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## ALABAMA EXPOSURE: Moore says campaign helped by Santorum

*Former Chief Justice Roy Moore won the Republican primary for chief justice by a mere 0.37 percentage points last week, defeating two candidates  
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Former Chief Justice Roy Moore won the Republican primary for chief justice by a mere 0.37 percentage points last week, defeating two candidates including the incumbent chief justice.

Moore said he believes his campaign was helped by the showing of conservative Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum, who led the Alabama GOP presidential primary race. Moore got just over 50 percent of the vote to defeat Chief Justice Chuck Malone and Mobile County Circuit Judge Charlie Graddick, a former attorney general, avoiding a runoff. Moore meets Democrat nominee Harry Lyon in the November general election.

### Davis looks at suing Bentley over mental health plan

Department of Mental Health advisory board member Paul Davis told Gov. Robert Bentley that he has hired an attorney and may sue Bentley over plans to shift mental illness residents of state hospitals to community treatment.

Davis told Bentley at a board meeting last week that he's concerned about the lack of funds for mental illness treatment and a fear that Bentley may be favoring funding to the Department of Corrections over the Department of Mental Health.

Mental Health Commissioner Zelia Baugh, with Bentley's blessing, plans to serve most if not all mental illness patients in community settings, which Davis supports. The schedule of those plans took a setback last week when Bentley said more time to evaluate services.

### Bentley announces bill

to legalize charter schools

Standing in front of the elementary school in Montgomery that his wife, Dianne, attended, Gov. Bentley and Republican legislators announced a bill to legalize charter schools.

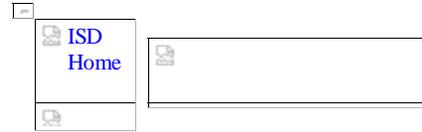
Charter schools get public funding but do not have some of the regulations of other public schools. The Business Council of Alabama, concerned with an educated workforce, said it supports the bill. The Alabama Education Association opposes it as a drain on already scarce school resources.

City and county school boards would be allowed to approve a limited number of applications for charter schools. Existing schools could be converted into public charter schools, if city and county school boards choose.

At the news conference in front of the old Cloverdale School, Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange said he expects the city to apply for a charter to operate a same-sex school for boys.

Senate sponsor Dick Brewbaker, R-Montgomery, said a public charter school will no

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more draw public resources than the new public high school being built in east Montgomery will. The AEA said the state cannot afford dual schools when existing schools are underfunded.

#### Quote of the week

“We’re not making any permanent decisions right now until we look at how everything would fit together,” Gov. Bentley said about stopping construction of the replacement for Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa so officials can reassess the mental health plan.

#### Fact of the week

Unofficial results show that 69 percent of the state’s registered voters did not vote on primary day last week. The presidential and state primaries drew only 821,853 voters, out of 2.6 million who are registered. That’s only 31.2 percent.

#### Alabama Legislature

returns Tuesday

The Legislature is scheduled to return to regular session on Tuesday. The House is scheduled to convene at 1 p.m. and the Senate at 2 p.m.

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