to repeal the programs established by the county commission through this program if they are unhappy with the results.

Voters will also consider a statewide amendment during the primary election.

The statewide amendment proposition voters will find on all ballot types reads: "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that no marriage license shall be issued in Alabama to parties of the same sex and that the state shall not recognize a marriage of parties of the same sex that occurred as a result of the law of any other jurisdiction."

A "yes" vote indicates a voter does want the constitution to be changed in order to ban same-sex marriage. A "no" vote indicates a voter does not feel same-sex marriage should be banned via the state's constitution.

 Save  Mail  Print  Comment



The Daily Sentinel

[Home Delivery](#) | [About Us](#) | [Search](#) | [Mobile News](#)
[Classifieds](#) | [Write a Letter](#) | [Site Help](#)

© 2006 The Daily Sentinel. All rights reserved. Published in Scottsboro, Alabama.
A [Southern Newspapers](#) publication.

[back to top](#)