

Municipal Elections: The Official List of Qualifiers



The ballot for the August 26 Pelham Municipal Election is set. Qualifying ended on Tuesday, June 24 at 5:00 p.m. In all, 12 candidates are vying for five City Council places, and two candidates are running for Mayor.

The candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

Place 1:
David Coram
Michelle Power

Place 2:
Will Blake
Chad Leverett

Place 3:
Cathy Cartagena
Tim Reddock
Chris Townes

Place 4:
Darius Foster
Ron Griggs
Markus Snowden

Place 5:
Michael Harris
Russell Platt

Mayor:
Maurice Mercer
Rick Wash

Voting will take place on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



New Hockey/Soccer Court Opens at City Park

Pelham's commitment to youth sports and recreation continues with the opening of a new multi-use hockey and soccer court at Pelham City Park. A ribbon cutting was held on June 24 to celebrate the dynamic addition.

"This court is more than just a space to play. It's a symbol of how Pelham continues to invest in the health, fun, and development of our young athletes," said Parks & Recreation Director Brian Cooper.

The court is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Outside of regularly scheduled Pelham Parks & Recreation activities, the court follows a rotating use schedule: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are reserved for soccer; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays are open to roller sports, including roller hockey and NHL Street Hockey. On Saturdays, roller sports have priority from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with soccer reserved from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.



Greenway Trail

Grading is underway on Phase IV of the Pelham Greenway Trail! This segment will connect Campus 124 to Amphitheater Road, making it even easier to walk, run, or bike between some of Pelham's most popular spots.

Barring weather delays, construction is expected to be complete this fall. Stay tuned for more updates as we bring this next section to life!

County Paving Projects in Pelham

Shelby County will be resurfacing two roads in Pelham this year: County Road 105 (Bearden Road), from US 31 to SR 261, and County Road 33, from CR 52 to CR 35.

Work on Bearden Road is set to begin July 7. This project includes milling, patching, resurfacing, and new striping. A timeline for CR 33 will be shared once it's available.

In addition, the County is extending and resurfacing the right-turn lane on CR 36 at CR 11 in the Chelsea/Pelham area. That project is nearly complete. Drivers are encouraged to use caution in work zones and plan for minor delays.



Parking Upgrade

West Lot Under Construction

A new 300-space parking lot is under construction on the west side of the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. The project will improve access for skaters, coaches, and spectators, with added features including curbing, lighting, landscape islands, and sidewalks connecting to the Greenway Trail and the Complex.



Additional Streets Added to 2025 Paving Schedule

Thanks to efficient planning and favorable conditions, the City of Pelham has completed the streets included initially in the 2025 paving plan ahead of schedule and under budget. As a result, several roads previously slated for future resurfacing have been moved up and will now be paved this year.

The newly added streets include Ryecroft Road, Aaron Parc, Coales Branch Drive, Coales Branch Lane, Coales Branch Circle, Frontier Drive, Colesbury Circle, Wilderness Road, Wilderness Circle, and Wilderness Court. Project managers selected streets based on current conditions and the absence of any planned utility work. The City remains committed to making smart infrastructure investments that keep Pelham's roads safe and well-maintained.

Honoring Excellence in Public Safety

The City of Pelham proudly recognizes two exceptional public safety professionals who were recently honored by the American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555 for their outstanding service and dedication.

Jeanie Davis, retired Communications and Records Manager for the Pelham Police Department, was named the 2025 Public Safety Telecommunicator of the Year. Fire Medic Galen Smitherman of the Pelham Fire Department was recognized as the 2025 Firefighter of the Year.

Both honorees exemplify a strong commitment to the safety and well-being of the Pelham community. Their contributions have made a lasting impact, and we are proud to celebrate their well-deserved recognition.



Jeanie Davis,
Public Safety Telecommunicator
of the Year



Galen Smitherman,
Firefighter of the Year

DONATION SUPPORTS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Pelham Library Guild recently presented a \$5,000 donation to the Pelham Public Library following the success of its annual fundraiser, The Taste of Pelham. The event raises funds to support library programs, technology upgrades, and the purchase of materials.

The donation, presented by Library Guild President Debbie Parrott to Library Board Chair Tomeka Wilson, will help the library continue offering resources that promote community engagement, education, and access to technology for all residents.



DIFANTE NAMED PRESIDENT OF ACCMA

Pelham City Manager Gretchen DiFante was recently elected President of the Alabama City/County Management Association (ACCMA). The organization supports professional local government management across the state.

Her selection reflects the respect she has earned among her peers and highlights her commitment to public service and effective local governance. As president, DiFante will help guide the association's mission of strengthening cities and counties through professional leadership.

GRANT PROVIDES LIFE-SAVING DEVICE

A \$15,000 grant from the Cawaco RC&D Council allowed the Pelham Fire Department to outfit its third ambulance with a LUCAS Device, a mechanical chest compression system used during cardiac emergencies. This advanced equipment ensures fast, consistent, and high-quality chest compressions, which are critical during cardiac arrest situations.

All three of Pelham's emergency medical transport ambulances are now equipped with a LUCAS Device, enhancing the department's ability to provide life-saving care.



Building Bridges: A Journey Toward Deeper Community Connection

When Chief Ed Delmore took the helm of the Pelham Police Department just three months ago, he brought with him a deep commitment to community policing and a clear vision for the future; one that embraces Pelham's diversity as a source of strength. With a growing Hispanic and Latino population, Chief Delmore recognized an opportunity to expand the department's outreach and build stronger relationships across all communities.

To put action behind his vision, Chief Delmore sent four members of the Pelham Police Department to Storm Lake, Iowa, a city nationally recognized for its intentional and effective approach to community policing. Storm Lake's police department has earned widespread respect for its ability to build trust in a community where more than 20 languages are spoken and no single ethnic group holds a majority. The goal? To listen, learn, and bring home ideas that can be adapted to Pelham's unique character.

Making the trip were Lieutenant Mike Freeman, Detective Iliana Hayakahua, Dispatcher Stephanie Oliveria, and the department's Communications & Records Manager, David Fuentes. Each officer participated in outreach events like Tacos with a Cop and a city-wide Kids Fest, and volunteered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that builds and delivers beds to children in need.

For Detective Hayakahua, the

experience was transformative. "This opportunity was not merely a professional development trip; it was an affirmation of my dedication and a chance to bring back impactful strategies for our city," she said. "Effective policing in a diverse city transcends traditional enforcement, it demands empathy, proactive engagement, and a genuine commitment to serving every segment of the population."

Lt. Freeman echoed her sentiments. A veteran officer who began his career in 1990, he volunteered to attend the trip and saw it as a chance to deepen community connections. "We have a melting pot of residents, and some refuse to call the police because of where they're from," he explained. "By including them in our community engagement efforts, we can show them we are truly here for everyone."

The officers witnessed the power of intentional outreach firsthand. "The Kid's Festival felt like the entire city had come out to connect," said Lt. Freeman. "And Tacos with a Cop? We ran out of tacos before I even got one! The excitement in the eyes of people waiting in line—that's something words can't explain."

Both officers were especially moved by their experience with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Lt. Freeman recalled delivering bunk beds to a family of five living in a one-bedroom apartment. "The oldest child was autistic and nonverbal. As a grandfather to a nonverbal autistic child, I know *(Article continues on next page)*



how important personal space is," he said. "Watching him climb onto the top bunk and quietly engage with a video on a phone — it was heavenly. No words can explain the joy I felt."

Detective Hayakahua added that simple, compassionate acts like this demonstrate the broader role officers can play. "We have the power to build trust and strengthen the fabric of the community in ways that routine patrols cannot."

Both officers returned inspired, ready to take the next steps. Lt. Freeman is most excited about creating more opportunities for residents to connect with officers outside of emergencies. "We want to interact beyond the call for service," he said. "That's how trust is built." Detective Hayakahua hopes to see an expanded calendar of culturally inclusive events and more informal, approachable engagement throughout Pelham.

As Chief Delmore and his team move forward with renewed purpose, they carry with them not only the lessons of Storm Lake but a shared belief in the transformative power of community. "We're not just building safer neighborhoods," said Detective Hayakahua. "We're building a city where every person feels seen, heard, and valued."

Watch for an expanded version of this story in the September issue of The Pelham Pathway.



Sentencing Brings Legal Closure in Officer Minter Case

On June 23, 2025, the man responsible for the 2023 crash that seriously injured Pelham Police Officer Elizabeth Minter was sentenced in court. Shaquille Montgomery received 15 years for assault, 10 years for leaving the scene of a crash with injuries, 10 years for possession of a controlled substance, and 1 year for possession of marijuana. The sentences will run concurrently.

Officer Minter was directing traffic at a crash on I-65 southbound near mile marker 242 shortly after midnight on July 1, 2023, when she was struck by a speeding vehicle. The collision caused extensive injuries, requiring multiple surgeries and a lengthy recovery process. A mother of three, Minter has faced a long road of physical therapy and rehabilitation.

While the sentencing provides a measure of closure in the legal process, the emotional and physical toll of the incident remains deeply felt by Officer Minter, the Pelham Police Department, and the community. Her strength, resilience, and continued dedication to public service have been a source of inspiration. The City of Pelham remains committed to supporting Officer Minter and her family through her recovery.





Police Chief Proposes New Sergeant Structure

Pelham Police Chief Ed Delmore has proposed a new leadership structure for the Pelham Police Department's Patrol Division to enhance operational efficiency and foster future leaders. He presented the plan to the Pelham City Council on June 16 for future consideration.

and add four new Sergeant positions through a competitive process. These new sergeants would serve under Master Sergeants and take on leadership roles as needed, strengthening supervision and creating a clear path for advancement.

Currently, one sergeant oversees each patrol squad. When unavailable, last-minute scheduling adjustments—sometimes requiring the assistance of lieutenants—create inefficiencies. Delmore's proposal would reclassify current Sergeants as Master Sergeants

The estimated annual cost is under \$14,000 and can be covered within existing budget allocations. If approved, the changes will take effect this fall, following the standard testing and selection process.



Remembering Joe Stroud: A Champion for Hockey & Community

The City of Pelham joins the Birmingham Bulls and the greater hockey community in mourning the loss of Bulls Team President Joe Stroud, who passed away on June 11 at the age of 53. A devoted member of the organization, Stroud began his career with the Bulls as an intern in 1994 and was named team president in 2019.

Stroud played a pivotal role in the team's revival in 2017 and its move to the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena, where the Bulls became a local mainstay. Under his leadership, the Bulls reached the SPHL President's Cup Finals twice and earned playoff berths in four of the past seven seasons.

"He never stopped thinking, never stopped promoting," said Pelham City Manager Gretchen DiFante. "He was always connecting with people to accomplish good things for the things he loved. He loved the Bulls, he loved being at the Pelham Ice Arena, and he was the glue that held the organization together—with a big heart, love, and incredible generosity."

Joe Stroud's passion, vision, and enduring commitment left an indelible mark on Pelham and the Birmingham sports community. He will be greatly missed.



Your City at Work

Here are some of the recent items approved by the Pelham City Council. [Please visit the City of Pelham website](#) for the complete text of the agendas, minutes, ordinances, and resolutions.

- Entered into a management agreement (Amendment No. 1) with VenuWorks of Pelham, LLC for an additional five-year term for the operation and management of the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.
- Entered into a five-year agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for body cameras.
- Accepted grant funds from Cawaco RC&D on behalf of the Pelham Fire Department.
- Authorized a recruitment campaign partnership agreement with WBRC on behalf of the Pelham Police Department.
- Accepted a proposal from Gray's Tree Service, LLC for debris removal from Cahaba Valley Creek (aka Bishop Creek).
- Accepted a proposal from Williams Blackstock Architects for master plan visioning, due diligence, and feasibility study of the former Oak Mountain Amphitheatre property.
- Accepted a bid from Five Star Painting for a public works project for interior painting services at the Pelham Police & Court Building.
- Accepted Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for certain engineering services for the Pelham Greenway Trail, Phases 3 and 4.
- Approved an underground utility easement agreement with Alabama Power Company associated with the Edgars' Bakery construction project located at 2428 Pelham Parkway.



NO DELAY IN TRASH PICKUP ON JULY 4th

Heads up, Pelham! Amwaste will run "NORMAL" collection routes on Friday, July 4th. Because the holiday falls on a Friday, delaying service by just one day would only add confusion, so everything is staying on schedule.

Please have your carts at the curb by 6:00 a.m. as usual. Help spread the word so no one misses a pickup!



Independence Day Closings & Special Hours: Friday, July 4, 2025

Pelham City Hall & Administrative Offices:
CLOSED

Pelham Public Library:
CLOSED

Pelham Senior Center:
CLOSED

Pelham Recreation Center:
CLOSED

Pelham Racquet Club:
Open 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ballantrae Golf Club:
Open regular hours with holiday rates

Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena:
CLOSED