

2022 - 2025

Alabama Poet Laureate Nominations Guidelines

What is the Alabama Poet Laureate Position?

The Alabama Poet Laureate recognizes and honors a citizen poet of exceptional talent and accomplishment. The Alabama Poet Laureate also encourages appreciation of poetry and literary life in Alabama. This position was created by the state legislature May 5, 1931.

What is the Term of Service and Compensation?

The term of service is a four-year renewable term. The award is honorific; the state provides no compensation. The term begins January 1, 2022.

Who is eligible to be nominated Alabama Poet Laureate?

Any citizen of the state of Alabama may nominate a poet for the Poet Laureate position. A poet may not self-nominate him or herself, and no award will be given posthumously. Nominations for Alabama Poet Laureate will be accepted for Alabama poets who meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must currently be a resident of Alabama and have resided in Alabama for at least ten years.
2. Must be at least 21 years old.
3. Must have at least one book of poetry published by a commercial or small press within the past ten years.
4. Must be available to travel and give presentations.
5. Must have produced work of the highest caliber and critical acclaim and have contributed substantial service to the development of the literary arts as demonstrated by the submitted application.

What is the selection process for Alabama Poet Laureate?

The President of Alabama Writers Conclave will appoint a Poet Laureate Nominations Committee who will review applications and present a candidate for election at the annual meeting on or about August 15, 2021. The Governor of the State of Alabama will then appoint the selected candidate in an official ceremony.

How will Alabama Poet Laureate nominations be evaluated?

1. Excellence as evidenced by the submitted poetry sample.
2. Exemplary professionalism as evidenced by an established history of substantial and significant publications in journals and books including at least one book of poems published by a commercial or small press (see eligibility requirements) and special honors, awards, fellowships, or other recognition.
3. Advancement of poetry in Alabama communities as evidenced by an established history of activity in Alabama's literary community through readings,

publications, public presentations and/or teaching.

To be considered, nominations must include the following:

1. Completed nomination form (attached), signed by nominator and nominated poet that include a binding statement that the poetry sample is the nominee's and the materials submitted are true and complete.
2. A cover letter from the nominator of no more than two pages providing the following information: name and a short biography of the nominated poet and a summary of significant awards and published works.
3. The poet-nominee's resume or CV.
4. A summary of no more than one page indicating (A) why the nominator considers the work of the nominated poet to be of the highest quality and (B) why the nominee is well-suited to help promote the reading, writing, and appreciation of poetry in our state.
5. A work sample of no more than ten poems. Submissions may not exceed 15 continuously numbered 8 1/2" x 11" pages (one side), no less than 12 point type. Please provide copyright information where appropriate; all submissions become part of the public record. Both published and non-published poetry may be submitted. All submissions must be typewritten or computer generated. Materials hand-written will not be accepted.

Receipt deadline for all nominations is **MARCH 15, 2021.***

*Note: the deadline has been extended.

Mail nominations to:

TJ Beitelman, Coordinator
Poet Laureate Nominations Committee, AWC
c/o ASFA-CW Department
1800 Rev. Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd.
Birmingham, AL 35203

Queries, including information regarding electronic submission, can be sent to Mr. Beitelman at tjbeitelman@asfa.k12.al.us.

2022 - 2025 Alabama Poet Laureate Nomination Form

Receipt Deadline: February 15, 2021 **Review the nomination guidelines before signing this form.**

Nominator Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (other) _____

email address _____

I accept full responsibility for meeting all requirements of the Alabama Writers Cooperative to provide all information required to evaluate this nomination. I attest that all included information is true and that this nomination submission signifies intention of compliance with all general and special guidelines and restrictions imposed by the Alabama Writers Cooperative as stated in this document.

Signature of Nominator _____ Date _____

.....

Poet-Nominee Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (other) _____

email address _____

I give full permission for my name to be placed in nomination for this position by the above nominator. I certify that the nominee information is true and accurate and that the work sample submitted is an accurate representation of my work. If selected, the Office of the Governor of the State of Alabama and the Alabama Writers Cooperative have my permission to use my work sample, or a portion thereof, for publicity purposes.

Signature of Poet-Nominee _____ Date _____