



Lynda Hairston, Chairman, Madison County

Family/Community Service: I was born in Huntsville, AL and have lived here all my life, I was fortunate to have had wonderful Christian parents who taught me to be the best I could be. I have told my colleagues over the years that when I was a little girl my Mom would always tell me before playing with my friends, "You play pretty today!" I have remembered that all my life and have tried to "play pretty" with my friends and associates. Thanks Mom!! In 1998 I met the love of my life Forrest R. (Randy)

Hairston. We married in December of 1998. We have one son, Forrest, in South Carolina and one beautiful granddaughter, Mary Kathryn. Our youngest son, Darwin, passed away several years ago.

I have served on a couple of Boards in the City of Huntsville such as the Heart Association and the Beautification Board of the City. In the past several years I have served on the Madison County Republican Executive Committee and the State Republican Executive Committee.

We have learned that your last day as a Registrar will be July 31, 2024. As one of our longest serving Registrars, would you share some of your work history and reasons for leaving the BOR? My working career began at the Madison County Tax Collector's office at age 18 when I got out of High School. I must have enjoyed working there because I stayed over 34 years, retiring as Chief Clerk. I retired from the Tax Collector's office in June of 1999 and went to work as the Office Manager for one of the larger real estate agents in Huntsville. I was there for 3 years and decided I would move on to something else.

I received a call from my State Representative who said there was going to be an appointment open in the office of the Board of Registrars and several people had requested that I apply for the position. Well.....of course, I had no idea what the Board of Registrars did and thought about it but finally decided I would take the position if Governor Riley appointed me. He did!! I was reappointed by Governor Riley for a second term. My next appointment was from Governor Bentley, and I also served under his tenure for 2 terms. I am now in my 2nd appointment by Governor Ivey. Whew!!! That's a lot of "appointments." As of this date, I have been

Chairman of the Madison County Board of Registrars for almost 21 years. At one time I was vice president of the Association and have been on the Legislative Committee several times during my tenure.

I made the decision to resign due to the fact my husband has had a lot of health issues and I feel that, at this time in our lives, my priority is him. Most of you know Randy and know what a wonderful person he is. We have traveled extensively over the 26 years we have been married and now we just want to spend our remaining days just being together. I think Randy is a happier man knowing that I am retiring and will be at home every day!

I love all the Registrars, have loved my job and have also seen many, many changes in the 21 years I have been in office. It was a tough decision to make but I know all of you understand under the circumstances. I cherish all of the memories I have of the Association and hope we can continue to stay in touch. The BOR members have always been like a second family to me. I thank you for your friendship and I wish all of you the best in the future. God bless you all!!

Probate Judge Frank Barger had this to say about Lynda: *"I've had the immense privilege of working with Lynda Hairston for many years. She has been a consummate professional - dedicated to ensuring any person with the right to vote is properly registered with access to the voting process and serving as a leader among her counterparts throughout our great state. Her history of service to our county and residents goes back more than fifty years that includes service as the Chief Clerk for the Madison County Tax Collector and consecutive appointments from three governors to serve as Chairman of the Board of Registrars. She will be sorely missed, but I am so happy to see her enter and enjoy retirement with her dear husband, Randy. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to work with her, learn from her, and above all to call her my friend."*

Madison County Circuit Clerk Debra Kizer had this to say: *"Lynda cares tremendously about the election process and the security of the voter registration system. The citizens of Madison County could always rest easy knowing Lynda was working diligently to ensure registrations were accurate and legal. Lynda is the epitome of professionalism and grace, and to say that she will be missed is an*

understatement. Working elections will not be the same without Lynda. I thank her for her many years of service and wish her the best in her retirement."