



The National Center for the Study
of Civil Rights and African-American Culture
at Alabama State University

presents

“GIVE US THE BALLOT”

The Alabama Voting Rights Campaign of 1965 and the Transformation of America's Political System

August 5-6, 2015

John L. Buskey Health Science Building
Alabama State University

Conference Registration Rates:

General Registration: \$100 | Students, Faculty, Staff & Senior Citizens (60+) w/ ID: \$35
For full conference information and registration visit: www.lib.alasu.edu/natctr/50th

Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Thursday, August 6, 2015

8:00 REGISTRATION

8:30 OPENING PLENARY

This opening plenary session will feature two key figures in Alabama's voting rights campaign – Rev. Bernard Lafayette and Rev. C. T. Vivian. The speakers will discuss their involvement in launching the voting rights campaign in Alabama's Black Belt for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

10:00 VOTING RIGHTS IN THE ALABAMA BLACK BELT

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session A:

Montgomery & Macon Counties

Session B:

Dallas & Lowndes Counties

Session C:

Wilcox & Perry Counties

Session D:

Greene & Hale Counties

11:15 POLITICS, LAW, AND MEDIA IN ALABAMA'S VOTING RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session A:

Politics and Law in Alabama's Voting Rights Campaign

Session B:

Media and the Voting Rights Movement

Session C:

Responding to the Call: Whites in Alabama's Voting Rights

12:30 LUNCHEON

The luncheon's featured speaker, Senator Hank Sanders, will discuss the overall importance of the 1965 voting rights movement in Alabama, with an emphasis on his role in the campaign for voting rights in Alabama's Black Belt and the impact of the 1965 Voting Rights Act on his career.

1:45 SCLC AND COUNTY VOTING RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

PLENARY SESSION

Scholars and members of county voting rights organizations and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) will discuss the "Project for an Alabama Political Freedom Movement."

3:00 SNCC AND CAMPUS ACTIVISM IN THE VOTING RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

PLENARY SESSION

Scholars and members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) will discuss the campus-based activism of the voting rights campaign in the nation and in Alabama.

4:30 REUNION RECEPTION

A reception will be held in the Acadome Banquet Room to celebrate and acknowledge the "Unsung Heroes of the Voting Rights Campaign in Alabama's Black Belt."

9:00 CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS OF THE VOTING RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

PLENARY SESSION

Join fellow attendees at the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture for live music from the movement, a performing arts and a juried art exhibition from members of the National Alliance of Artists from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (NAAHBCU). The art exhibit, entitled "50th Anniversary Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March: A Celebration of Freedom and Democracy," focuses on the struggle for voting rights in America.

11:00 COMMEMORATION AT THE CAPITOL

PLENARY SESSION

Travel by bus or car to the Alabama State Capitol Building for a commemoration of the signing of the 1965 Voting Rights Act ceremony. Special guest speakers will address the following topics:

- President Lyndon B. Johnson's signing of the 1965 Voting Rights Act
- The 1965 Voting Rights Act and the Transformation of the American Political System
- Contemporary Challenges to the 1965 Voting Rights Act

