

## RSA Centennial Hill Art Project Completed

BY REBECCA M. BROWN, COMMUNICATIONS

The RSA Centennial Hill Building has recently completed its display of artwork along Jackson Street, honoring the area’s rich history. Centennial Hill, southeast of downtown Montgomery, is the city’s most historic Black neighborhood. In 2024, it was officially listed on



*Oxyanna Grayson and Alice’s Candy Kitchen*

the National Register of Historic Places.

The series of twelve bronze relief plaques tells the story of Montgomery and Centennial Hill through detailed 3D artwork and interpretive text, taking you through the aftermath of the Civil War,

how it became a religious and educational hub producing notable alumni such as Rosa Parks and Johnnie Carr, and a cultural cornerstone where African American performers such as B.B. King and Billie Holiday performed at the Ben Moore Hotel. The display also includes powerful pieces representing the Civil Rights Movement, such as a life-size sculpture of the historic Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March, where you can stand next to Dr. King and others as they march.

The artist Caleb Keola O’Connor, based in Tuscaloosa, is a figure sculptor and painter dedicated to creating public sculptures and paintings that depict historical truth, civil rights, and beauty. O’Connor is passionate about capturing significant moments in history and celebrating human achievements, telling the story of the human experience. He studied in Baltimore at the Maryland Institute College of Art and for nine months with a Fulbright grant in Seravezza, Italy, a little town strategically located near Pietrasanta, known as the center of marble and bronze sculpture. The RSA Centennial Hill Building artwork incorporated input from Dr. Howard Robinson, a



*Ms. White’s Industrial School for Girls*

local history professor and archivist who consulted on the Rosa Parks statue in Montgomery and several historic markers, including the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail.

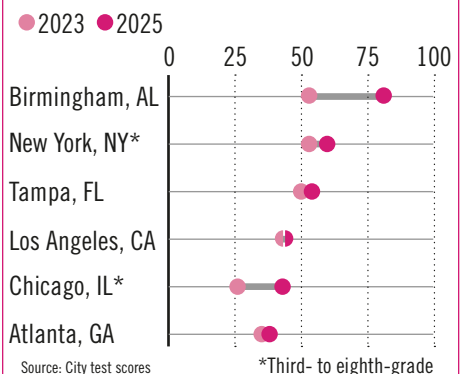
Be sure to check out these incredible pieces at the RSA Centennial Hill Building on Jackson St! ●



*Dr. King Leads the Final Stage of the Selma to Montgomery March*

### Sweet homework, Alabama

US cities, third-grade students meeting reading standards, %



**Editor’s Note:** Congratulations to Gov. Ivey, the Alabama Legislature, and the teachers of Alabama! Recognition from Europe from *The Economist!*

# RTJ Capitol Hill's Legislator Course Gets Major Update

[RTJGOLF.COM](http://RTJGOLF.COM)

Located in Prattville, just minutes north of Alabama's State Capitol, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at **Capitol Hill** spans more than 1,500 breathtaking acres of championship golf and natural beauty. Three distinct 18-hole courses, named the **Judge**, the **Senator**, and the **Legislator**, define the property. Each course offers its own unique character and challenge.

Opened in 1999, the **Legislator** winds through towering pines and along a dramatic bluff overlooking Cooters Pond and the Alabama River. The unforgettable ride across the iconic Sky Bridge leads players down into a native cypress swamp, creating one of golf's most memorable transitions. From there, the course climbs back toward a spectacular clubhouse finish, blending risk and reward with panoramic views.

In 2025, the Legislator entered a bold

new chapter with a comprehensive renovation designed to elevate every aspect of the playing experience. Enhancements included TifEagle UltraDwarf Ber-



muda greens for improved consistency and speed, newly added forward tees to increase accessibility, upgraded bunkers

for sharper definition and playability, and thoughtfully refined green complexes that strengthen strategic options. The result is a course that delivers enhanced conditions and greater enjoyment for golfers of all skill levels, while preserving the strategic design, natural beauty, and timeless character that have long defined the Capitol Hill experience.

Last year, **Capitol Hill** earned national recognition as one of 59club USA's **Elite Customer Service Providers of the Year**. *Golfweek's Best 2025* rankings also placed **the Judge Course #2 and the Legislator Course #4 among Alabama's top public-access courses**. We invite you to come experience firsthand the award-winning service and exceptional play that

make Capitol Hill a premier golf destination. ●

## Member Records Update: Email Verification

To ensure members continue receiving important communications and account notifications, the RSA is conducting a routine review of the email addresses in our records. If you have provided an email address to the RSA that may be inaccurate, you will

receive a letter at your mailing address.

When you receive the letter, please log in to Member Online Services (MOS) at [mso.rsa-al.gov](http://mso.rsa-al.gov) to update your email address. You may also call the RSA at 877.517.0020 or 334.517.7000 for assistance with updating your email or

other contact information.

For your security, the RSA will never ask for your password or sensitive personal information by email. If you have any questions about this email verification, please call the RSA or email [member.services@rsa-al.gov](mailto:member.services@rsa-al.gov). ●

## ERS Board Member Sworn in at March Meeting

ERS Board of Control Vice Chair Jim Fibbe administers the Oath of Office to Mike Gillespie, Active or Retired Local Employee Position. ●



# Alabama Success Story

## Alabama Judicial System

BY CHIEF JUSTICE SARAH H. STEWART

Our purpose as Alabama's judicial branch is to deliver justice to the people we serve. Every day we work to do that with integrity, efficiency, and respect. This purpose drives each judge, clerk, and all of our unified judicial system employees. A strong court system matters because people rely on it every day. It affects public safety, families, businesses, and trust in government. When courts work well, communities are safer and disputes are resolved faster. When they do not, delays and uncertainty hurt everyone. As Chief Justice, I would like to highlight some of the steps we are taking to improve the delivery of justice for the people of Alabama.

Alabama's trial court system includes more than 2,200 employees working in 75 court-houses across all 67 counties. The system is organized into 41 judicial circuits with 148 circuit judges and 111 district judges. In 2025, Alabama's 68 elected circuit clerks collected and distributed \$486 million in child support, restitution, court costs, fees, and fines. The Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) supports trial courts with administrative, financial, legal, technology, and education services so courts can focus on delivering justice.

When I took office in January 2025, I assembled a strong leadership team at AOC led by Administrative Director of Courts Nathan Wilson. Together, we set clear expectations for accountability, efficiency, and results. We refer to this approach as "Accountability by Design." While important milestones remain ahead, the progress made in one year has been substantial.

Our initial focus was the \$240 million trial court budget. One of the most pressing challenges has been a long-standing structural problem caused by rising costs, outdated assumptions, and limited long-term planning. To address this, we rebuilt the trial court budget using best accounting practices, strengthened financial controls, implemented a unified statewide coding system, improved reporting, and focused spending on our core mission of

delivering justice to the people we serve.

The courts have refocused on technology as a practical way to improve efficiency, access, and transparency. Trial courts are transitioning from a legacy mainframe to the web-based Unified Judicial Information System, expanding broadband connectivity in rural court-houses, and adding courtroom Wi-Fi for



reliability and access. Online Dispute Resolution and Online Traffic Resolution are being implemented statewide to resolve cases without in-person appearances, and expanded judicial data reporting on the AOC's website is improving public transparency.

In the criminal justice realm, Alabama's accountability courts address recidivism by targeting substance use and mental health issues by providing treatment-focused alternatives to traditional prosecution for nonviolent offenders. In 2025, the legislature expanded statutory authority for these courts, more than \$3 million in grants were awarded to local courts to enhance and establish accountability courts, and evidence-based standards have been developed. Accountability courts reduce reoffending, protect victims, strengthen communities, and

lower correctional costs.

Other efforts of note include enhancing juvenile justice, improving judicial education, utilizing retired judges to resolve case backlogs, focusing on the collection of unpaid restitution and court-ordered monies, courtroom security, cybersecurity, and the continuation of public confidence in the courts.

None of these initiatives succeed without the people who carry out the courts' daily work. More than 2,200 court employees serve as dedicated public servants who keep Alabama's judicial system operating. Many continue to work under an outdated and inequitable pay structure that makes it difficult to recruit and retain experienced staff. Despite ongoing budget constraints, we are committed to

finding a path forward that improves pay, rewards experience and competence, and helps courts keep the hardworking people judges, circuit clerks, and the public rely on every day.

We recognize that the judicial branch is only as strong as the trust and confidence of the people we serve. People must believe that the courts are working hard, applying the law equally, fairly, and justly to everyone who walks into our courtrooms. We are committed to doing all we can to deserve your trust and confidence in Alabama's judicial branch

*This is a series of articles about Alabama Success Stories. Please let us know if you have a similar success story you would like to share with the RSA membership. You may contact us at [communication.correspondences@rsa-al.gov](mailto:communication.correspondences@rsa-al.gov).*



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### The Battle House RSA Spa Package \$244

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- June 14-15, 21-22, 28-29

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- June 1-2, 7-8, 14-15, 21

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- April 5-6, 19-20, 26-27 • May 17-20, 26-27
- June 14-17, 28-29

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- April 2-5, 19-20, 26
- May 3, 10-11, 16-17, 24-25, 31
- June 5-7, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29

### Renaissance Montgomery \$129

- April 2-5, 25-26 • May 3-4, 8-9, 15-16
- June 5-7, 20-21

### Renaissance Montgomery RSA Spa Package \$244

- April 2-3, 5-6 • May 3-4, 7-8 • June 4-5

*Rates available the 1st of the month and are not applicable to groups.*

Corporate/Promotional Code: R2A  
on [www.rsa-al.gov](http://www.rsa-al.gov)

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\*Visit Member Discounts page for details.

## Candidates Sought for Three ERS Board Positions

Candidates are being sought for three positions on the ERS Board of Control: Active State Employee Position, No. 1, held by Derrick Turner; Active City Employee Position, held by David Harer; and County Employee Position, held by Ricky Harcrow. Elected members will begin their four-year term of service on October 1, 2026.

To be eligible for the **Active State Employee Position, No. 1**, you must be a vested member of the ERS and employed with a state agency. To be eligible for the **Active City Employee Position**, you must be a full-time employee of a participating municipality or city. **This position requires a nomination petition with at least 50 signatures of eligible voters.** To be eligible for the **County Employee Position**, you must be a full-time employee of a participating county. **This position requires a nomination petition with at least 50 signatures of eligible voters.**

Nomination packets, available on our website at [www.rsa-al.gov](http://www.rsa-al.gov), are due to the ERS by 4:00 p.m. on April 29, 2026. In June, eligible members will vote online, by mail, or by telephone for this position. If you have any questions, please contact the Elections Coordinator at 877.517.0020 or 334.517.7192. ●



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