

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 277

5 By: Senators K. Hammer, Dees, M. McKee, Stone, J. Petty  
6 By: Representatives McAlindon, Wing, Achor, Andrews, Barker, Beaty Jr., Beck, Bentley, M. Berry,  
7 Breaux, Brooks, K. Brown, M. Brown, Burkes, Joey Carr, C. Cooper, Cozart, Evans, C. Fite, L. Fite,  
8 Fortner, Furman, Gazaway, Gonzales, Gramlich, Haak, Hawk, Hollowell, Jean, Ladyman, Long,  
9 Lundstrum, Lynch, McClure, McCollum, M. McElroy, McGrew, B. McKenzie, McNair, S. Meeks,  
10 Miller, Milligan, K. Moore, Pilkington, Puryear, R. Scott Richardson, Richmond, Rose, Rye, Tosh,  
11 Underwood, Vaught, Womack, Wooten  
12

## For An Act To Be Entitled

13 AN ACT TO AMEND THE FILING PERIOD FOR POLITICAL  
14 PARTIES; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING POLITICAL  
15 PARTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

19 TO AMEND THE FILING PERIOD FOR POLITICAL  
20 PARTIES; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING  
21 POLITICAL PARTIES.  
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(c)(1), concerning dates under  
28 election law, is amended to read as follows:

29 (c)(1) The party filing period shall be a one-week period beginning  
30 and ending on the following dates and times:

31 (A) For years in which the office of Governor will appear  
32 on the ballot at the general election, beginning at 12:00 noon one (1) week  
33 prior to the first day in March and ending at 12:00 noon on the ~~first~~ second  
34 day in March; and

35 (B) For years in which the office of President of the  
36 United States will appear on the ballot at the general election, beginning at



1 12:00 noon on the first Monday in November preceding the general primary  
 2 election and ending at 12:00 noon on the ~~seventh~~ eighth day thereafter.

3  
 4 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205(a)(2), concerning petition  
 5 requirements for new political parties, is amended to read as follows:

6 (2) The petition shall contain at the time of filing the  
 7 signatures of ~~registered voters in an amount that equals or exceeds three~~  
 8 ~~percent (3%) of the total votes cast for the Office of Governor in the~~  
 9 ~~immediately preceding general election for Governor~~ a minimum of ten thousand  
 10 (10,000) registered voters in the state.

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 12 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205(a)(4)(B), concerning petition  
 13 requirements for new political parties, is amended to read as follows:

14 (B) No signature that is dated ~~more than ninety (90) days~~  
 15 ~~before the date the petition is submitted~~ prior to the first day of January  
 16 immediately following the general election shall be counted.

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 18 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205(a)(6), concerning petition  
 19 requirements for new political parties, is amended to read as follows:

20 (6) A new political party that wishes to select nominees for the  
 21 next general election shall file a sufficient petition no later than ~~sixty~~  
 22 ~~(60) days before the party filing period~~ three (3) weeks before the  
 23 preferential primary election.

24  
 25 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205(c)(2)(B), concerning petition  
 26 requirements for new political parties, is amended to read as follows:

27 (B)(i) ~~A convention under subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this~~  
 28 ~~section shall be held no later than 12:00 noon on the date of the~~  
 29 ~~preferential primary election.~~

30 (ii) Certificates of nomination shall be filed with  
 31 the Secretary of State or the county clerk no later than 12:00 noon on the  
 32 date of the preferential primary election.

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 34 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205(c)(3), concerning petition  
 35 requirements for new political parties, is amended to read as follows:

36 (3) A candidate to be nominated by convention shall file a

1 political practices pledge with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as  
2 the case may be, ~~during the party filing period~~ no later than 12:00 noon on  
3 the date of the preferential primary election.

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6 **APPROVED: 4/4/23**  
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