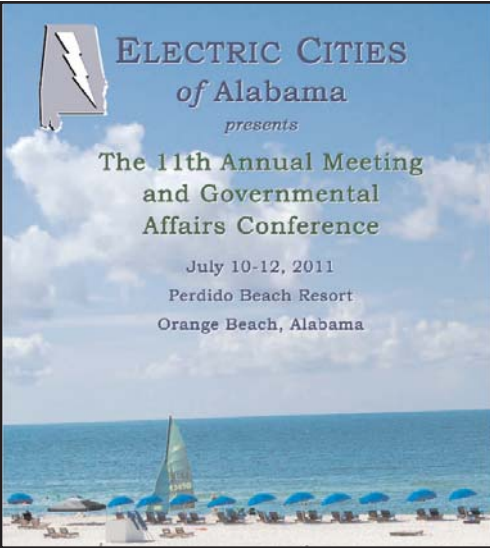


# ELECTRIC CITIES *Connected*

## Not Registered for ECA's Annual Conference? It's Not Too Late!



ECA's 11th Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference July 10-12, 2011, Orange Beach, AL

If you have not registered for ECA's Annual Conference, it's not too late! Join us at the Perdido Beach Resort for Electric Cities of Alabama's (ECA) 11th Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference.

ECA is stronger than ever and our Annual Conference continues to grow and improve each year. This year's conference will not be an exception. ECA's Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference allows member utilities, associate members, vendors and sponsors, along with key staff and elected officials, to gather and exchange ideas and experiences.

As in years past, this conference will be informative and entertaining for the entire family. You don't want to miss this annual event, register today!

Log on to [www.electriccities.org](http://www.electriccities.org) to complete ECA's registration form.

Booking your room at the Perdido Beach Resort pays off! ECA attendees who book their room at the Perdido Beach Resort will automatically become a Perdido Beachian. All Perdido Beachians will qualify to win items such as a stock car racing trip, a flat screen TV and a Kindle. Winners will be announced throughout the conference. Reserve your room at the Perdido Beach Resort for the special rate of \$224 a night by calling 1-800-634-8001 and mentioning the Electric Cities Group Code #5072. You may also book online by logging on to [www.perdidobeachresort.com](http://www.perdidobeachresort.com).

We look forward to seeing you in July!

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Book Your Room at the Perdido Beach Resort and Become a Perdido Beachian!

# Congressional Member Spotlight: Jo Bonner



**Congressman Jo Bonner (AL-R, 1st)**

*Electric Cities of Alabama will feature a monthly spotlight on Alabama's Congressional Delegation to help its members learn more about the Alabama Congressional Members and their views on legislation. This month's spotlight is Congressman Jo Bonner.*

Jo Bonner was first elected to Congress by the people of Alabama's First District in 2002 and was re-elected to a fifth term in 2010.

A member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, Bonner has served as a vigilant guardian of the taxpayers' money, helping to eliminate wasteful spending. Over the years, he has been ranked by numerous national organizations as the most conservative member of Alabama's seven-person House delegation. On the House Appropriations Committee, Bonner serves on the Commerce, Justice and Science subcommittee; the Defense subcommittee; and, the Financial Services subcommittee.

After only three terms in office, Bonner was selected by the House Republican Leadership to the position of Ranking Republican of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, more commonly known as the Ethics Committee. His oversight over matters relating to the Code of Official Conduct of the House has recently placed him in the national spotlight. In the 112th Congress, Congressman Bonner was named Chairman of the House Ethics Committee.

Additionally, Bonner has served as an assistant on the Republican Whip Team, affording him an opportunity to sit at the House Republican leadership table since he was a freshman back in 2003.

During the past eight years, Bonner, in coordination with local and state leaders, has been proactive in helping to successfully attract new industries to the First District, instilling growth and creativity as we move further into the 21st century. He has worked aggressively alongside the Governor's office in recruiting several significant economic projects to the state – projects that will continue to fuel the economic engine of Alabama for generations to come.

In 2007, one of the largest private industrial development projects in the United States – ThyssenKrupp's \$4.8 billion steel plant – was announced for Alabama's First District. The company's grand opening was celebrated on December 10, 2010, with more than 2,700 new jobs being created when it is at full employment.

Bonner was Born in Selma and reared in the town of Camden, in rural Wilcox County.

A congressional staffer for 18 years, Bonner served as both press secretary and chief of staff to his predecessor, former Congressman Sonny Callahan. In 1997, he and his family moved back to southwest Alabama where he became one of the few congressional chiefs of staff to reside in the district.

He is married to the former Janée Lambert of Mobile. They are parents of a daughter, Jennifer Lee, age 15, and a son, Josiah Robins, III, age 12. The Bonners make their home in Mobile.

## **What do you feel is the greatest challenge facing Congress?**

Without a doubt the most vexing problem confronting Congress is how to gain control over federal spending, which is quickly driving our nation toward a debt crisis. The pace of the economic recovery is also influenced by the fate of ongoing debt and budget talks in Washington. Over the last two years, discretionary spending has grown by 24 percent and we've added more than \$3 trillion to the national debt, which currently stands at \$14.3 trillion. If you count the \$787 billion stimulus package the president and his allies passed in their first couple of months in office, discretionary spending rose at an alarming 84 percent during this time. This dilemma is not going to be solved without an agreement from Congress and right now the

*continued on page 3*

# Congressional Member Spotlight: Bonner (Continued)

House and Senate are about as politically divided as they've ever been – not to mention the political gulf which stands between the Republican-controlled House and the White House. Reaching an agreement on government spending and addressing the long-term debt are the most significant tasks ahead of Congress this year and it's vitally important that we get it right.

**ECA appreciates your position against Cap and Trade legislation as well as your position against the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. Do you feel Congress will limit EPA's ability to use the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions?**

The failure of Cap and Trade to become law was one of the few examples of common sense prevailing during the previous Democrat-dominated Congress. I opposed the Cap and Trade bill because it would have resulted in raising energy and consumer prices for all Americans. If relatively short-term fluctuations in gasoline prices serve to stall our present economic recovery, one can only imagine what kind of damage a massive government-imposed energy tax in the form of draconian emissions limits would do to our economy. The president has made it known that he will not accept defeat of his Cap and Trade goals and, instead, will try to implement them through EPA regulations. House Speaker John Boehner has made it clear that the Republican House will not stand idly by if the

administration pursues this course. Lawmakers will continue to assert authority over the Executive branch rulemaking, including the EPA.

**What has changed the most during your tenure in Congress?**

I was a congressional staff member for nearly 18 years prior to being elected to Congress in 2002. I've witnessed much change in the House over the past two and a half decades. From a practical standpoint, the work of Congress is more accessible to the public with the advent of the internet and recent efforts of the 112th Congress to provide advance copies of legislation before House floor votes. The public is also more engaged in the legislative process than ever before thanks to 24-hour-a-day cable news and internet coverage. Unfortunately, we've also witnessed a sharp increase in partisanship in Congress over this same period of time. To some extent it is reflective of the different views of the population as a whole, but the political discord often makes it more difficult to reach agreement.

**What does the future look like for domestic energy production?**

I believe the future is bright for domestic energy production because our country has no other viable path through which to pursue new energy. The Obama administration's unilateral decision to wall off offshore drilling has served to stir debate in Congress about America's abundance of fossil fuels, which are yet to be

developed. The House has passed a number of bills this year to open up offshore areas to drilling and we will continue to press for a lifting of the administration's de facto moratorium. Lately, the president has indicated a possible shift to open up some of these resources for development, but it's too early to tell if his talk is only election year rhetoric. Above all, America must have a balanced approach to energy production if we are to keep pace with future demands. The Republican House supports an all-of-the-above energy strategy that not only relies on safe and responsible domestic energy, but also develops alternative energy such as clean coal, wind, solar and other viable sources.

**What would you like Electric Cities of Alabama members to know about you?**

I am honored to represent a number of your member cities in Congress, including Fairhope, Foley and Robertsedale. I also recognize the challenges you face in serving your customers and like you I understand the importance of reliable and affordable energy for economic development and improving the quality of life for all Alabamians. I am proud to note that ECA executive director, Jon Hand, was a long-time member of my Washington, DC, congressional staff before he joined your organization. As Jon will tell you, Alabama's congressional delegation is one of the best in the nation in working together for the greater good of the citizens of our state.

# Happenings on Goat Hill: 2011 Legislative Session Recap



## 2011 Regular Legislative Session Statistics:

- A combined total of 1,205 bills were introduced: House Representatives introduced 687 and Senators introduced 518.
- A combined total of 711 bills have been enacted to date.

## 2011 Regular Legislative Session Recap

**June 9, 2011** - The Alabama Legislature convenes for the 30th and final Legislative Day of the 2011 Regular

Legislative Session.

**June 9, 2011** - Governor Robert Bentley signs into law HB56 by Rep. Micky Hammon (R-Decatur), a bill that strengthens Alabama's immigration laws.

**June 9, 2011** - Alabama Senate approves HB414, a bill increasing state employees' retirement contributions.

**June 9, 2011** - The Senate approves a constitutional amendment that would ban mandates to buy health insurance, a key part of the federal health care reform bill.

**June 9, 2011** - The Senate approves a bill that requires the disclosure of contracts with the federal and state government held by political officials, candidates and their spouses.

**June 9, 2011** - The Legislature passes State Board of Education redistricting map.

**June 9, 2011** - The Legislature finalizes the State's Education and General Fund budgets.

**June 15, 2011** - Governor Robert Bentley signs HB414 into law.

## *ECA's Blast from the Past*



### *ECA Annual Conference Photos*

*Here are just a few photos ECA dug up in our 2010 archives!*

# Race Ratings: GOP Safe as Can Be in Alabama

By Joshua Miller  
Roll Call Staff

A spokeswoman for the Congresswoman said Rep. Martha Roby was "very happy" with the final redistricting map.

When Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley (R) signed a new Congressional map into law last week, he significantly strengthened the chances the Yellowhammer State will remain a delegation with six Republicans and one Democrat.

The GOP seats got safer, and the Republican-dominated Alabama Legislature added Democrats to freshman Rep. Terri Sewell's 7th district, making it easier for her to win a second term. Freshman Rep. Martha Roby (R) had the narrowest victory margin in 2010, but the new map adds Republican areas to her district.

Sewell told Roll Call she was still reviewing the map, but she said as far as the statewide landscape goes, "It would be great if we could put more Democratic seats in play."

Alabama Senate Minority Leader Roger Bedford (D), who has been in the chamber since 1982, told Roll Call the map seems "ripe" for a lawsuit. And the Alabama Democratic Party said one was likely. Regardless of whether one is filed, the 1965 Voting Rights Act dictates that Alabama's new districts must be pre-cleared by the Department of Justice or by a federal court before the law can be enacted.

**1st District Incumbent: Jo Bonner (R) 5th term (83 percent) Rating: Safe Republican**

The Mobile-based 1st district, which includes all of Alabama's coast, barely changes under the new Congressional

lines, losing just a bit of territory in Clarke County to the 7th. Although it is by no means the most Republican district in the state, Bonner looks likely to easily win re-election in this solidly GOP area. A staunch conservative, Bonner has snagged victories in the past three cycles with more than 68 percent of the vote.

**2nd District Incumbent: Martha Roby (R) 1st term (51 percent) Rating: Safe Republican**

In a 2010 television ad in his losing battle to hold on to his southern Alabama seat, former Rep. Bobby Bright (D) sold himself as "independent and conservative." It was a good description for the 2nd district, even if voters didn't believe it was a good description of Bright. After redistricting, the 2nd, anchored in the suburbs of Montgomery and covering the southeastern portion of the state, is more of the latter. That's great news for Roby, who just barely squeaked out a win last cycle. She unseated Bright by just 4,857 votes out of almost 220,000 votes cast in a wave year for the GOP. (A spokeswoman said Roby was "very happy" with the final map.)

The new map pushes heavily Democratic western Montgomery County and Lowndes County into the 7th. Lowndes backed Bright over Roby last year, 74 percent to 26 percent. A Democratic operative in Washington said the right Alabama Democrat might be able to win back the seat. But until that challenger emerges, the district is safe for Roby. The Congresswoman is an able fundraiser, pulling in \$214,000 in the first quarter.

**3rd District Incumbent: Mike**

**Rogers (R) 5th term (59 percent) Rating: Safe Republican**

The makeup of the 3rd has never made victory a stroll in the park for Rogers, but a bid for a sixth term will be a lot easier for him than ever before. According to figures crunched by a Republican source in Washington, Rogers got the biggest boost from the new map because the partisan tilt of the 3rd will move substantially to the right. Under the new district lines, the 3rd now includes the heavily Republican St. Claire County, where Sen. John McCain won 81 percent of the vote in 2008. It also splits over three districts the heavily Democratic Montgomery County, which sits mostly in the 3rd under the current lines.

**4th District Incumbent: Robert Aderholt (R) 8th term (unopposed) Rating: Safe Republican**

The 4th district changes geographically under the new map, though not politically. The district stretches from the Mississippi border to the Georgia state line. The 4th gained the northern portion of Tuscaloosa County and lost almost all of Blount County. Strengthening the GOP tilt of the 5th, the new lines split the Democratic Shoals region of the state, putting Colbert County in Aderholt's district. This move particularly rankled Democrats in the state, who said the Shoals, split for the first time since Reconstruction, have a history of working together as a cohesive region.

Republican sources said Aderholt is unhappy with the substantive changes to his constituent base. Another source said the new map might force him to move his district offices. Still, he looks to be safe for re-election to a ninth term. *continued on page 6*

# Race Ratings: GOP Safe as Can Be in Alabama

## 5th District

**Incumbent: Mo Brooks (R)**

**1st term (58 percent)**

**Rating: Safe Republican**

Brooks beat Democrat Steve Raby in every county in the 5th except for Lawrence. So the new lines must be particularly welcome for the GOP because Lawrence and Colbert counties were moved to the 4th. Under the new map, the 5th district includes the five northernmost counties in the state along with Morgan County. Democrats see this district as a potential opportunity for a pickup. They cite the fact that until then-Rep. Parker Griffith switched parties in 2009 and became a Republican, a Democrat represented the 5th for more than 100 years. But under the new lines, a change of party here in

2012 would be quite a stretch.

## 6th District

**Incumbent: Spencer Bachus (R)**

**10th term (unopposed)**

**Rating: Safe Republican**

What would the safest of safe Republican districts look like if its new lines were drawn by a Republican Legislature and signed into law by a Republican governor in a ruby red state? Something like the 6th, centered on Birmingham's suburbs.

Since he unseated Democratic Rep. Ben Erdreich (D) in 1992 with 52 percent of the vote, Bachus hasn't received less than 70 percent of the vote. His chief of staff said Bachus plans to seek re-election.

## 7th District

**Incumbent: Terri Sewell (D)**

**1st term (72 percent)**

**Rating: Safe Democratic**

Located on the western border of the state, the 7th district snakes out to Birmingham to the north, Montgomery to the east and toward Mobile in the South. The district is 64 percent black and heavily Democratic. The new map added more Democrats to the 7th.

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*Article Courtesy of Joshua Miller  
Roll Call Staff  
JoshuaMiller@rollcall.com |  
@j\_m\_dc*

# City of Guntersville Commends ECA for their Assistance

From the Office of the Mayor – Guntersville, Alabama

ECA received a letter from Guntersville Mayor, Robert L. Hembree, Jr., thanking the ECA staff for their assistance during the April 27 tornado disaster. The Mayor expressed his appreciation to ECA, who coordinated disaster assistance during a difficult time, and asked that ECA pass along the city of Guntersville's sincere thanks to those who worked to restore power to their citizens.

ECA's executive director Jonathan Hand said, "We were happy to assist the city of Guntersville. Guntersville Electric Board general manager Tommy Troup should be commended for his tireless dedication in Guntersville's recovery from this natural disaster." ECA has a long tradition of working together to ensure members recover from storms in a timely and safe manner. Thank you again to all of our member utilities who assisted in the April 27 tornado relief.



## ECA Trivia Grid

**In 1752, Benjamin Franklin discovered a common, natural occurrence of electricity. What was this natural phenomena?**

**Be the first to email the correct answer to Andrea Salvador at [asalvador@electriccities.org](mailto:asalvador@electriccities.org) and win a \$25.00 gift card. Good Luck!**

*Last month's winner was Michael McLean from McLean Engineering Co., Inc. He answered a "series circuit" only allows one path for current. Michael donated his gift card to the Salvation Army in Montgomery.*



*Calendar*  
2011

**ECA**

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**July 10, 2011 - 3:00 p.m.**  
Annual Business Meeting  
(Board of Directors)  
Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, AL

**July 10 - 12, 2011**  
Annual Meeting and  
Governmental Affairs  
Conference  
Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, AL

**October 19 - 21, 2011**  
Engineering & Operations  
Conference  
Ross Bridge Hotel & Spa  
Birmingham, AL

**October 21, 2011**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Ross Bridge Hotel & Spa  
Birmingham, AL

**2011 Engineering & Operations Conference**  
Oct. 19-21, 2011  
Ross Bridge, Birmingham, AL



**Join us for Electric Cities of Alabama's (ECA)  
Engineering and Operations Conference  
Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa  
Oct. 19-21, 2011  
Birmingham, AL**

**Registration Materials will be mailed in early fall.**