

The 1901 Alabama Constitution was written by men who wanted to deny rights to some citizens and keep control in their own hands. And that is how the Constitution controls our state today. It continues to disenfranchise local citizens, families, economic development and public transit.

Did you know that the Constitution deprives counties from governing their citizens? They must ask the Legislature to pass constitutional amendments to do that and then the whole state must vote on those local issues. Recently, the Legislature refused to allow Etowah County schools from asking their citizens to vote for a school tax. Counties can't pick up dead animals, set up fire districts, spray mosquitoes and a host of other things without approval from legislators. This is a States' Rights State, but it doesn't allow rights to its citizens.

Did you know that the Constitution forbids the State and local governments from offering incentives to companies to do business in the State? When businesses want to settle in Alabama, the State or the local government involved must ask the Legislature for a constitutional amendment to offer incentives and then go to the voters for approval.

Did you know that the Constitution requires all monies from gasoline and auto taxes, to be spent on roads and bridges and forbids any of it to be spent on public transportation? Alabama is one of four states that does not have a statewide transportation system. The others are Alaska, Hawaii and Utah. The transportation systems for the elderly and handicapped as well as the city transit systems are funded by the Federal Government and local communities. No statewide transit system exists and probably never will.

Did you know that the Constitution has a tax system written into it that gives breaks to the wealthy at the expense of families and the poor? Because of tax laws written into it, families and the poor end up spending a much greater proportion of their income on taxes than do the wealthy. Taxes should be allowed by a constitution, but shouldn't be written into it. All taxes should be approved by the voters, not assessed by the constitution.

You can change all this. You can make history in Alabama by helping to bring a new constitution. The legislation to allow this must be approved by the Legislature and then approved by the voters. You would elect the delegates and approve the constitution they write. Tell your legislators to approve legislation in the House and Senate that will allow this to happen. Find your legislators at www.legislature.state.al.us

Go to www.constitutionalreform.org and join us at ACCR to help make this State become the State it should be.