



# Of Goats & Governors: Six Decades of Colorful Alabama Political Stories

*Steve Flowers*

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Few states have as colorful a political history as Alabama, especially in the post-World War II era. During the past six decades, the state played a central role in the civil rights movement, largely moved away from its earlier farm-based economy and culture, and transitioned from a relatively moderate-progressive Democratic Party politics to today's hard-core conservative Republican Party domination. Moving onto and off Alabama's electoral stage during all these transformations have been some of the most interesting figures in 20th-century American government and politics. Some -- like George Wallace, Big Jim Folsom, Lister Hill, Frank M. Johnson Jr., or Howell Heflin -- became national figures and shaped the state's image, for better or worse, with far-reaching legislation or political or judicial action. There could be no better guide to this colorful history than political columnist and commentator Steve Flowers. Alabama historian Ed Bridges says this about Flowers's book: "In today's environment of continuous television news, political polls, slick advertisements, and the Internet, there is something almost nostalgic about the old days of cigars, eccentric characters, and good yarns. *Of Goats & Governors* offers a peephole through which readers can look back at three exuberant generations of Alabama politics, into a world that seems to be fading ever more quickly from view."

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