



# REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

## ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS (AARC)

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### OVERVIEW

The Alabama Association of Regional Councils is an organization representing all twelve Regional Councils within the State of Alabama. Working through the AARC, the Regional Councils form statewide task forces to accomplish missions of statewide importance. Through communication, planning, policymaking, coordination, advocacy, and technical assistance, the regional council serves the local governments and citizens in the region.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Regionalism is working together and sharing resources to meet needs and take advantage of opportunities. Through regional councils, cities and counties can:

- Work together to secure and administer grants and loans from various sources
- Support a shared staff of professional talent to supplement local capabilities
- Participate in cooperative programs that are efficient and effective because of "economies of scale"
- Share information and solutions about common problems or issues that are not confined by political boundaries
- Stimulate overall economic, social, and physical environments
- Promote coordination of public and private interests and investments
- Avoid duplication of services and facilities

It is not easy to make regionalism work. However, the advantages are clear -- communities can solve problems and provide higher quality services at a reduced cost. Regional councils are a "service arm" of local governments. Their activities are directed in response to local needs. These needs may currently exist or be based on projected growth, changing lifestyles, and technological innovations.

#### 1. Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission

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Counties: Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas,  
Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, Washington  
and Wilcox

## 2. Northwest AL Council of Local Governments

Keith Jones  
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Counties: Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Marion  
and Winston

## 3. West AL Regional Commission

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Counties: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar,  
Pickens and Tuscaloosa

## 4. Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

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Counties: Blount, Chilton,  
Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair and Walker

## 5. East AL Regional Planning and Development Commission

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Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega  
and Tallapoosa

## 6. South Central Alabama Development Commission

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## 7. Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

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## 8. South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

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## 9. Central AL Regional Planning Development Commission

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## 10. Lee-Russell Council of Governments

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## 11. North-Central AL Regional Council of Governments

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## 12. Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments

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