

ARKANSAS SENATE
86th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2007
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 855

"AN ACT AMENDING ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING PROCEDURES AND
DEADLINES FOR ELECTIONS."

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 855.

Amend Senate Bill No. 855 as originally introduced:

Delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 2-16-504 is amended to read as follows:
2-16-504. Petition to establish district.

(a)(1) Upon the petition of fifty (50) landowners filed with the county court or courts in which a proposed district lies, the county court or courts shall declare that a threat to the agricultural economy of the proposed district exists by reason of the uncontrolled growth of Johnson grass.

(2) The county court or courts shall cause the question of whether the district shall be established and this subchapter shall be enforced in the district to be submitted to the landowners of the proposed district.

~~(b)(1)(A)~~ Immediately upon the submission of the petition to the county court or courts, the court or courts shall issue a proclamation calling the election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) and notify the county board or boards of election commissioners in writing, and the county board or boards of election commissioners shall call a special election to be held not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days after the filing of the petition. The election shall be held on a date in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) but in no event more than ninety (90) days following publication of the proclamation.

~~(B)(2)~~ This special election shall be held for the purpose of submitting to the landowners of the proposed district the question of whether the district shall be established and the provisions of this subchapter shall be enforced in the district.

~~(2)(A)~~ The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.

~~(B)(i)(a)~~ A special election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.



~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 3-8-205, concerning the conducting of local option elections, is amended to read as follows:

3-8-205. Determination of sufficiency of petition – Calling of election.

(a)(1) When thirty-eight percent (38%) of the qualified electors shall file petitions with the county clerk of any county within this state praying that an election be held in a designated county, township, municipality, ward, or precinct to determine whether or not licenses shall be granted for the manufacture or sale or the bartering, loaning, or giving away of intoxicating liquor within the designated territory, the county clerk within ten (10) days thereafter shall determine the sufficiency of the petition.

(2) The total number of voters registered as certified by the county clerk to the Secretary of State by the first of June of each year pursuant to Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51 shall be the basis upon which the number of signatures of qualified electors on petitions shall be computed.

(3) A person shall be a registered voter at the time of signing the petition.

(b) If it is found that thirty-eight percent (38%) of the qualified electors have signed the petition, the county clerk shall certify that finding to the county board of election commissioners, and the question shall be placed on the ballot in the county, township, municipality, ward, or precinct at the next biennial general election as provided in § 3-8-101.

(c)(1) If an appeal is taken from the certification of the county clerk, it shall be taken within ten (10) days and shall be considered by the circuit court within ten (10) days, or as soon as practicable, after the appeal is lodged with the court.

(2) The circuit court shall render its decision within thirty (30) days thereafter.

(d) If an appeal is taken, the election shall be had ~~within thirty~~ no sooner than sixty-five (65) days after the appeal is determined, if the decision is in favor of the petitioners.

(e)(1)(A) The decision shall be certified immediately to the county board of election commissioners, and the day for the election shall be fixed by the county board of election commissioners for not earlier than ~~twenty~~ sixty-five (65) days nor later than ~~thirty (30)~~ ninety (90) days after

the certification of the decision of the circuit court.

(B) Any appeal from the final decision of the circuit court shall be taken within ten (10) days and shall be advanced and immediately determined by the Supreme Court.

(2) In that event, the county board of election commissioners may, in its discretion, delay the election until after the final decision of the Supreme Court.

(3) If the decision is in favor of the petitioners, then the county board of election commissioners shall set the day for the election, which shall be not earlier than ~~twenty (20)~~ sixty-five (65) days nor later than ~~thirty (30)~~ ninety (90) days after the final decision of the Supreme Court.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 3-9-206(b), concerning the conducting of referendum elections, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) The election shall be called by order of the quorum court in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) and held and conducted in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) and the results certified under the supervision of the county board of election commissioners in the manner provided by the election laws of this state.

~~(2)(A) The county board order of the quorum court shall fix the date of the election not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) ninety (90) days from the date the election was called pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section of the order and give notice thereof by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or county by at least two (2) insertions, the last being not less than ten (10) days prior to the election.~~

~~(B)(i) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(b) Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(3) The county board shall tabulate the votes and certify the results to the county clerk within ten (10) days after the election.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-14-102(d), concerning annual school elections, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The board of directors of any school district shall have the

authority to ~~request the county board of election commissioners to call a special election to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) for the purpose of considering a rate of tax for additional millages for maintenance and operations or for debt service as authorized by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 74, provided that:~~

(1) All constitutional and statutory requirements for a special school election are met; and

(2) The date of the election is approved by the commissioner~~;~~
and

~~(3)(A) The special election is held on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (d)(3)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote at the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-14-111 is amendment to read as follows:
6-14-111. Ballots - Write-in candidates.

~~(a) The county board of election commissioners of the county in which the school district is domiciled for administrative purposes shall prepare and furnish ballots and all other necessary supplies for the annual school election.~~

~~(b)(1) The county board of election commissioners shall place on the ballots as candidates for school district director names of any qualified voters whose names have been filed and verified by the county clerk of the county in which the school district is domiciled for administrative purposes.~~

~~(2) The county clerk of the county in which the school district is domiciled for administrative purposes shall certify to the board of election commissioners that the petition contains the names of at least twenty (20) qualified registered voters who are residents of the district and respective electoral zone, if directors are elected from zones, at least forty five (45) days before the annual school election.~~

~~(3) Candidates shall circulate the petitions no earlier than ninety (90) calendar days before the annual school election.~~

~~(c) Votes for a write in candidate for school district director shall not be counted or tabulated unless not later than forty (40) days before the annual school election the candidate notifies in writing the county board of election commissioners of the county in which the school district is~~

~~domiciled for administrative purposes of his or her intention to be a write-in candidate.~~

(a)(1) All candidate filings pursuant to this subchapter shall be with the county clerk of the county in which the school district is domiciled for administrative purposes; and

(2) All actions required of county boards of election commissioners shall be performed by the county board of election commissioners of the county in which the school district is domiciled for administrative purposes.

(b) The county board of election commissioners shall prepare and furnish ballots and all other necessary supplies for the annual school election.

(c) A candidate for a position on the board of directors of a school district may qualify for the ballot by filing a petition or filing a notice of write-in candidacy.

(d) The petition shall be directed to the county clerk and shall contain the names of at least twenty (20) registered voters who are residents of the district and, if applicable, the electoral zone for the position.

(e) The petition and the candidate's political practices pledge shall be filed with the clerk during a one-week period ending at 12:00 noon sixty (60) days before the annual school election.

(f)(1) Candidates may begin circulating petitions not earlier than ninety (90) days before the annual school election.

(2) A signature dated more than ninety (90) days before the school election shall not be counted by the clerk as a valid signature.

(g) Votes for a write-in candidate for school district director shall not be counted or tabulated unless the candidate files with the county clerk during a one-week period ending at noon fifty-five (55) days before the annual school election:

(1) A written notice of his or her intention to be a write-in candidate; and

(2) The political practices pledge.

(h) The county board of election commissioners shall place on the ballot as candidates for school district director the names of any qualified registered voters whose political practices pledges have been filed and whose petitions have been filed with and verified by the county clerk of the county in which the school district is domiciled for administrative purposes.

(i)(1) On the day after the deadline for candidates to file for a position on the board of directors by petition, the county clerk shall certify to the board of election commissioners the names of those candidates who are registered voters in the school district and the electoral zone, if applicable, and who have qualified for the ballot by petition.

(2) Immediately after the close of the write-in filing period, the county clerk shall certify to the county board of election commissioners any write-in candidates who have filed notices and political practices pledges with the clerk.

(j) The order in which the names of the respective candidates are to appear on the ballot shall be determined by lot at the public meeting of the county board of election commissioners held not later than fifty-five (55) days before the annual school election.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-14-121 is amended to read as follows:

6-14-121. Runoff elections.

(a)(1) Whenever there are more than two (2) candidates for election to any position on a school district board at any election held in this state and whenever no candidate for any district position receives a majority of the votes cast for the office or whenever there is a tie vote, there shall be a runoff election held in the district.

(2) The names of the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes, but not a majority, shall be placed on the ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors for that position on a school district board.

(3) The runoff election shall be held three (3) weeks following the date of the election.

(b) The person receiving the majority of the votes cast for the position at the runoff election shall be declared elected.

(c) If one (1) of the two (2) candidates who received the highest number of votes for a position withdraws prior to certification of the result of the school election, the remaining candidate who received the most votes at the school election shall be declared elected to the office and there shall be no school election runoff.

~~(e)~~(d)(1) In the event that the two (2) candidates seeking election to the same district position shall receive the same number of votes in a runoff election, a tie shall be deemed to exist.

(2) The county board of election commissioners shall determine the winner by lot at an open public meeting and in the presence of the two (2) candidates.

~~(d)~~(e) The provisions of this section are intended to be in addition to and supplemental to the laws of this state pertaining to the election of school district boards of directors.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-14-122 is amended to read as follows:
6-14-122. Consolidation, annexation, or merger of districts.

(a) The consideration of the question of the consolidation or annexation of two (2) or more school districts, or parts thereof, in their entireties, kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12), may be made at the annual school election with the issue of combining the districts and the levying of a specified tax millage to support the new district placed on the ballot as a single issue in order to assure that when the two (2) or more districts, or parts thereof, are combined into one (1) district, a single millage will be levied for support of the new district.

(b) The boards of directors of the districts may, by resolution duly adopted and with the approval of the Commissioner of Education, set a date for the annual school election in that year for the districts involved on a date other than the date set in § 6-14-102 for all school districts, provided only one (1) annual school election may be held in any school district in one (1) calendar year.

(c) If the State Board of Education is petitioned by the board of directors of a school district or districts, by resolution duly adopted by majority vote of each of the local boards, or when petitioned by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the qualified electors of a school district or districts as certified in writing by the county clerk of each county where the school district or districts are located, the state board may call a special election to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) to consider the

question of consolidation or annexation of the school districts as otherwise allowed for in subsection (a) of this section.

~~(d)(1)~~ The special election on consolidation or annexation shall be held by the same officials at the same polling places, and the returns shall be made, canvassed, and published in the same manner as is provided by law for annual school elections.

~~(2)(A)~~ The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (d)(2)(B) of this section.

~~(B)(i)(a)~~ Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

~~(b)(1)(A)~~ If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.

~~(B)~~ However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.

~~(2)~~ No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.

~~(ii)~~ Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

(e) If an election is not held in the newly formed district, the vote on the millage for the newly formed district will be held at the next annual school election.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-53-307(e), concerning county support of technical colleges, is amended to read as follows:

~~(e)(1)~~ Any election called by the quorum court pursuant to this section shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month except as provided in subdivision (e)(2) of this section be called pursuant to the proclamation issued by the quorum court and held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(2)(A)(i)~~ Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

~~(ii)~~ If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.

~~(2)~~ However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.

~~(b)~~ No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.

~~(B)~~ Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the

~~second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-53-602 is amended to read as follows:
6-53-602. Formation of a proposed district.

(a)(1) Upon request of the local board of a technical college or the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board acting as a local board of a technical college, the coordinating board shall determine whether formation of a proposed technical college district is feasible according to criteria established by the coordinating board for the formation of a technical college district.

(2) The boundaries of the technical college district are to be determined by the local board or the coordinating board acting as the local board.

(b)(1) Within ten (10) calendar days after the coordinating board determines that the formation of a proposed district is feasible, the local board or the coordinating board acting as the local board shall notify the county board of election commissioners in each county of which any portion is in the proposed technical college district that an election will be held to determine whether the district shall be formed and whether an ad valorem tax shall be levied on property in the district to fund site acquisition, construction, equipping, and operation of the college.

(2)(A) The local board or acting local board shall issue a proclamation and set a date for the election to be held at a time not less than thirty (30) calendar days after the local board or acting local board notifies the county boards in accordance with § 7-5-103(b), but in no event later than ninety (90) days after the publication of the proclamation.

~~(B)(i) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii)(a)(i) Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(3) The local board or acting local board shall specify the wording of the ballot to be used for the election utilizing appropriate language similar to that found in § 6-61-513(c), and the county boards of election commissioners shall conduct the election in the manner provided by law for special elections.

(c)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, if

the establishment of a proposed technical college district fails because of an adverse vote by a majority of the qualified electors of the proposed district voting thereon at the election, no new election for the establishment thereof shall be held within a period of one (1) year after the date of the election.

(2)(A) If the formation of a proposed technical college district fails and the majority of votes cast in one (1) or more counties or cities in a proposed district were against the formation of the district, the local board or acting local board may notify the county boards of election commissioners that an election will be held on the issue of forming a proposed district that does not include the county, city, counties, or cities in which the issue failed.

(B) The local board or acting local board shall issue a proclamation and set a date for the election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) ~~to be held no less than thirty (30) calendar days after the local board or acting local board notifies the county boards.~~

(C) The procedures for an election to form a proposed reconstituted district shall be identical to the procedures for an election to establish a technical college district.

(d)(1) If the local board or acting local board of a technical college determines that the question of a tax levy in the technical college district should be submitted to the electors after the district is formed, it shall certify the millage requested to the county board of election commissioners of each county of which any portion is in the technical college district.

(2) The county boards shall place the question of the levy on the ballot at the next general election if the date of the general election is not less than ~~thirty (30)~~ sixty (60) calendar days after the county boards receive certification from the local board or acting local board.

~~(3)(A)~~ In the alternative, the local board or acting local board may set a date for a special election ~~at a time not less than thirty (30) calendar days after the local board or acting local board notifies the county boards~~ in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (d)(3)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the~~

~~month.~~

(4) The special election shall be conducted in the manner provided by law for other special elections.

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-61-512 is amended to read as follows:
6-61-512. Formation of district - Election - Date.

~~(a) The date of the election shall be set by the Secretary of State in accordance with § 7-5-103(b). at a time not less than thirty (30) days from the date of notification of the county board of election commissioners.~~

~~(b)(1) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(2) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(b) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(B) Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-61-602 is amended to read as follows:
6-61-602. General operations - Millage taxes.

(a) In the event the local board of a community college wishes to spend larger sums of money than the state funds provided for general operation of the community college for whatever reasons consistent with the state law, it shall be lawful for millage to be levied from time to time to provide additional operation funds.

(b) The millage can be approved at the election to create the community college district or the question of approving the millage can be submitted to the voters of the district from time to time thereafter at special or general elections.

(c)(1) The local board of each community college shall certify, within the time provided by law, to the appropriate tax levying authority of each county or city of the district the aggregate millage to be levied for the district for operating purposes and indebtedness purposes, and the millage shall be levied and collected in the manner provided by law.

(2) If the amount of the budget to be supported from taxes levied by the district is in excess of the amount to be produced from taxes then authorized for the district, after allowing for tax proceeds pledged for indebtedness purposes, the local board of the community college shall certify, at least sixty (60) days before any election upon which the millage may be voted, the additional millage required to the county board of election

commissioners of each county of which any portion is in the community college district. However, millage together with the rate then levied will not exceed ten (10) mills.

(3) The question of the levy shall be placed on the ballot at the next following general election or a special election called for that purpose pursuant to § 7-5-103(b) as determined by the local board.

(d)(1)(A) When the local board of a community college determines that the question of a tax levy in the district should be submitted to the electors of the district at a special election, it shall adopt a resolution to that effect and shall file a certified copy of the resolution with the county board of election commissioners of each county of which any portion is in the district that a special election shall be held in the district and shall set the date of the election, which shall be not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) ninety (90) days after the date of the notice to the county board of election commissioners proclamation required by § 7-5-103(b).

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (d)(1)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii)(a)(1) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(2) The county board of election commissioners in each county of which any portion is included in a community college district shall prepare the ballots, furnish the election supplies, select the election judges and clerks, and make all necessary arrangements for conducting such elections.

(3) All laws applicable to the conduct of general elections, counting of ballots, and certification of the results thereof, and other matters relating to the holding of general elections, so far as the laws are appropriate shall be applicable to special elections held pursuant to the provisions of §§ 6-61-101 - 6-61-103, 6-61-201 - 6-61-209, 6-61-211 [repealed], 6-61-212 - 6-61-216, 6-61-301 - 6-61-305, 6-61-306 [repealed], 6-61-401, 6-61-402, 6-61-501 - 6-61-524, 6-61-601 - 6-61-603, and 6-61-604 - 6-61-612 [repealed].

(4) All expenses of conducting special elections held pursuant to the provisions of §§ 6-61-101 - 6-61-103, 6-61-201 - 6-61-209, 6-61-211 [repealed], 6-61-212 - 6-61-216, 6-61-301 - 6-61-305, 6-61-306 [repealed], 6-

61-401, 6-61-402, 6-61-501 - 6-61-524, 6-61-601 - 6-61-603, and 6-61-604 - 6-61-612 [repealed] shall be paid from funds of the respective community college districts in which the elections are held.

(e) If the proposed additional millage is approved by the majority of the qualified electors of the district voting on such issue at a general or special election, the additional millage shall be a continuing levy until reduced as provided in subsection (f) of this section.

(f) Whenever the local board of any college determines that the rate of tax levied by the district, including the amount thereof pledged for indebtedness purposes, is greater than is necessary, the local board shall certify the reduced rate of millage to the appropriate tax levying authority of each county or city of the district, and the reduced rate of millage shall be levied and shall be extended on the tax books as the rate of tax due that community college district until a greater amount of tax shall be certified by the local board of the college as authorized in this section.

(g) In the case of community college districts existing at the time this law is enacted, existing millages which have been approved by the voters of the district may continue to be levied by the district at the discretion of the local board except that upon the petition of voters, as provided in § 6-61-510, or upon request of the local board, an election may be called to repeal operating millage, reduce operating millage, or authorize the transfer of operating millage to capital uses.

SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-71-105 is amended to read as follows:

6-71-105. Public notice of passage of chapter - Methods of approval.

(a) Immediately upon the organization of the commission, or as soon thereafter as it is convenient, it shall give public notice of the passage of this chapter and of the commission's organization and the purposes of this chapter, and that the public improvement contemplated in this chapter is conditioned upon its approval by a majority in value of the owners of real estate within the district or a majority of the electors voting in a special election that may be held upon this chapter.

(b) This chapter may be submitted in either or both of the following modes to determine whether it shall become operative:

(1)(A) If at any time within five (5) years from the passage of this chapter a petition purporting to be signed by a majority in value of the owners of real property within the district is filed with the commission, the commission shall give public notice of that fact in at least one (1) daily newspaper published in the county and set a day and place for the hearing not less than twenty (20) days after the first publication of the notice.

(B) At the place and time so designated, the commissioners shall examine the petition filed and examine the assessment of the real property within the district and, for the purpose of the hearing, may adjourn from day to day from time to time until the hearing is completed.

(C) At the hearing, any landowner in the district may be heard and evidence may be taken in such a manner as the commission may deem proper to determine the fact as to whether the petition is signed by a majority in value of the landowners of the district, as shown by the last county assessment of the lands within the district.

(D)(i)(a) If at the hearing the commissioners find that the petition is not signed by a majority in value of the landowners of the district, as shown by the last county assessment, they shall so declare. Such

findings shall terminate proceedings under this chapter unless within the term herein limited another petition purporting to be signed by a majority in value of owners of real estate in the district is filed with the commission, when like proceedings shall again be had to determine whether a majority in value of the landowners of the district have signed the petition.

(b) However, the finding that a majority in value has not petitioned for the improvement shall not bar the chapter from becoming effective as provided in subdivision (b)(2) and subsection (c) of this section.

(ii) If the commission finds that the petition is signed by a majority in value of the landowners of the district as shown by the last county assessment, they shall so declare and shall proceed to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(iii) In either event, public notice shall be given in at least one (1) daily paper published in the county of that fact, and a copy of the findings shall be filed with the county court of the county.

(2)(A) The commission may call at any time within five (5) years an election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) to determine whether this chapter shall become operative and may call subsequent elections in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) after the chapter has failed to carry if the commission has good reasons to believe that a majority of the electors then favor this chapter.

(B) The election held under this section shall be held conformable as nearly as possible to the laws of the state governing general elections.

~~(C)(i) The election held under this section shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(C)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(b) Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(D) The commission shall perform the duties of county election commissioners as nearly as applicable.

(E) All citizens of the city in which the district is located who possess a right to vote if the election were a general election for state officers, and no other, shall be entitled to vote in the election.

(F) The commission shall canvass the votes cast at the special elections. If the commission finds that a majority of the votes cast in the election were in favor of this chapter's becoming operative, they shall so declare and shall proceed to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(G) Public notice shall be given of their findings in either event in at least one (1) daily newspaper published in the county in which the district is located, and a copy of their findings shall be filed with the county clerk of such a county.

(c) It is the intent of this section to permit this chapter to become operative if it is approved at any time within five (5) years in either of the foregoing methods and not to become operative unless approved within this period by one (1) or the other of the methods provided in this section.

SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 7-5-103 is amended to read as follows:
7-5-103. ~~Time of special~~ Special elections.

~~(a) If no time is otherwise provided by law, all special elections to fill vacancies or to elect any officers where there appears to be a tie vote shall be held on the second Tuesday of any month at the time specified in the proclamation issued by the appropriate constituted authority, but in no event earlier than thirty (30) days following the issuance of the proclamation.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) Special elections held under this section in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(b) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(ii) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(2) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(a)(1) All special elections to fill vacancies in an office shall be called by proclamation or order of the appropriate constituted authority.

(2) The proclamation or order shall be published as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation where the special election is held and the proclamation shall establish:

- (A) The date of the election;
- (B) The date of the primary election, if any;
- (C) The deadline for filing party certificates and political practices pledges, if required, with the county clerk or Secretary of State, as the case may be, if applicable;
- (D) The deadline for party conventions to select nominees, if applicable;
- (E) The deadline for parties to issue certificates of nomination, if applicable;
- (F) The deadline for candidates to file certificates of nomination, if applicable, and political practices pledges with the county clerk or Secretary of State, as the case may be;
- (G) The deadline for filing as an independent candidate

and the period in which petitions for independent candidacy may be circulated;

(H) The deadline for filing as a write-in candidate, if applicable;

(I) The deadline for drawing for ballot position by the appropriate committee or election commission, as the case may be; and

(J) The date the election shall be certified by the county board of election commissioners in each county in which the election takes place and, if applicable, by the Secretary of State.

(3)(A) All special elections to fill vacancies in office shall be held on the second Tuesday of any month.

(B)(i) Special elections under this section in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

(ii) If a special election to fill a vacancy in office is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the names of the candidates in the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party, and the portion of the ballot on which the special election appears shall be labeled with a heading stating "SPECIAL ELECTION FOR," with the name of the office set out in the heading.

(iii) However, separate ballots containing the names of the candidates to be voted upon at the special election, non-partisan judicial elections, if applicable, and any other measures or questions that may be presented for a vote shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.

(iv) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.

(C)(i) If the special election is held at the same time as the general election, the names of the candidates in the special election shall be included on the general election ballot, and the portion of the ballot on which the special election appears shall be labeled with a heading stating "SPECIAL ELECTION FOR," with the name of the office set out in the heading.

(ii) The county board of election commissioners may include the special election on a separate ballot if the special election is held at the same time as the general election, and if the commission determines that a separate ballot is necessary to avoid voter confusion.

(D) A special election to fill a vacancy in office shall be held not less than sixty-five (65) days following the date in the proclamation or order for drawing for ballot position when the special election is to be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

(4) If the special election is not held at the same time as a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election, the special election shall be held not less than fifty (50) days following the date in the proclamation or order for drawing for ballot position.

(5)(A) All special primary elections required for an election to fill a vacancy in office shall be held on the second Tuesday of any month and special primary elections held under this section in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

(B) If a special primary election in conjunction with an election to fill a vacancy in office is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election, the candidates to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party or the general election ballot, as the case may be, and the portion of the ballot on which the special primary election appears shall be labeled with a heading stating "SPECIAL..... PRIMARY ELECTION FOR....." with the name of the party for which nomination is sought and the office set out in the heading.

(C) The county board of election commissioners may include the special primary election on a separate ballot if the special primary election is held at the same time as a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election, and if the commission determines that a separate ballot is necessary to avoid voter confusion.

(6) A special primary election shall be held not less than sixty-five (65) days following the date in the proclamation or order for drawing for ballot position when the special election is to be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

(7)(A) If the special primary election is not held at the same time as a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election, the special election shall be held not less than fifty (50) days following the date in the proclamation or order for drawing for ballot position.

(B) When a special primary election is called to select nominees for a special election to fill a vacancy in office, the nominee shall be the person who receives the highest number of votes in the special primary election. There shall be no runoff after a special primary election.

(8) In addition to the publication of the proclamation required herein, notice of special elections to fill vacancies called under this section shall be published and posted pursuant to §§ 7-5-202 and 7-5-206.

(b)(1) All special elections on measures or questions referred to the voters shall be called by proclamation or order of the properly constituted authority.

(2) The proclamation or order shall set forth:

(A) The date of the special election;

(B) The full text of any measure or question for which the election is called;

(C) Any ballot title for the measure or question for which the election is called; and

(D) Any other information as may be required by law.

(3) All special elections on measures or questions shall be held on the second Tuesday of any month, except special elections held under this

section in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election. Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

(4)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party. The portion of the ballot containing the special election shall be labeled with a heading stating "SPECIAL ELECTION ON" with a brief description of the measure or question to be decided in the election.

(B) However, separate ballots containing all the issue or issues or candidates to be voted upon at the special election, and candidates for nonpartisan judicial office shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.

(C) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.

(5) A special election shall be held not less than sixty-five (65) days following the date that the proclamation or order is issued when the special election is to be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

(6) If the special election is not held at the same time as a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election, the special election shall be held not less than fifty (50) days following the date that the proclamation or order is published.

(7) Notice of the election shall be published and posted in accordance with §§ 7-5-202, 7-5-206, or as may be otherwise provided by this Code.

SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 7-5-106 is amended to read as follows:
7-5-106. Runoff elections for county and municipal officers.

(a) Whenever there are more than two (2) candidates for election to any county elected office, including the office of justice of the peace, or for any municipal office at any general election held in this state and no candidate for the municipal or county office receives a majority of the votes cast for the office, there shall be a runoff general election held in that county or municipality three (3) weeks following the date of the general election at which the names of the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes, but not a majority, shall be placed on the ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the county or the municipality, as the case may be.

(b) In the event that two (2) candidates receive the highest number of votes and receive the same number of votes, a tie shall be deemed to exist and the names of the two (2) candidates shall be placed on the runoff general election ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the county or the municipality, as the case may be.

(c)(1) If there is one (1) candidate who receives the highest number of votes, but not a majority of the votes, and two (2) other candidates receive the same number of votes for the next highest number of votes cast, a tie shall be deemed to exist between the two (2) candidates.

(2) The county board of election commissioners shall determine the runoff candidate by lot at a public meeting and in the presence of the two (2) candidates.

(d) If one (1) of the two (2) candidates who received the highest number of votes for an office, but not a majority in the general election withdraws prior to certification of the result of the general election, the remaining candidate who received the most votes at the general election shall be declared elected to the office and there shall be no general election runoff.

~~(d)~~(e)(1) The person receiving the majority of the votes cast for the office at the runoff general election shall be declared elected.

(2) However, in the event that the two (2) candidates seeking election to the same county or municipal office shall receive the same number of votes in the runoff election, a tie shall be deemed to exist, and the county board shall determine the winner by lot at an open public meeting and in the presence of the two (2) candidates.

~~(e)~~(f)(1) For the purposes of this section, the term "municipal officers" shall include officers of cities of the first class and cities of the second class and incorporated towns and shall include aldermen, members of boards of managers, or other elective municipal offices elected by the voters of the entire municipality or from wards or districts within a municipality.

(2) The term "municipal officers" shall not include officers of cities having a city manager form of government.

(3) The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to election of members of the boards of directors and other officials of cities having a city manager form of government.

~~(f)~~(g) The provisions of this section are intended to be in addition to and supplemental to the laws of this state pertaining to the election of county and municipal officers at general elections.

SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 7-5-207(a), concerning election ballots, is amended to read as follows:

(a) All election ballots provided by the county board of election commissioners of any county in this state for any election shall contain in the proper place the name of every candidate whose nomination for any office to be filled at that election has been certified to the county board and shall not contain the name of any candidate or person who has not been certified. If any candidate shall notify, prior to the printing of the ballots no later than seventy (70) days before the election, the Secretary of State in the case of a United States, state, or district office, or the county board in the case of a county, city, or township office, in writing, signed by the candidate, and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments, of his desire to withdraw as a candidate for the office or position, the name of the person shall not be printed on the ballot at the election.

SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 7-5-208(g) is amended to read as follows:

(g)(1) Every ballot shall contain the name of each candidate who has been nominated or has qualified in accordance with law for each office. The names of the candidates shall be listed in a perpendicular column under the name of each office to be filled.

(2)(A) However, the names of all unopposed candidates for offices for which no notice has been filed within the time prescribed in § 7-5-205, except the names of all unopposed candidates for the office of mayor or circuit clerk, shall be grouped together on the ballot indicating the office and the name of the unopposed candidate for each office in a single column. At the top of the list of the names of all unopposed candidates, there shall appear on the ballot the words "Unopposed Candidates", and to the right thereof there shall be a square in which the voter may cast a vote for all the candidates by placing an appropriate mark, so that the votes may be separately counted and tabulated as required in § 7-5-205.

(B) The names of unopposed candidates for the office of mayor or circuit clerk shall be separately printed from any grouping of unopposed candidates, with a place in which the voter may cast a vote for each unopposed candidate for the office of mayor or circuit clerk by placing an appropriate mark, so that the votes may be separately counted and tabulated as required in § 7-5-315.

(3) In all elections except primary elections and municipal elections, at the bottom of each list of names for each position or office appearing on the ballot, there shall be a blank line or lines for possible write-in votes for that position or office. However, the blank line shall not appear on the ballot with respect to those offices and candidates for positions in which no person has qualified as a write-in candidate by filing his or her intentions to be a write-in candidate within the time prescribed in § 7-5-205.

(4) The order in which the names of the respective candidates shall appear on the ballots shall be determined by lot at a public meeting of the county board not less than ~~thirty-five (35)~~ sixty-five (65) days prior to the general ~~elections~~ election. It is expressly understood and provided that the selection on the order of the ballot in all other elections shall be and remain as provided by law. For runoff elections, the ballot order for eligible candidates shall stay the same as for the previous election.

(5) Beside or adjacent to the name of each candidate in the general election shall be his or her party designation or the name "INDEPENDENT" if he or she represents no officially recognized party.

SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 7-5-407(a), concerning preparation and delivery of election ballots, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The county board of election commissioners shall prepare official absentee ballots and deliver them to the county clerk for mailing to all qualified applicants as soon as practicable but in any event not later than ~~twenty-five (25)~~ thirty-five (35) days before a preferential primary, general election, school election, nonpartisan judicial general election, nonpartisan judicial runoff election, or any special election.

SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 7-5-203 is amended to read as follows:
7-5-203. Certification of candidate lists.

(a) Not fewer than ~~fifty (50)~~ seventy-five (75) days before each general election day, the Secretary of State shall certify to all county

boards of election commissioners full lists of all candidates to be voted for in their respective counties as the nominations have been certified to him or her.

(b) Not fewer than ~~fifty (50)~~ seventy-five (75) days before each general election day, the clerk of each county shall certify to the county board of his or her county a full list of all candidates to be voted for in the county as the nominations have been certified to him or her.

(c) However, in special elections held to fill vacancies or to elect officers in case of a tie vote, the certification shall issue at the time specified in the writ of election issued by the appropriately constituted authority.

SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 7-5-204 is amended to read as follows:
7-5-204. Certification of questions submitted to voters.

(a) Whenever a proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution or other measure or question is to be submitted to a vote of the people, the Secretary of State shall not fewer than ~~fifty (50)~~ seventy (70) days before each general election day certify the amendment, measure or ~~in~~ question to the county board of election commissioners of each county in the state.

(b) The county board shall include the amendment in question in the posting which it is required to make under § 7-5-206. ~~However, in special elections held in case of a tie vote, the certification shall issue at the time specified in the writ of election issued by the Secretary of State.~~

(c)(1) If the Secretary of State has not determined the sufficiency of a petition for an amendment or measure by the seventieth day before the general election, or if an amendment or measure has been challenged for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of State shall transmit the amendment or measure and the ballot title of each amendment and measure to the county election commissions to make any required posting ~~required under § 7-5-206~~ and to place the amendment or measure on the ballot.

(2) If the petition for the amendment or measure is subsequently declared insufficient by the Secretary of State or a court of competent jurisdiction, or if held to be invalid for any other reason, no votes regarding the amendment or measure shall be counted or certified.

SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 7-6-102 is amended to read as follows:
7-6-102. Political practices pledge - Penalty for falsification.

(a)(1) Candidates for political party nominations for state or district offices shall file with the Secretary of State and candidates for county, municipal, or township offices shall file with the county clerk of the county ~~not later than 12:00 noon fourteen (14) days after the third Tuesday in March, before the~~ during the filing period set out in § 7-7-203 for the preferential primary election, a pledge in writing stating that they are familiar with the requirements of §§ 7-1-103, 7-1-104, 7-3-108, and 7-6-101 - 7-6-104 and will, in good faith, comply with their terms.

(2) Persons ~~nominated~~ seeking nomination as independent candidates and school district candidates shall file the political practices pledge at the time of filing the petition for nomination.

(3) Independent candidates for municipal office shall file ~~their~~ the political practices ~~pledges~~ pledge with the county clerk ~~not fewer than ninety (90) calendar days before the general election by 12:00 noon at the time of filing the petition for nomination.~~

(4) Persons who wish to be write-in candidates shall file the political practices ~~pledges~~ pledge at the time of filing the notice to be a write-in candidate. ~~A write in candidate shall file the political practices pledge with the Secretary of State if a candidate for a state or district office or with the county clerk if a candidate for a county, township, or municipal office.~~

(5) Nonpartisan judicial candidates paying filing fees in accordance with § 7-10-103(b) shall file the political practices pledge at the time of filing for office.

(6) Nonpartisan judicial candidates filing by petition in accordance with § 7-10-103(c) shall file the political practices pledge at the time of filing the petition.

(b) All political practices pledge forms for state or district offices and county, municipal, or township offices shall be required to contain the following additional pledge:

"I hereby certify that I have never been convicted of a felony in Arkansas or in any other jurisdiction outside of Arkansas."

(c) Any person who has been convicted of a felony and signs the pledge stating that he has not been convicted of a felony shall be guilty of a Class D felony.

(d) For purposes of this section, a person shall be qualified to be a candidate for a state, district, county, municipal, and township office and may certify that he has never been convicted of a felony if his record was expunged in accordance with §§ 16-93-301 - 16-93-303, or a similar expunction statute in another state, provided, the candidate presents a certificate of expunction from the court that convicted the prospective candidate.

(e)(1) The name of a candidate who fails to sign and file the pledge shall not appear on the ballot.

(2)(A) ~~However, within five (5) days following the first Tuesday in April before the preferential primary election or within five (5) days from which the pledge is required to be filed, the Secretary of State or the county clerk shall notify by certified mail which requires a return receipt signed by the candidate those candidates who have failed to file a signed political practice pledge. The notice shall include a copy of the written pledge required by this section.~~

(B) Failure of the state or district candidate to file with the Secretary of State or of the county, municipal, or township candidate to file with the county clerk within twenty (20) days of receipt or refusal of this notice shall prevent the candidate's name from appearing on the ballot.

SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 7-7-103(b), concerning filing as an independent candidate, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1)(A) The person shall furnish by May 1 of the year in which the election is to be held petitions signed by not less than three percent (3%) of the qualified electors in the county, township, or district in which the person is seeking office, but in no event shall more than two thousand (2,000) signatures be required for a district, county, or township office.

(B) If the person is a candidate for state office or for United States Senator in which a statewide race is required, the person shall file petitions signed by not less than three percent (3%) of the qualified electors of the state or which contain ten thousand (10,000) signatures of

qualified electors, whichever is the lesser.

(2) Each elector signing the petition shall be a registered voter, and the petition shall be directed to the official with whom the person is required by law to file nomination certificates to qualify as a candidate and shall request that the name of the person be placed on the ballot for election to the office mentioned in the petition.

(3) Petitions shall be circulated not earlier than sixty (60) calendar days prior to the deadline for filing petitions to qualify as an independent candidate unless the number of days is reduced by a proclamation or order of special election under § 7-5-103.

(4) In determining the number of qualified electors in any county, township, or district or in the state, the total number of votes cast therein for all candidates in the preceding general election for the office of Governor shall be conclusive of the number of qualified electors therein for the purposes of this section.

(5) If the number of days in which the petition for independent candidacy may be circulated is reduced by a proclamation or order for special election under § 7-5-103, the number of signatures required on the petition shall be reduced proportionately.

SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 7-7-104 is amended to read as follows:

7-7-104. Vacancy in nomination - Alternative methods for filling - Tie vote.

(a) Nominees of a political party to fill a vacancy in nomination, as defined in § 7-1-101, shall be declared by:

(1) Certificate of the chairman and secretary of any convention of delegates held within twenty-five (25) days of the Governor's letter certifying vacancy; or

(2)(A) A special primary election called, held, and conducted in accordance with the rules of the party.

(B) A special primary election may be called only if the special primary election can be called, held, conducted, certified, and certificates of nomination filed at least seventy (70) days before the general election.

(b) In case of a tie vote for the same office at a general primary election, a vacancy in nomination for that office shall exist.

(c) When a vacancy in nomination occurs as a result of death or when the person who received the majority of votes cast at the preferential primary election or the general primary election notifies the state committee of the political party of his or her intent to refuse nomination due to serious illness, moving out of the area from which elected as the party's nominee, or filing for another office, the state committee of the political party shall notify the Governor within five (5) days after the date of death or the date the party was notified of intent to refuse nomination as to whether the party chooses to fill the vacancy in nomination at a special election or a convention.

(d) If the party fails to notify the Governor within the five-day period, the vacancy in nomination shall not be filled nor shall the vacancy in nomination be filled if it occurred for any reason other than death, serious illness, the candidate's moving out of the area from which elected as the party's nominee, or filing for another office.

(e)(1)~~(A)~~ If the party notifies the Governor within the time

prescribed in subsection (c) of this section of the desire to have a special primary election, the Governor shall issue a proclamation within five (5) days calling the special election and establishing the deadline for filing as a candidate for nomination, ~~which shall be no more than twenty (20) days after the proclamation~~ drawing for ballot position, and issuing and filing certificates of nomination. The special primary election shall occur no earlier than thirty (30) days nor later than sixty (60) days after the ~~end of the filing deadline.~~ The candidate who receives the most votes in the special primary election shall be declared the nominee. There shall be no runoff election. In the event of a tie for the most votes, the nominee shall be determined by lot in a public meeting of the appropriate party committee.

(B) When the certificate of nomination is filed for a nominee who is filling a vacancy in nomination, the filing authority shall immediately certify the name of the nominee to the appropriate county board of election commissioners.

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (c)(1)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(2) A runoff election, if required, shall be held three (3) weeks after the date of the special election.~~

(f) If the party notifies the Governor that it desires to fill the vacancy in nomination by convention, the convention shall occur no later than twenty-five (25) days after the notice is provided to the Governor.

(g)(1) If the party's nominee is not selected in time to file his or her certificate of nomination with the appropriate party authority at least sixty-six (66) days before the general election, the nominee's name shall not appear on the general election ballot but the name of the person who vacated the nomination shall appear on the ballot, and votes cast for the name of the person appearing on the ballot shall be counted for the nominee, but only if the certificate of nomination is duly filed at least thirty-five (35) days before the general election.

(2)(A) If votes for a nominee whose name does not appear on the ballot are to be counted under subdivision (g)(1) of this section, the county board of election commissioners shall post a notice at each affected polling place stating each election in which a vote for the person appearing on the ballot shall be counted for the nominee.

(B) A copy of the notice shall be included with the instructions sent to absentee voters.

SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 7-7-105 is repealed.

7-7-105. Filling vacancies in certain offices - Special primary elections.

Nominees for election at a special election called for the purpose of filling a vacancy in office for a member of the United States House of

Representatives, for Lieutenant Governor, or as a member of the Senate or House of Representatives of the General Assembly shall be chosen as follows: ~~in accordance with § 7-5-103(a).~~

~~(1)(A) Whenever a vacancy shall exist in any of the aforementioned offices, the Governor shall certify in writing to the state committees of the respective political parties the fact of vacancy and shall request the respective state committees to make a determination and notify him in writing within ten (10) days with respect to whether the political parties desire to hold a special primary election to choose a nominee of each party as a candidate for election to the office in which the vacancy exists.~~

~~(B) If the state committee of any political party shall notify the Governor within the time provided in subdivision (1)(A) of this section of its request to hold a special primary election, it shall be mandatory that any political party desiring to choose a nominee for election to the office in which the vacancy exists shall choose the nominee at a special primary election.~~

~~(C) In issuing the proclamation calling for a special election to fill the vacancy in office, the Governor shall also specify the date on which the special primary elections shall be held and the date on which a runoff primary election shall be held in the event that a candidate does not receive a majority vote. The proclamation of the Governor shall also establish the deadline for filing as a candidate for nomination, which deadline shall allow at least ten (10) days in which candidates may file for nomination.~~

~~(D)(i) The date of the special primary election shall be at least thirty (30) days but no more than sixty (60) days subsequent to the date fixed as a deadline for qualifying as a candidate for nomination. This date shall be at least ten (10) days prior to the date fixed in the proclamation for holding the special election to fill the vacancy in office.~~

~~(ii)(a) The special primary election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (1)(D)(ii)(b) of this section.~~

~~(b) Special primary elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2) Special primary elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(E) Certificates of nomination of persons nominated at a special primary election shall be filed with, and the filing fees paid to, the appropriate official at least seven (7) days prior to the date for holding the special election to fill the vacancy in office;~~

~~(2) Any person desiring to be a candidate for office as an independent candidate without political party affiliation may file nomination petitions signed by not less than three percent (3%) of the qualified electors of the district or of the state, as the case may be, as determined by the total number of votes cast in the last preceding general election for all candidates for the office of Governor, but in no event shall more than two thousand (2,000) signatures be required for a district office or more than ten thousand (10,000) signatures be required for a state office or an~~

~~office in which a statewide race is required. The petitions shall be filed on or before the deadline fixed in the proclamation of the Governor to file and qualify as a candidate for nomination at the special primary elections. If no special primary election is to be held, the Governor shall, in his proclamation, establish the filing period for independent candidates; and~~

~~(3) If the state committee of any political party fails to notify the Governor within the time provided in subdivision (1)(A) of this section of the desire to hold a special primary election to choose a nominee of that political party as a candidate for election to fill the vacancy in office, or if the state committee of any political party timely notifies the Governor of the desire not to hold a primary election, the Governor shall, in issuing his proclamation calling for the special election, fix a deadline for filing as a nominee for election at the special election. In that event, nominations may be made upon certification of the chairman or secretary of a convention of delegates of a political party called and held in accordance with the rules of the party.~~

SECTION 24. Arkansas Code § 7-7-106 is amended to read as follows:

7-7-106. Filling vacancies in ~~certain offices~~ candidacy for nomination
- Preferential primary.

(a) A political party may fill a vacancy if:

(1) A person is running unopposed in a preferential primary and cannot accept the nomination due to death; or

(2) Upon notification to the party that he or she will not accept the nomination due to a serious illness.

(b) The vacancy shall be filled within ten (10) calendar days after the death or notification to the political party.

(c) The vacancy shall be filled at a convention of the political party.

(d) If the vacancy is filled more than sixty-six (66) days before the preferential primary election, the name of the person filling the vacancy shall be printed on the ballot instead of the name of the person who vacated the candidacy.

(e) If the vacancy is filled less than sixty-six (66) days but before the date of the preferential primary, the name of the person subsequently elected to fill the vacancy in candidacy shall be declared the nominee even if the name of the person who vacated the candidacy appears on the preferential primary ballot.

(f) If the vacancy in candidacy is not filled before the date of the preferential primary election, a vacancy in nomination shall be deemed to exist on the date of the preferential primary election and the vacancy in nomination shall be filled under § 7-7-104.

SECTION 25. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203 is amended to read as follows:

7-7-203. Dates.

(a) The general primary election shall be held on the second Tuesday in June preceding the general election.

(b) The preferential primary election shall be held on the Tuesday three (3) weeks prior to the general primary election.

(c)(1) Party pledges, if any, shall be filed and any filing fees of a political party, if any, shall be paid during regular office hours in the period beginning at 12:00 noon on the ~~third Tuesday~~ first weekday in March

and ending at 12:00 noon on the ~~fourteenth~~ seventh day thereafter before the preferential primary election.

(2) A party certificate and the political practice pledge for primary elections shall be filed with the county clerk or the Secretary of State, as the case may be, during regular office hours in the period beginning at 12:00 noon on the ~~third Tuesday~~ first weekday in March and ending at 12:00 noon on the ~~fourteenth~~ seventh day thereafter before the preferential primary election.

(3) The name of a candidate who fails to file a party certificate by the filing deadline with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as the case may be, shall not appear on the ballot.

(4) Party pledges, if any, shall be filed, filing fees, if any, shall be paid, and party certificates and political practice pledges shall be filed for special primary elections on or before the deadline established by proclamation of the Governor.

~~(5) Pledges and filing fees of the political party for a new political party shall be filed and paid as provided in subsection (f) of this section.~~

~~(d) No later than forty (40) At least seventy (70) days before the preferential primary election, the chairman and secretary of the state committee of the political party~~ Secretary of State shall certify the ballot to the various county committees and to the various county boards of election commissioners with the names of all candidates who have qualified with the state committee for election by filing the party pledge and paying the filing fees of the political party within the time required by law.

(e) Election officials of primary elections shall be selected by the county board of election commissioners in the same manner as in the general election.

~~(f) Any group of voters desiring to form a new political party may do so by filing a petition with the Secretary of State in accordance with § 7-7-205.~~

~~(g)~~(f)(1) The county board shall convene, at the time specified in the notice to the members given by the chair of the board, no later than the tenth day after each primary election for the purpose of canvassing the returns and certifying the election results.

(2) If no time is specified for the meeting of the county board, the meeting shall be at 5:00 p.m.

~~(h)~~(g) The county convention of a political party holding a primary election shall be held on the first Monday following the date of the general primary.

~~(i)~~(h)(1) The county board of election commissioners shall certify to the county clerk and the county committee a list of all nominated candidates for county, township, and municipal offices, and the political parties' county committee members and delegates.

(2) At the same time, the county board of election commissioners shall certify to the Secretary of State and the secretary of the state committee the results of the contests for all United States, state, and district offices. Immediately after ascertaining the results for all United States, state, and district offices, the Secretary of State shall certify to the state committee a list of all nominated candidates for the offices.

~~(j)~~(i)(1)(A) The Secretary of State shall at least ~~seventy (70)~~ one hundred (100) days prior to the date of the general election notify by

registered mail the chairman and secretary of the state committee of the respective political parties that a certificate of nomination is due for all nominated candidates for United States, state, and district offices in order that the candidates' names be placed on the ballot of the general election.

(B)(i) The state committee shall issue certificates of nomination to all nominated candidates for United States, state, and district offices, who shall file the certificates with the Secretary of State at least ~~sixty (60)~~ ninety (90) days prior to the general election.

(ii) However, if the chairman and secretary of the state committee of the respective political parties are not properly notified as directed by subdivision ~~(j)~~(i)(1)(A) of this section, the failure of a candidate to file a certificate of nomination shall not prevent that candidate's name from being placed on the ballot of the general election.

(2)(A) Each county clerk shall at least ~~sixty (60)~~ ninety (90) days prior to the date of the general election notify by registered mail the chairmen and secretaries of the county committees of the respective political parties that a certified list of all nominated candidates for county, township, and municipal offices is due and shall be filed with the county board of election commissioners and the county clerk in order that the candidates' names be placed on the ballot for the general election.

(B)(i) Each county committee shall issue the certified list on behalf of those nominated candidates and submit the certified list to the county board of election commissioners and the county clerk at least ~~forty five (45) days but not more than fifty five (55)~~ eighty (80) days prior to the general election.

(ii) However, if the chairmen and secretaries of the county committees of the respective political parties are not properly notified as directed by subdivision ~~(j)~~(i)(2)(A) of this section, the failure of a certified list to be filed shall not prevent any candidate's name from being placed on the ballot of the general election.

SECTION 26. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304(b), concerning names to be included on election ballots, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) If any candidate, either prior to the certification of the ballot for the preferential primary or subsequent to the preferential primary but prior to the certification of the ballot for the general primary election, shall notify the secretary of the state committee in the case of a United States, state, or district office or the secretary of the county committee in the case of a county, city, or township office, in writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized by law to take acknowledgments, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the office or position, then the committee shall immediately notify the county board of election commissioners or the State Board of Election Commissioners, as the case may be, and the name of the person shall not be printed on the preferential primary ballot or the general primary ballot, as the case may be.

(2) If one (1) of the two (2) candidates who received the highest number of votes, but not a majority, at the preferential primary election for an office or position withdraws prior to certification of the result at the preferential primary election, the remaining candidate who received the most votes at the preferential primary election shall be certified as the nominee for the office or position and there shall not be a

general primary election for that office or position.

SECTION 27. Arkansas Code § 7-7-305(b), concerning the printing of election ballots, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The order in which the names of the respective candidates, including candidates for federal, state, and local offices and including persons nominated for committeemen and delegates to the county convention, and the order in which issues and measures are to appear on the ballots at all preferential and general primary elections shall be determined by lot at the public meeting of the county committee held not later than ~~thirty-five~~ (35) sixty-five (65) days before the preferential primary election. Ten (10) days' written notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be given each member by the chair, vice chair, or secretary of the committee. The chair, vice chair, or secretary shall publish notice of the time and place of holding the meeting in some newspaper of general circulation in the county.

SECTION 28. Arkansas Code § 7-7-403 is repealed:

~~7-7-403. Declination of nomination.~~

~~(a) The Secretary of State shall not certify the name of any candidate whose certificate of nomination shall have been filed in his office who shall have notified him in writing, acknowledged before an officer authorized by law to take acknowledgments, that he will not accept the nomination specified in the certificate of nomination.~~

~~(b) The county board of election commissioners shall not include on the ballot the name of any candidate whose certificate of nomination shall have been filed with it, who shall have notified it in like manner that he will not accept the nomination.~~

SECTION 29. Arkansas Code § 7-8-102 is amended to read as follows:

~~7-8-102. Filling Senate vacancies.~~

(a) When any vacancy occurs in the representation of the State of Arkansas in the United States Senate by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Governor shall have the power and authority to fill the vacancy by temporary appointment until the people fill the vacancy by election at the next-ensuing general election for state and county officers to be held more than sixty (60) days and less than twelve (12) months after the vacancy occurs.

~~(b)(1)~~ If no general election for state and county officers occurs within twelve (12) months after the vacancy, the Governor shall call a special election to be held not less than sixty (60) days and not in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) but in no event more than one hundred twenty (120) days after the vacancy occurs.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 30. Arkansas Code § 7-9-111(h), concerning the determination of sufficiency of initiative and referendum petitions, is amended to read as follows:

~~(h)(1)~~ Municipal referendum petition measures shall be submitted to the electors at a regular general election unless the petition expressly calls for a special election. If the date set by the petition does not allow sufficient time to comply with election procedures, then the city or town council shall fix the date for any special election on the referendum measure. The date of any special election shall ~~not~~ be set in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) but in no event more than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after the date of certification of sufficiency by the municipal clerk.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (h)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 31. Arkansas Code § 7-9-304(c), concerning nominating petitions, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The petitions shall be filed with the Secretary of State not less than ~~forty (40)~~ seventy (70) days before the next general election, and the Secretary of State shall certify the names of all candidates and the position which each is seeking to the county board of election commissioners of the counties in the respective House districts not later than ~~thirty (30)~~ seventy (70) days prior to the date of the election. A candidate must designate the position he is seeking at the time he files his nominating petition with the Secretary of State, and after having designated a position, the candidate is

prohibited from changing to a different position.

SECTION 32. Arkansas Code § 7-10-103 is amended to read as follows:
7-10-103. Filing as a candidate.

(a) A candidate for a nonpartisan judicial office may pay a filing fee as provided for in this chapter, file a petition in the manner provided for in this chapter, or file as a write-in candidate in the manner as provided for in this chapter.

(b)(1) The State Board of Election Commissioners shall establish reasonable filing fees for nonpartisan judicial offices.

(2)(A) The filing fee for the offices of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, and circuit judge shall be paid to the Secretary of State at the same time that the candidate files his or her political practices pledge. A candidate for district judge shall pay the filing fee to the county clerk at the same time that the candidate files his or her political practices pledge.

(B) The period for paying filing fees and filing political practice pledges shall begin at ~~12:00 noon on the third Tuesday in March and end at 12:00 noon on the fourteenth day thereafter~~ 12:00 noon on the first weekday in March and end at 12:00 noon on the seventh day thereafter.

(3)(A) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a fund to be known as the Judicial Filing Fee Fund.

(B) The filing fees shall be remitted to the Treasurer of State for deposit into the fund for covering the cost of election expenses of the state board.

(c)(1)(A)(i) Any person desiring to have his or her name placed on the ballot for a nonpartisan judicial office without paying a filing fee may do so by filing a petition in the manner provided for under this section. Petitions for Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and circuit court positions shall be filed with the Secretary of State, and petitions for district court positions shall be filed with the applicable county clerk beginning at 12:00 noon forty-six (46) days before the ~~third Tuesday~~ first weekday in March and ending at 12:00 noon thirty-two (32) days before the ~~third Tuesday~~ first weekday in March.

(ii) Political practice pledges for nonpartisan judicial candidates filing by petition shall be filed at the same time as the petition.

(B) The petition shall be directed to the office with which it is to be filed and shall request that the name of the candidate be placed on the ballot for the election set forth in the petition. Candidates may begin circulating petitions not earlier than sixty (60) days prior to the filing deadline.

(C) The Secretary of State or the county clerk, as the case may be, shall determine within thirty (30) days whether the petition contains the names of a sufficient number of qualified electors. The Secretary of State or county clerk shall verify the sufficiency of the petitions within thirty (30) days of filing. The sufficiency of any petition filed under the provisions of this section may be challenged in the same manner as provided by law for election contests, § 7-5-801 et seq.

(D) Qualified electors signing the petitions must be registered voters in the geographic area applicable to the position at the

time they sign the petition. Each qualified elector shall provide his or her printed name, signature, address, date of birth, and date of signing on the petition.

(E) In determining the number of qualified electors in the state or in any court of appeals district or circuit court circuit, the total number of all votes cast therein for Governor in the immediately preceding general gubernatorial election shall be conclusive of the number of all qualified electors therein for purposes of this section.

(2)(A) Candidates by petition for the Supreme Court shall file petitions signed by at least ten thousand (10,000) qualified electors or three per cent (3%) of the qualified electors residing within the state, whichever is the lesser.

(B) Candidates by petition for the Court of Appeals shall file petitions signed by three per cent (3%) of the qualified electors residing within the court of appeals district for which the candidate seeks office, but in no event shall more than two thousand (2,000) signatures be required.

(C) Candidates by petition for circuit judge shall file petitions signed by three per cent (3%) of the qualified electors residing within the circuit for which the candidate seeks office, but in no event shall more than two thousand (2,000) signatures be required.

(D) Candidates by petition for district judge shall file petitions signed by at least thirty (30) qualified electors who reside within the district for which the candidate seeks office.

(d) No votes for a write-in candidate in a nonpartisan judicial election shall be counted or tabulated unless the candidate or his or her agent gives notice in writing of his or her intention to be a write-in candidate to the county board of election commissioners and either:

(1)(A) The Secretary of State, if a candidate for a Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, or a circuit judgeship; or

(B) A county clerk, if a candidate for a district judgeship.

(2) The written notice must be given not later than sixty (60) days before the nonpartisan judicial election.

(3) Write-in candidates shall file a political practices pledge at the same time as filing a notice of intention.

(e)(1) A candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, or circuit judge shall file with the Secretary of State.

(2) A candidate for district judge shall file with the county clerk.

SECTION 33. Arkansas Code § 12-10-318(a), concerning emergency telephone service charges, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) When so authorized by a majority of the persons voting within the political subdivision in accordance with the law, the governing authority of each political subdivision may levy an emergency telephone service charge in the amount assessed by the political subdivision on a per-access-line basis as of January 1, 1997, or the amount up to five percent (5%) of the tariff rate, except that any political subdivision with a population of fewer than twenty-seven thousand five hundred (27,500) according to the 1990 Federal Decennial Census may, by a majority vote of the electors voting on the issue, levy an emergency telephone charge in an amount

assessed by the political subdivision on a per-access-line basis as of January 1, 1997, or an amount up to twelve percent (12%) of the tariff rate.

(B) The governing authority of a political subdivision that has been authorized under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section to levy an emergency telephone service charge in an amount up to twelve percent (12%) of the tariff rate may decrease the percentage rate to not less than four percent (4%) of the tariff rate for those telephone service users that are served by a telephone company with fewer than two hundred (200) access lines in this state as of the date of the election conducted under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section.

(2)(A) Upon its own initiative, the governing authority of the political subdivision may call such a special election to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) A special election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 34. Arkansas Code § 13-2-501(b), concerning the establishment and maintenance of public libraries, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) In a city of the first class, on petition of five percent (5%) of the voters requesting the establishment of a public library, the city council or governing body of the municipality within thirty (30) days after the filing of the petition shall call an election to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

(2)(A) The election shall be advertised and conducted as special elections are required by law to be advertised and conducted.

~~(B)(i) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) An election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(b) An election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(C) The ballots shall be marked "FOR Public Library", "AGAINST Public Library".~~

(3) If a majority of the electors voting at the election vote in favor of the establishment of a public library, it shall be the duty of the city council or the governing body of the municipality immediately to establish a public library and continue to maintain it, in accordance with the provisions of this section.

SECTION 35. Arkansas Code § 14-14-917(a), concerning initiative and referendum elections, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Time of Election for Initiative and Referendum Measures. (1) Initiative. Initiative petition measures shall be considered by the electors only at a regular general election at which state and county officers are elected for regular terms.

(2) Referendum. Referendum petition measures may be submitted to the electors during a regular general election and shall be submitted if the adequacy of the petition is determined within the time limitation prescribed in this section. A referendum measure may also be referred to the electors at a special election called for the expressed purpose proposed by petition. However, no referendum petition certified within the time limitations established for initiative measures shall be referred to a special election, but shall be voted upon at the next regular election. No referendum election shall be held less than sixty (60) days after the certification of adequacy of the petition by the county clerk.

(3) Calling Special Elections. The jurisdiction to establish the necessity for a special election on referendum measures is vested in the electors through the provisions of petition. Where such jurisdiction is not exercised by the electors, the county court of each of the several counties may determine such necessity. However, a quorum court may compel the calling of a special election by a county court through resolution adopted during a regularly scheduled meeting of the quorum court. The resolution may specify a reasonable time limitation in which a county court order calling the special election shall be entered.

(4) Time of Special Election. The county court shall fix the date for the conduct of any special elections on referendum measures. The date shall be not less than ~~thirty (30) calendar days after the date of the order calling the election~~ established under § 7-5-103(b). However, where Where the electors exercise their powers to establish the necessity for a special election, the county court shall order an election according to the

~~dates stated in § 7-5-103(b), but not less than thirty (30) calendar days after the date of the order calling the election.~~

SECTION 36. Arkansas Code § 14-20-108(a), concerning dues for volunteer fire departments, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) The quorum court of each county, upon request therefor filed with the court by one (1) or more volunteer fire departments in the county, may adopt an ordinance authorizing a designated county official to collect and remit to the department or departments the annual or quarterly dues charged by the department or departments in consideration of providing fire protection to unincorporated areas in the county; or

(B)(i)(a) When any county quorum court receives a request for the levy of volunteer fire department dues, the quorum court by ordinance shall call for an election on the issue of the levy of the volunteer fire department dues on each residence if the request has been signed by the fire chief and all other officers of a volunteer fire department and filed with the county clerk.

(b) The issue may be placed on the ballot at a special election ~~or a general election and in each case shall comply with the laws of this state pertaining to special elections and general elections~~ by order of the county court in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

(c) If the levy is approved by a majority of those voting on the issue, the dues shall be listed annually on real property tax statements and collected at the same time and in the same manner as real property taxes.

(ii) The cost of the election shall be borne by the volunteer fire department or departments that requested the levy.

~~(iii)(a) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(1)(B)(iii)(b) of this section.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(B) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party. However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot. No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(2) Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(2) The ordinance enacted by the court shall set forth the terms and conditions on which such dues are to be collected by the county and for the remission of the dues to the volunteer fire departments.

(3) Provided, however, active members of the volunteer fire departments whose annual or quarterly dues are collected in this manner may be exempt from the annual or quarterly dues charged by the department at the discretion of the volunteer fire department in consideration of providing

services to the department.

SECTION 37. Arkansas Code § 14-37-112 is amended to read as follows:
14-37-112. Incorporated town may become city of the second class.

(a)(1) Any incorporated town in this state may become a city of the second class by the adoption and publication of an ordinance, duly adopted and published as provided by law, converting the incorporated town into a city of the second class. However, after the adoption and publication of the ordinance, the qualified voters of the town shall vote in any general election, or a special election called by the mayor to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b), in favor of the ordinance.

(2) If a majority of the qualified electors voting in the election vote in favor of the ordinance, a certified copy of the ordinance shall be filed with the Secretary of State. Thereupon the incorporated town shall become a city of the second class.

(b)(1) The officers of the incorporated town, upon filing with the Secretary of State the certified copy of the ordinance, shall immediately become officers of the city of the second class with full authority to proceed, do, and perform any and all things for, and on behalf of, the city of the second class as if elected as officers of the city of the second class. They shall serve as officers for the full period of time for which they were elected or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(2)(A) At the regular time for holding election of officers of incorporated towns, there shall be an election for the election of officers of the city of the second class, who shall hold office as officers of the city of the second class until the next regular time fixed by law for electing officers of a city of the second class or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(B)(i) However, the mayor of the incorporated town which has been raised to a city of the second class may call a special election by proclamation ~~effective sixty (60) days after its date~~ to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) which shall be published by two (2) insertions ~~within the sixty day period~~ in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the city is located. This special election shall be held for the purpose of electing officers for the city of the second class.

~~(ii) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B)(ii)(b) of this section.~~

~~(iii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(iv)(a) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(b) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(v) No voter shall be required to vote in a~~

~~political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(vi) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 38. Arkansas Code § 14-38-112 is amended to read as follows:
14-38-112. Reactivation of inactive city or incorporated town.

(a) The government of any city or incorporated town in this state which has become inactive because of failure to elect the officials of the city or incorporated town and no action has been taken to dissolve the charter of the city or incorporated town may be reactivated upon petition of a majority of the qualified electors of the city or incorporated town as provided in this section.

(b)(1)(A) Whenever a majority of the qualified electors of any inactive city or incorporated town as determined by the total number of qualified registered voters in the city or incorporated town shall desire to reactivate the government of the city or incorporated town, they may file a petition therefor with the county court of the county in which the city or incorporated town is located.

(B) The petition authorized in this section shall request the county court to call a special election for the election of mayor, aldermen, and other elected officials of the city or incorporated town.

(C)(i) When any petition is filed with the court, the court shall set a date for a hearing on the petition.

(ii) The date for the hearing shall not be less than thirty (30) days after the filing of the petition.

(2)(A) Between the time of the filing of the petition and the date of the hearing, the petitioners shall cause a notice to be published in some newspaper of general circulation in the county where the affected city or incorporated town lies, which shall be published by one (1) insertion in the newspaper.

(B) If there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, notice shall be posted in some public place within the limits of the city or incorporated town and in the county seat of the county in which the city or incorporated town is located, for the next three (3) weeks before the date of the hearing.

(C) The notice referred to in this subdivision shall contain the substance of the petition and shall state the time and place appointed for the hearing thereof.

(c)(1) The purpose of the hearing shall be to determine the sufficiency of the petitions.

(2)(A) If the county court determines that a majority of the qualified electors of the city or incorporated town, as reflected by the voter registration records of the county, has petitioned for the calling of a special election to elect the municipal officials of the city or incorporated town, the county court shall enter an order approving the petitions and shall call a special election to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) for the election of the officials of the city or incorporated town.

~~(B)(i) The election shall be called within sixty (60) days of held no later than ninety (90) days after the order of the county court.~~

~~(ii) The election shall be conducted in the same~~

~~manner as provided by law for conducting special elections to elect officials of a newly incorporated city or town.~~

~~(iii) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivisions (c)(2)(B)(iv) (v) of this section.~~

~~(iv) Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(v) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party. However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(vi) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(vii) Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(C) The officials so elected shall assume the duties of their respective offices in the same manner and for such terms as provided by law for officials of newly incorporated cities or towns.

SECTION 39. Arkansas Code § 14-38-113 is amended to read as follows:
14-38-113. Reorganization under different form of government.

(a) When any municipality of this state is entitled by law to become reorganized under a different form of municipal government than that under which the municipality is operating, whether the form is the aldermanic form of government, the city manager form of government, or the commission form of government, upon the approval of a majority of the qualified electors of the municipality voting on the issue at an election called therefor, an election to submit the question of becoming organized under any such form of municipal government shall be called and conducted in the manner provided in this section:

(1) When petitions shall be filed with the mayor containing the signatures of qualified electors of the municipality equal in number to fifteen percent (15%) of the aggregate number of votes cast at the preceding general municipal election of all candidates for mayor in the case of a municipality operating under the aldermanic form of government or the commission form of government, and for all candidates for the office of director for the director position for which the greatest number of votes were cast in the case of a municipality operating under the manager form of government, requesting that an election be called to submit the proposition of organizing the municipality under any other form of municipal government authorized by the laws of this state, a special election shall be called by the mayor by proclamation, ~~and the date of the election shall be specified therein to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).~~ The proclamation shall be published one (1) time at length in a newspaper having a general circulation

in the municipality, and notice of the election shall be published in the newspaper one (1) time a week for two (2) weeks, with the first publication to be not less than fifteen (15) days before the date set for the election;

(2)(A) At the election, the proposition shall be submitted to the electors in substantially the following form:

"FOR the proposition to organize this city under theform

of government[]"

"AGAINST the proposition to organize this city under the

.....

form of government[]"

(B) The election thereupon shall be conducted, the votes canvassed, and the results declared in the same manner as is provided by law with respect to other city elections. The county board of election commissioners shall certify the results of any election to the mayor. The result so certified shall be conclusive and not subject to attack unless suit is brought to contest the certification within thirty (30) days after the certification in the circuit court of the county in which the municipality is situated;

(3)(A) If a majority of the votes cast at the election are in favor of the proposition and no suit is brought to contest the certification of the results of the election within the thirty-day period after the certification by the county board of election commissioners, the mayor shall file certificates stating that the proposition was adopted with the Secretary of State and the county clerk of the county in which the municipality is situated. Thereafter, the municipality shall proceed to elect officials of the municipality in the manner and at the time provided by law for the election of municipal officials in municipalities operating under the form of government adopted by the municipality.

(B)(i) However, if a municipality votes to change its form of government and the date of the election to change its form of municipal government is six (6) months or more prior to the next regular general election for municipal officials, the mayor of the municipality by proclamation shall call a special election to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) for the purpose of electing municipal officials under the form of government adopted by the municipality. When the officials are elected, the municipality shall proceed to organize and operate under the newly adopted form of government.

(ii) The mayor's proclamation shall be issued within one (1) business day after the results of the election have been certified to him or her. The proclamation shall be published at least one (1) time a week for two (2) weeks in a newspaper having general circulation within the municipality, and the date of the special election shall be within ~~fifty-five~~

~~(55)~~ ninety (90) days from the date of the proclamation calling the special election.

~~(iii)~~ The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(3)(B)(iv) of this section.

~~(iv)(a)~~ Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

~~(b)~~ If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party. However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.

~~(c)~~ No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.

~~(d)~~ Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month;

~~(v)(iii)(a)~~ When any municipality changes forms of government in the manner provided in this section, the question of changing the form of government of the municipality shall not again be submitted to the electors thereof until the expiration of four (4) years from the date on which the first officers are elected for the form of government adopted at the election.

(b) If a majority of the qualified electors of a municipality vote against adopting a different form of government, the question shall not again be submitted to the electors thereof for a period of two (2) years after the date of the election in which the proposed change of government in the municipality was rejected; and

(4)(A) Each signature on a petition filed, as provided in this section, shall have been signed within one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the filing of the petition. All signatures not signed within this time shall be void for the purposes of determining the adequate number of signatures required to call an election under this section.

(B) The date of execution of the petitions may be established by affidavit of the person circulating the petition or by the person signing the petition affixing the date of signing immediately following his name.

(b) It is the intent and purpose of this section to prescribe a uniform procedure whereby municipalities of this state may submit to the qualified electors of any such municipality the proposition of adopting and becoming organized under any form of municipal government authorized under the laws of this state.

SECTION 40. Arkansas Code § 14-40-303 is amended to read as follows:
14-40-303. Annexation ordinance - Election - Procedures.

(a) The annexation ordinance shall:

(1) Contain an accurate description of the lands desired to be annexed;

(2) Include a schedule of the services of the annexing municipality that will be extended to the area within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final; and

(3) Fix the date for the election provided in this section.

(b)(1) The annexation ordinance shall not become effective until the question of annexation is submitted to the qualified electors of the annexing municipality and of the area to be annexed at the next general election or at a special election. The special election shall be ~~conducted no earlier than sixty (60) days after the date of enactment of the ordinance. The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of the month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section called by proclamation of the mayor of the annexing municipality in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).~~

~~(2) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(3)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(4) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(5) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(6)(2)(A) If a majority of the qualified electors voting in the election vote for the annexation, no later than seven (7) days following the election, the county clerk shall certify the election results and record the same, along with the description and a map of the annexed area, in the county records, and file a certified copy thereof with the Secretary of State.~~

~~(B) The annexation shall be effective, and the lands annexed shall be included within the corporate limits of the annexing municipality thirty (30) days following the date of recording and filing of the description and map, as provided in this section, or in the event an action is filed with the circuit court as provided in § 14-40-304, on the date the judgment of the court becomes final.~~

~~(7)(3) If a majority of the qualified electors voting on the issue at the election vote against the annexation, the annexation ordinance shall be null and void.~~

(c)(1)(A) The city clerk shall certify two (2) copies of the annexation ordinance and a plat or map of the area to be annexed and convey one (1) copy to the county clerk and one (1) copy to the county election commission at least sixty (60) days before the election.

(B)(i) No later than forty-five (45) days prior to the election, the city shall identify all persons who reside within the area

proposed to be annexed, and the county clerk shall assist the city in determining the names and addresses of all qualified electors residing within that area.

(ii) The failure to identify all persons residing within the area proposed to be annexed or the failure to determine the names and addresses of all qualified electors residing within that area shall not invalidate or otherwise affect the results of the election.

(C) All of the qualified electors residing within the territory to be annexed shall be entitled to vote in the election.

(D) The city clerk shall give notice of the election by publication by at least one (1) insertion in some newspaper having a general circulation in the city.

(2)(A) The county clerk shall give notice of the voter registration deadlines at least forty (40) days before the election by ordinary mail to those persons whose names and addresses are on the list provided by the city clerk.

(B) The county clerk shall prepare a list by precinct of all those qualified electors residing within the area to be annexed who are qualified to vote in that precinct and furnish that list to the election officials at the time the ballot boxes are delivered.

(3) If the county clerk or the county election commission shall fail to perform any duties required of it, then any interested party may apply for a writ of mandamus to require the performance of the duties. The failure of the county clerk or the county election commission to perform the duties shall not void the annexation election unless a court finds that the failure to perform the duties substantially prejudiced an interested party.

(d) If the annexation is approved and becomes final, the governing body of the city shall, by ordinance, as soon as practical after the annexation, attach and incorporate such annexed territory to and in one (1) or more wards of the city lying adjacent thereto, and the territory so assigned and attached to a ward shall thereafter be considered and become a part thereof as fully as any other part of the city.

(e) From the map or plat provided by city ordinance of the wards assigned, the county clerk shall proceed to ascertain and determine the voters' proper precinct and shall enter the same upon the voter registration records of those inhabitants of the territory so annexed and give notice of that change within thirty (30) days after the adoption of the city ordinance assigning the territory to wards.

(f)(1) In the event that within thirty (30) days of the date that one (1) city calls for an annexation election, another city calls for an annexation election on all or part of the same land proposed to be annexed by the first city, then both annexation elections shall be held; provided that the second city must call for its annexation election to be held ~~within thirty (30) days~~ on the next available date in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) before or after the holding of the first city's election.

(2)(A) If the annexation election held first is approved by the voters, the results of it shall be stayed until the second annexation election is held.

(B)(i) If only one (1) of the annexation elections is approved by the voters, then the city that called that election shall proceed with the annexation of the land.

(ii) If both annexation elections are approved by

the voters, then a third election shall be held three (3) weeks after the second annexation election. The provisions of § 7-5-103(b) governing the procedures and dates on which special elections may be held shall not apply to the third annexation election provided in this subsection.

(iii) Notice of the third election shall be published in a newspaper circulated in the area to be annexed during the three-week period following the second election.

~~(iii)~~(iv) Only the residents of the area proposed to be annexed by both cities shall vote in the third election.

~~(iv)~~(v) The issue on the ballot in the third election shall be into which of the two (2) cities the residents of the area want to be annexed.

~~(v)~~(vi) The area shall be annexed into the city receiving the most votes in the third election.

~~(vi)~~(vii) In the event of a tie vote in the third election, the area shall be annexed to the city that had the highest percentage vote in favor of the annexation in the first or second election.

(3) If the city that does not get to annex the area voted on by both cities included land in its annexation election other than the land voted on by both cities, then that land shall be annexed into such city if it is still contiguous to such city after the other land is annexed to the other city, but such land shall remain part of the county if it is not so contiguous.

SECTION 41. Arkansas Code § 14-40-1202(a), concerning the calling of annexation special elections, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) Upon presentation of the petition to the county court by the authorized persons, the court shall at once order and call a special election to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) in both of the municipal corporations on the question of the annexation and the name of the proposed consolidated municipality.

(B) The court shall give thirty (30) days' notice of the election by publication one (1) time a week in some newspaper with a bona fide circulation in the territory and by notices posted in conspicuous places in the territory.

~~(C)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(1)(C)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general~~

~~primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(2) The court shall appoint one (1) judge and one (1) clerk in each ward or other division of each municipal corporation, and the mayor and city council of each of the municipal corporations shall select two (2) judges and one (1) clerk for each of the wards or other divisions having the qualifications of electors, to act as judges and clerks of election within the respective wards.

(3) The court shall fix all polling places at which the voting shall take place.

SECTION 42. Arkansas Code § 14-40-1207 is amended to read as follows:
14-40-1207. Special election of aldermen or all city officials.

(a)(1)(A) Except as provided under subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section, the city or town council shall call a special election of aldermen, to be held at such times and places as the council may direct pursuant to a proclamation issued by the mayor in accordance with § 7-5-103(a), in the wards of the smaller municipality and for the election of aldermen from any other new wards that may be created by the council out of territory included in the larger city or incorporated town before the annexation, as provided in this subchapter.

(B) If the petition calls for a citywide election for all officials of the new consolidated city or incorporated town, then the city or town council shall call a special election pursuant to a proclamation issued by the mayor in accordance with § 7-5-103(a) for all city or town officials to be held at the times and places as it may direct throughout each ward of the consolidated city or incorporated town.

(2) If the implementation of the consolidation of the cities or towns is delayed, the special election for new aldermen or all city officials shall be held at least forty-five (45) days before the effective date of the consolidation.

~~(3)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(3)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii)(a) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(b) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(iii) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(iv) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month~~

~~in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(b) Each ward of the consolidated city or incorporated town shall have two (2) aldermen, to be elected in the same manner and for the same term as aldermen are elected in cities and incorporated towns.

SECTION 43. Arkansas Code § 14-42-104 is amended to read as follows:
14-42-104. Vacancies in certain alderman positions.

When a vacancy occurs in any position of alderman in a city having a population of fifty thousand (50,000) or more, according to the most recent federal decennial census, and having a mayor-council form of government in which the electors of each ward elect one (1) or more aldermen, a new alderman shall be chosen in the following manner:

(1)(A) If the unexpired portion of the term of alderman exceeds one (1) year, a successor shall be elected by a vote of the electors of the ward. The city council shall order a special election to be held ~~within sixty (60) days of the date pursuant to a proclamation issued by the mayor in accordance with § 7-5-103(a) no later than ninety (90) days after the date the vacancy occurs;~~ and

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (1)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month; and

(2) If the unexpired portion of the term of alderman is one (1) year or less, a successor shall be chosen by a majority vote of the members of the city council.

SECTION 44. Arkansas Code § 14-42-203 is amended to read as follows:
14-42-203. Special elections of city mayors.

(a)(1) Special elections of mayors of cities of the first class and cities of the second class shall be held at such time and place as the council directs in accordance with § 7-5-103(a).

~~(2)(A) The special election shall be held on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided by subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B) Special elections held in months in which a~~

~~presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(C)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(D) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(E) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(b) In all cities there shall be a place appointed in each ward for holding elections, except in cities of the second class electing their aldermen citywide, where there may be one (1) public place only for holding elections.

(c) Any person who, at the time of the election of municipal officers, is a qualified elector and registered to vote in the city precinct where he resides shall be deemed a qualified elector.

(d) All elections shall be held and conducted in the manner prescribed by law for holding state and county elections, so far as the laws may be applicable.

SECTION 45. Arkansas Code § 14-42-206 is amended to read as follows:
14-42-206. Municipal primary elections - Nominating petitions.

(a)(1) The city or town council of any city or town with the mayor-council form of government, by resolution passed before January 1 of the year of the election, may request the county party committees of recognized political parties under the laws of the state to conduct party primaries for municipal offices for the forthcoming year.

(2) The resolution shall remain in effect for the subsequent elections unless revoked by the city or town council.

(3) When the resolution has been adopted, the clerk or recorder shall mail a certified copy of the resolution to the chairs of the county party committees and to the chairs of the state party committees.

(4) Candidates nominated for municipal office by political primaries under this section shall be certified by the county party committees to the county board of election commissioners and shall be placed on the ballot at the general election.

(b)(1) Any person desiring to become an independent candidate for municipal office in cities and towns with the mayor-council form of government shall file not more than one hundred ten (110) nor less than ninety (90) days prior to the general election by 12:00 noon with the county clerk the petition of nomination in substantially the following forms:

(A) For all candidates except aldermen in cities of the first class and cities of the second class:

(B) The ordinance shall be published at least one (1) time a week for two (2) consecutive weeks immediately following adoption of the ordinance in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city.

~~(f)~~(e) Nothing in this section shall repeal any law pertaining to the city administrator form of government or the city manager form of government.

~~(g)~~(f) This section does not apply in any respect to the election of district judges.

SECTION 46. Arkansas Code § 14-42-304 is amended to read as follows:
14-42-304. Amendments to charter.

(a) Amendments to any charter may be proposed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the governing body of the municipality or by petition of ten percent (10%) of the qualified electors of the municipality.

(b)~~(1)~~ The amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the municipality at a regular or special election called in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(C)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(D) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(E) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(c) The proposed amendment shall be published at least one (1) time in some newspaper of general circulation throughout the municipality.

(d) Any amendment approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon shall become a part of the charter at the time fixed in the amendment and shall be certified to the Secretary of State.

(e) Each amendment submitted shall be confined to one (1) subject, and when more than one (1) amendment shall be submitted at the same time, they shall be so submitted as to enable the voters to vote on each amendment separately.

SECTION 47. Arkansas Code § 14-43-411 is amended to read as follows:
14-43-411. Alderman vacancy.

(a)(1) Whenever a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of alderman in any city of the first class, at any regular meeting after the occurrence of the vacancy, the city council shall proceed to elect by a majority vote of the remaining members elected to the council an alderman to

serve for the unexpired term. Provided, however, it is necessary that at least a quorum of the whole number of the city council shall remain in order to fill a vacancy.

(2) The person elected by the council shall be a resident of the ward where the vacancy occurs at the time of the vacancy.

(b) When a vacancy occurs in any position of alderman in a city having a population of fifty thousand (50,000) or more, according to the most recent federal decennial census, and having a mayor-council form of government in which the electors of each ward elect one (1) or more aldermen, a new alderman shall be chosen in the following manner:

(1)~~(A)~~ If the unexpired portion of the term of alderman exceeds one (1) year, a successor shall be elected by a vote of the electors of the ward. The city council shall order a special election to be held within pursuant to a proclamation issued by the mayor in accordance with § 7-5-103(a) no later than ninety (90) days ~~of~~ after the date the vacancy occurs; or

~~(B) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivisions (b)(1)(B) (F) of this section.~~

~~(C) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(D)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(E) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(F) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month; or~~

(2) If the unexpired portion of the term of alderman is one (1) year or less, a successor shall be chosen by a majority vote of the members of the council.

SECTION 48. Arkansas Code § 14-44-103(a), concerning the election of aldermen, is amended to read as follows:

14-44-103. Election of aldermen.

(a)(1) Except as provided under subdivision (a)(3) of this section, on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November 1982, and every two (2) years thereafter, the qualified voters in cities of the second class shall elect for each of the wards of these cities two (2) aldermen, who shall compose the city council.

(2) The qualified electors of every city of the second class shall elect from each ward of the city two (2) aldermen, who shall be designated as alderman number one and alderman number two of the ward.

(3)(A) Each candidate for the office of alderman in any election for this office shall designate in writing the number of the alderman's office that he or she is seeking at the time that he or she files as a candidate for the office.

(B) When this designation has been made, the candidate shall not be permitted thereafter to change the designation.

(4)(A) The city council of a city of the second class may refer to voters an ordinance on the question of electing the two (2) aldermen for each ward to four-year terms.

(B)~~(i)~~ The voters shall vote on the ordinance at a general election or at a special election called for that purpose by proclamation of the mayor in accordance with § 7-5-103(b). However, the election to approve the four-year election procedure shall be held no later than February 1 of the year of the general election in which the procedure is proposed to be effective.

~~(ii) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivisions (a)(4)(B)(iii) (vi) of this section.~~

~~(iii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(iv) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party. However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(v) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(vi) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(5)(A) If this procedure is adopted by ordinance referred to and approved by the voters of the city, the initial term for the alderman designated as "alderman number one" of each ward shall be a four-year term at the next general election.

(B) The initial term for the alderman designated as "alderman number two" of each ward shall be a two-year term at the next general election, and thereafter shall be a four-year term, resulting in staggered terms for the ward.

(6)(A) The city council may refer to voters an ordinance on the question of returning the city to electing aldermen to two-year terms using the procedures of subdivisions (a)(4)-(7) of this section.

(B) If the voters approve returning a city to two-year terms, all aldermen shall be elected to two-year terms at the next general election and thereafter.

(7) The city council may not refer to voters another question on electing aldermen to four-year terms or on returning the city to electing

aldermen to two-year terms unless at least four (4) years have passed since the last election on changing the aldermanic terms.

SECTION 49. Arkansas Code § 14-44-106 is amended to read as follows:
14-44-106. Vacancy in mayor's office.

~~(a)~~ Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor in any city of the second class, at the first regular meeting after the occurrence of the vacancy, the city council shall proceed to either elect by a majority vote of the aldermen a mayor to serve the unexpired term or call for a special election to be held in accordance with ~~§ 14-42-206~~ 7-5-103(a) to fill the vacancy. At this election, a mayor shall be elected to fill out the unexpired term.

~~(b)(1)~~ The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivisions (b)(2) and (3) of this section.

~~(2)(A)~~ Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

~~(B)(i)~~ If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.

~~(ii)~~ However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.

~~(C)~~ No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.

~~(3)~~ Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

SECTION 50. Arkansas Code § 14-47-106 is amended to read as follows:
14-47-106. Election on city manager form of government.

(a) Any city in this state having a population of two thousand five hundred (2,500) or more according to the most recent federal census may call and hold an election to determine whether or not the city shall be organized under and governed by the manager form of city government as provided for in this chapter.

(b) The proceeding shall be in the following manner:

(1)(A) When petitions containing the signatures of electors equal in number to fifteen percent (15%) of the aggregate number of ballots cast for all candidates for mayor in the preceding general city election are presented to the mayor, the mayor by proclamation shall submit the question of organizing the city under the manager form of government to the electors of the city at a special election to be held ~~not less than thirty (30) days after the date of the proclamation~~ in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

(B) The proclamation shall be published at length in some newspaper published in the city for one (1) time, and notice of the election shall be published in some newspaper published in the city one (1) time a week for two (2) weeks, the first publication to be not less than fifteen

(15) days before the date set for the election. No other notice of the election shall be necessary.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivisions (b)(2)(B), (b)(2)(C), (b)(3), and (b)(4) of this section.~~

~~(B) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(C)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(3) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(4) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(5)(2)(A) At the special election for the submission or resubmission of the proposition, the ballots shall contain substantially the following:~~

" FOR the proposition to organize this city under Act 99 of the General Assembly of 1921, as amended

AGAINST the proposition to organize this city under Act 99 of the General Assembly of 1921, as amended

.....["

(B)(i) The election thereon shall be conducted, the vote canvassed, and the result thereof declared in the same manner as provided by law in respect to other city elections.

(ii) The county board of election commissioners shall certify the result to the mayor. This result shall be conclusive and not subject to attack unless suit is brought in the circuit court of the county in which the city is situated to contest the certification within thirty (30) days after the certification;

~~(6)(3)(A) If a majority of the votes cast on the proposition is against the organization of the city under this chapter, the question of adopting the manager form of government shall not be resubmitted to the voters of that city for adoption within four (4) years thereafter. It shall be resubmitted then only upon presentation to the mayor of petitions signed by electors equal in number to fifteen percent (15%) of the aggregate number of ballots cast for all candidates for mayor at the preceding general city~~

election.

(B)(i) If a majority of the votes cast on the proposition at any such election shall be for the organization of the city under this chapter, the mayor shall file certificates stating that the proposition was adopted with the Secretary of State and with the county clerk of the county in which the city is situated. The mayor shall call a special election to be held in the city for the purpose of electing seven (7) city directors.

(ii) This election shall be called and conducted and the results determined and certified as provided in § 14-47-110.

SECTION 51. Arkansas Code § 14-47-107(a), concerning subsequent elections on the aldermanic form of government, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)~~(A)~~ After the expiration of six (6) years after the date on which the first board of directors takes office in a city organized under this chapter, a petition may be presented to the mayor. It shall be signed by electors equal in number to fifteen percent (15%) of the aggregate number of ballots cast for all candidates for director in that position for which the greatest number of ballots were cast in the preceding general election. Whereupon, the mayor by proclamation shall submit the question of organization of the city under the aldermanic form of government at a special election to be held ~~at a time specified in the proclamation, not less than thirty (30) days after the date of the proclamation~~ in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(B) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivisions (a)(1)(C) (E) of this section.~~

~~(C)(i) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party. However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(D) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(E) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(2) The proclamation shall be published at length in some newspaper published in the city for one (1) time. Notice of the election shall be published in some newspaper published in the city one (1) time a week for two (2) weeks, the first publication to be not less than fifteen (15) days before the date set for the election. No other notice of the election shall be necessary.

SECTION 52. Arkansas Code § 14-47-110 is amended to read as follows:
14-47-110. Election of directors.

(a) Candidates for the office of director shall be nominated and elected as follows:

(1)(A)(i) A special election to elect the initial membership of the board shall be called by the mayor as provided in § 14-47-106.

(ii) The mayor's proclamation shall be published ~~through one (1) insertion in some newspaper having a bona fide circulation in the municipality not less than sixty (60) days before the date of the election in accordance with § 7-5-103(a).~~

(B)(i) A special election to fill any vacancy under § 14-47-113 shall be called through a resolution of the board of directors.

(ii) A proclamation announcing the holding of the election shall be signed by the mayor and published ~~not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the election in some newspaper having a bona fide circulation in the municipality in accordance with § 7-5-103(a).~~

~~(C)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(1)(C)(ii) (v) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(iii) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party. However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(iv) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(v) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(2) The petition mentioned in subdivision (a)(3) of this section supporting the candidacy of each candidate to be voted upon at any general or special election shall be filed with the city clerk or recorder not more than eighty (80) days nor fewer than sixty (60) days before the election by twelve o'clock noon.

(3)(A)(i) In respect to both special and general elections, the name of each candidate shall be supported by a petition, signed by at least fifty (50) qualified electors of the municipality, requesting the candidacy of the candidate.

(ii) The petition shall show the residence address of each signer and shall carry an affidavit signed by one (1) or more persons, in which the affiant or affiants shall vouch for the eligibility of each signer of the petition.

(B) Each petition shall be substantially in the following form:

"The undersigned, duly qualified electors of the City of . . ., Arkansas, each signer hereof residing at the address set opposite his or her signature, hereby request that the name... be placed on the ballot as a candidate for election to Position No. . . . on the Board of Directors of said City of . . . at the election to be held in such City on the . . . day of . . ., 20 ... We further state that we know said person to be a qualified elector of said City and a person of good moral character and qualified in our judgment for the duties of such office."

(C) A petition for nomination shall not show the name of more than one (1) candidate.

(D)(i) The name of the candidate mentioned in each petition, together with a copy of the election proclamation if the election is a special election, shall be certified by the city clerk or recorder to the county board of election commissioners not less than thirty-five (35) days before the election unless the clerk or recorder finds that the petition fails to meet the requirements of this chapter.

(ii)(a) Whether the names of the candidates so certified to the county board of election commissioners are to be submitted at a biennial general election or at a special election held on a different date, the election board shall have general supervision over the holding of each municipal election.

(b) In this connection, the board shall post the nominations, print the ballots, establish the voting precincts, appoint the election judges and clerks, determine and certify the result of the election, and determine the election expense chargeable to the city, all in the manner prescribed by law in respect to general elections. It is the intention of this chapter that the general election machinery of this state shall be utilized in the holding of all general and special elections authorized under this chapter.

(c) The result of the election shall be certified by the election board to the city clerk or recorder.

(4) The candidate for any designated position on the board of directors who, in any general or special election, shall receive votes greater in number than those cast in favor of any other candidate for the position shall be deemed to be elected.

(b) Each director, before entering upon the discharge of his duties, shall take the oath of office required by the Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 20.

SECTION 53. Arkansas Code § 14-48-104(b), concerning the submission of the governmental form question to electors, is amended to read as follows:

(b)~~(1)~~ If the number of signatures certified by the clerk is equal to or greater than fifteen percent (15%) of the aggregate number of votes cast, as prescribed, the Secretary of State shall call by proclamation in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) a special election to be held not ~~less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60)~~ ninety (90) days from the date of the clerk's certification.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be~~

~~held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party. However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(iii) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(iv) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 54. Arkansas Code § 14-48-105(b), concerning the procedure to change to another form of government, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) After the expiration of four (4) years from the date on which the first board of directors and mayor take office in a city organized under this chapter, a petition signed by electors equal in number to fifteen percent (15%) of the aggregate number of ballots cast for all candidates for mayor in the preceding general election may be presented to the mayor, calling for an election to consider any other form of municipal government authorized by the laws of this state.

(2)(A)(i) Thereupon, the mayor by proclamation in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) shall submit the question of organization of the city under the form of government stated in the petition at a special election to be held at a time specified therein, ~~not less than thirty (30) days after the date of the proclamation.~~

(ii) The proclamation shall be published one (1) time at length in some newspaper having a general circulation in the city.

(B)(i) Notice of the election shall be published one (1) time a week for two (2) weeks in some newspaper having a general circulation in the city, the first publication to be not less than fifteen (15) days before the date set for the election.

(ii) No other notice of the election shall be necessary.

~~(C)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivisions (b)(2)(C)(ii) (v) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(iii) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party. However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to~~

~~voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(iv) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(v) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 55. Arkansas Code § 14-48-108 is amended to read as follows:
14-48-108. Calling of elections for directors and mayor.

(a)(1) Within ten (10) days after the designation of the four (4) wards, the Secretary of State by proclamation in accordance with § 7-5-103(a) shall call special primary and general elections to be held in the municipality for the purpose of electing seven (7) directors and a mayor.

(2)(A)~~(i)~~ The primary election shall be held ~~not less than thirty (30) days nor more than seventy five (75) days from the date of the proclamation~~ in accordance with § 7-5-103(a) .

~~(ii) The primary election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(A)(iii) (vi) of this section.~~

~~(iii) Primary elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(iv) If a primary election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party. However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the primary election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(v) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the primary election.~~

~~(vi) Primary elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(B) The special general election shall be held ~~on a Tuesday not less than seven (7) days nor more than fifteen (15) days after the primary election~~ in accordance with § 7-5-103(a) .

(b) These elections shall be called and conducted, and the results shall be determined and certified, as provided in § 14-48-109.

SECTION 56. Arkansas Code § 14-48-109 is amended to read as follows:
14-48-109. Election of directors and mayor - Oath.

(a) Candidates for the office of director and mayor shall be nominated and elected as follows:

(1)(A)(i) A special election for the election of the initial membership of the board of directors and mayor shall be called by the Secretary of State as provided in § 14-48-108.

(ii) The proclamation shall be published ~~through one~~

~~(1) insertion in some newspaper having a bona fide circulation in the municipality. The publication shall be not less than sixty (60) days before the date of the primary election in accordance with § 7-5-103(a).~~

(iii) For the initial election of directors and mayor, any person desiring to become a candidate shall file within twenty (20) days following the date of the proclamation by the Secretary of State with the city clerk or recorder a statement of candidacy in the form and with the supporting signatures as provided in this section. In all other respects, the initial elections shall be governed by the provisions of this chapter for holding municipal elections.

(B)(i) Special elections to fill any vacancy under § 14-48-115 shall be called through a resolution of the board.

(ii) A proclamation of the election shall be signed by the mayor and published ~~not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the election~~ in accordance with § 7-5-103(a) in some newspaper having a bona fide circulation in the municipality;

(2)(A) Candidates to be voted on at all elections to be held under the provisions of this chapter shall be nominated by primary election, and no names shall be placed upon the general election ballot except those selected in the manner prescribed in this chapter.

(B)(i) The primary elections, other than the initial primary, for those nominations for offices to be filled at the municipal general election shall be held on the second Tuesday of August preceding the municipal general election.

(ii)(a) The elections shall be under the supervision of the county board of election commissioners, and the election judges and clerks appointed for the general election shall be the judges and clerks of the primary elections.

(b) Primary elections shall be held in the same places as are designated for the general election, so far as possible, and shall, so far as practicable, be conducted in the same manner as other elections under the laws of this state;

(3) Any person desiring to become a candidate for mayor or director shall file with the city clerk not less than ~~forty (40) days nor more than sixty (60)~~ ninety (90) days nor more than one hundred ten (110) days prior to the primary election by twelve o'clock noon a statement of his or her candidacy in substantially the following form:

"STATE OF ARKANSAS

COUNTY OF.

I,, being first duly sworn, state that I reside at. Street, City of.
., County and State aforesaid; that I am a qualified elector of said city and the ward in which I reside; that I am a candidate for nomination to the office of
....., to be voted upon at

(Mayor) (Director)

the primary election to be held on the. day of, 20. .

. , and I hereby request that my name be placed upon the official primary election ballot for nomination by such primary election for such office and I herewith deposit the sum of ten dollars (\$10.00), the fee prescribed by law.";

(4) The statement of candidacy and the petition for nomination supporting the candidacy of each candidate to be voted upon at any general or special election shall be filed with the city clerk or recorder not less than ~~forty (40) days nor more than sixty (60)~~ ninety (90) days nor more than one hundred ten (110) days before the election by twelve o'clock noon;

(5) The name of each candidate shall be supported by a petition for nomination signed by at least fifty (50) qualified electors of the municipality requesting the candidacy of the candidate. The petition shall show the residence address of each signer and carry an affidavit signed by one (1) or more persons in which the affiant or affiants shall vouch for the eligibility of each signer of the petition. Each petition shall be substantially in the following form:

"The undersigned, duly qualified electors of the City of.
., Arkansas, each signer hereof residing at the address set opposite his or her signature, hereby requests that the name of.
. be placed on the ballot as a candidate for election to Position No.. on the Board of Directors (or Mayor) of said City of. at the election to be held in such city on the. day of. 20. . . . We further state that we know said person to be a qualified elector of said city and a person of good moral character and qualified in our judgment for the duties of such office;

(6)(A) A petition for nomination shall not show the name of more than one (1) candidate.

(B) The name of the candidate mentioned in each petition, together with a copy of the election proclamation if the election is a special election, shall be certified by the city clerk or recorder to the county board of election commissioners not less than ~~thirty five (35)~~ seventy (70) days before the election unless the clerk or recorder finds that the petition fails to meet with the requirements of this chapter.

(C)(i) Whether the names of the candidates so certified to the county board of election commissioners are to be submitted at a biennial general election or at a special election held on a different date, the county board of election commissioners shall have general supervision over the holding of each municipal election.

(ii)(a) In this connection, the election board shall post the nominations, print the ballots, establish the voting precincts, appoint the election judges and clerks, determine and certify the results of the election, and determine the election expense chargeable to the city, all in the manner prescribed by law in respect to general elections; it is the intention of this chapter that the general election machinery of this state shall be utilized in the holding of all general and special elections authorized under this chapter.

(b) The result of the election shall be certified by the election board to the city clerk or recorder;

(7) The names of all candidates at the election shall be printed upon the ballot in an order determined by draw. If more than two (2)

candidates qualify for an office, the names of all candidates shall appear on the ballot at the primary election;

(8)(A) If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in the primary, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes for mayor and for each director position to be filled shall be the nominees for those respective offices to be voted upon in the general election.

(B) If no more than two (2) persons qualify as candidates for the office of mayor or for any director position to be filled, no municipal primary election shall be held for these positions, and the names of the two (2) qualifying candidates for each office or position shall be placed upon the ballot at the municipal general election as the nominees for the respective positions. Primary elections shall be omitted in wards in which no primary contest is required.

(C) In any case in which only one (1) candidate shall have filed and qualified for the office of mayor or any director position, or if a candidate receives a clear majority of the votes cast in a primary election, that candidate shall be declared elected. The name of the person shall be certified as elected without the necessity of putting the person's name on the general municipal election ballot for the office;

(9) Any candidate defeated at any municipal primary election or municipal general election may contest it in the manner provided by law for contesting other elections.

(b) Each member of the board of directors, before entering upon the discharge of his duties, shall take the oath of office required by Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, Section 20.

SECTION 57. Arkansas Code § 14-48-114 is amended to read as follows:
14-48-114. Removal of mayor or directors.

(a) Any person holding the office of mayor and any person holding the office of member of the board of directors of any city organized under the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to removal from the office by the electors qualified to vote for a successor of the incumbent.

(b) The procedure to effect the removal of a person holding the office shall be as follows:

(1) When petitions requesting the removal of any such officer, signed by qualified electors equal in number to thirty-five percent (35%) of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for that office at the preceding general municipal election at which the office was on the ballot, are filed with the city clerk, the clerk shall determine the sufficiency of the petitions within ten (10) days from the date of the filing.

(2) If the petitions are deemed sufficient, the clerk shall certify them to the county board of election commissioners.

~~(3)(A)(i)~~ The county board of election commissioners shall ~~call~~ issue a proclamation in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) calling a special election on the question and shall fix a date for holding it not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) ninety (90) days from the date of the certification of the petitions by the clerk.

~~(ii)~~ The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(3)(B) (E) of this section.

~~(B) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election,~~

~~general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(C)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(D) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(E) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(4) At the election, the question shall be submitted to the electors in substantially the following form:

"FOR the removal offrom the office of

(name of officer)

.....[]

(Mayor)

(Director)

AGAINST the removal offrom the

(name of officer)

office of[]"

(Mayor)

(Director)

(5)(A) If a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question at the election shall vote for the removal of the officer, a vacancy shall exist in the office.

(B) If a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question at the election shall vote against the removal of the officer, the officer shall continue to serve during the term for which elected.

(c) No recall petition shall be filed against any officer until he shall have held his office for at least six (6) months.

SECTION 58. Arkansas Code § 14-48-115 is amended to read as follows:
14-48-115. Mayor or director vacancy.

(a) In the case of a vacancy in the office of mayor or in the office of a member of the board of directors as a result of death, resignation, a recall election as provided for in § 14-48-114, or for any other reason, the board, by majority vote, shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy if the vacancy occurs less than six (6) months before the next general municipal election at which the remainder of the unexpired term shall be filled.

~~(b)(1)~~ If the vacancy occurs more than (6) months prior to the next general municipal election, a special election to fill the vacancy shall be called to fill the vacancy by proclamation issued in accordance with § 7-5-103(a) by:

- (A) The mayor, if the vacancy is in a board position; or
- (B) The highest ranking member of the board of directors,

if the vacancy is in the mayor's position.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivisions (b)(2)(B)-(E) of this section.~~

~~(B) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(C)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(D) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(E) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 59. Arkansas Code § 14-57-704(a), concerning special elections on the vehicle tax, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Before the vehicle tax levied by the governing body of any city of the first class or city of the second class or incorporated town upon vehicle owners residing in the city or town may be collected, the mayor shall call a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(2)(A) This election shall be held not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) ninety (90) days from the date of the adoption of the levy of the tax by the governing body of the city or town publication of the proclamation, at which the qualified electors of the city or town shall vote on the question of the levy of the tax.~~

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election,~~

~~preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 60. Arkansas Code § 14-61-113 is amended to read as follows:
14-61-113. Petition process for special elections.

Except for questions that may be referred to the voters by the board of directors, unless it is a city where a federal court has ordered the redistricting of wards under the federal Voting Rights Act, options provided by this chapter shall be voted on at special elections called as a result of a petition for the special election being filed with the city clerk and provided to the mayor. The following procedure shall be utilized for both initial elections to organize under the management form of government, for reorganization elections by a city already operating under the management form of government, and for elections to reorganize the selection of directors in cities where a federal court has ordered the redistricting of wards under the federal Voting Rights Act:

(1) A petition that calls for an election on one (1) particular option for selecting members of the board of directors using the form of the question outlined in § 14-61-115(b) shall be filed with the city clerk and provided to the mayor. The city clerk shall note on the petition the date and time that it was filed. If such a petition contains the signatures of electors equal in number to fifteen percent (15%) of the number of ballots cast for the mayor, or if the mayor is not directly elected, for the director position receiving the highest number of votes, in the last general election, then the mayor, by proclamation in accordance with § 7-5-103(b), shall submit the question to the electors at a special election, provided:

(A)(i) The city clerk shall verify the number of signatures on the petitions within ten (10) days of the date they are filed.

(ii) If there are insufficient signatures on the petitions, the petitioners shall not receive any extensions for the petition.

(iii) If, however, there are a sufficient number of signatures on the petitions but the city clerk is unable to verify the required number of signatures as those of qualified electors, then the petitioners will be given ten (10) days to provide a sufficient number of verified signatures;

(B) The proclamation calling the special election shall be issued within three (3) working days of the date the city clerk verifies the number of signatures on the petitions;

(C)(i) The special election shall be held not ~~less than~~ ~~thirty (30) nor~~ more than sixty (60) days after the proclamation calling the

election, provided that if the county board of election commissioners certifies in writing that it cannot prepare the ballots because of other pending elections, then the election can be held not more than ~~seventy five (75)~~ ninety (90) days after the proclamation.

~~(ii)(a) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (1)(C)(ii)(b) of this section.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(b) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(ii) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(2) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(2) Except for the provisions of subdivision (1)(A) of this section, if petitions filed with the mayor that call for an election on one (1) of the options set forth in this chapter are found to be insufficient for any reason whatsoever, then new petitions will have to be circulated and filed before the question can be considered again.

(3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this section, if two (2) or more groups file petitions seeking a special election on one (1) of the options set forth in this chapter, and the first filed petitions are declared to be insufficient, then the city clerk will determine the sufficiency of the petitions that were filed next in time. Otherwise, upon a declaration that a set of petitions is sufficient and the first in time, then all petitions filed after the first sufficient petitions and before the special election shall be deemed moot and may be destroyed.

(4) Once an election has been held pursuant to the provisions of any act that results in a change in the manner of selecting the governing body of a city with the manager form of government, or seeks to reorganize a manager-government city under any other form of government, then none of the options presented by this chapter, or any act concerning the organization of the government under any form of municipal government, may be submitted to the voters for a period of four (4) years from the date of the election.

(5) Except as provided in § 14-61-114(a), if an election held pursuant to the provisions of any act fails to result in a change in the manner of selecting the governing body of a city with the manager form of government, or fails to reorganize such a city under any other form of government, then no other petitions seeking to adopt any of the options presented by this chapter, or to reorganize the city under any form of municipal government, may be submitted to the voters for a period of two (2)

years from the date of the election.

SECTION 61. Arkansas Code § 14-61-119(g), concerning the removal of city directors, is amended to read as follows:

(g) If the board shall find the petition thus submitted to it contains the requisite number of electors signed thereto and is otherwise found to be sufficient, it shall order and fix a date for holding an election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b). This date shall be not ~~less than thirty (30) days nor more than forty (40)~~ than ninety (90) days from the date of the clerk's certificate to the board that a sufficient petition is filed.

SECTION 62. Arkansas Code § 14-72-303 is amended to read as follows:
14-72-303. Submission of question to electors - Special election.

(a) If the county court decides that it would be advantageous to issue bonds under the authority of Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 17 [repealed], this section, and §§ 14-72-301, 14-72-302, and 14-72-304 - 14-72-307, it shall order the submission of the question to the qualified electors of the county at ~~the next general election~~ a special election to be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(b)(1) However, if no general election for county and state officers will be held under the law within one (1) year of the making of the order, then the county court by order entered of record may call a special election in the county. This election shall be held not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days thereafter, and the county court shall name the date therefor.~~

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(e)(b) In all other respects, the special election shall be held as provided by law for the conducting of general elections. It is made the duty of the sheriff of the county, by proclamation duly made and published for the time and in the manner provided by law, to give notice of the time and place of holding the election.~~

SECTION 63. Arkansas Code § 14-72-606 is amended to read as follows:

14-72-606. Election procedures - Contest.

(a)(1) Whenever a county or municipality shall determine the need to issue revenue bonds, the issuance of which under the Constitution of the State of Arkansas requires approval at an election, the legislative body thereof shall, by ordinance, submit the question of the issuance of the revenue bonds to the qualified electors of the county or municipality.

(2) The question of the issuance of revenue bonds may be submitted at a ~~general election or at a~~ special election called for that purpose in accordance with § 7-5-103(b), as provided in the ordinance, and held in the manner provided in this subchapter.

(3) When revenue bonds are to be issued for more than one (1) purpose, the principal amount of revenue bonds applicable to each purpose shall be stated on the ballot as a separate question, and no revenue bonds shall be issued for such a purpose unless a majority of the electors voting on the question shall have approved the issuance of revenue bonds for that purpose.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, the election shall be held and conducted in the same manner as a special or general election under the election laws of the state.

(b)(1) The ordinance shall set forth the form of ballot questions, which shall include a statement of the purposes for which the revenue bonds are to be issued and the proposed sources of repayment of the revenue bonds.

(2)~~(A)~~ Notice of the election shall be given by the clerk of the county or municipality by one (1) publication in a newspaper having general circulation within the county or municipality not less than ten (10) days prior to the election.

~~(B) No other publication or posting of a notice by any other public official shall be required.~~

~~(3)(A) The election shall be held no earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of adoption of the ordinance in which the election is called by the legislative body.~~

~~(B)(i) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(3)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(b) Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(c)(1) The county judge or mayor of the county or municipality shall proclaim the results of the election by issuing a proclamation and publishing

the proclamation one (1) time in a newspaper having general circulation within the county or municipality.

(2)(A) The results of the election as stated in the proclamation shall be conclusive unless suit is filed in the circuit court in the county in which the municipality is located within thirty (30) days after the date of the publication.

(B) No other action shall be maintained to challenge the validity of the revenue bonds and of the proceedings authorizing the issuance of the bonds unless suit is filed in the circuit court within thirty (30) days after the date of the adoption of an ordinance authorizing the sale of the revenue bonds.

SECTION 64. Arkansas Code § 14-120-209 is amended to read as follows:
14-120-209. Date of election.

~~(a)~~ The election shall be held on a date to be fixed by the directors of the drainage and levee improvement district at a ~~regular or~~ special meeting called for that purpose in accordance with § 7-5-103(b). However, the date of the election shall be not less than sixty (60) days nor more than one hundred eighty (180) days next succeeding the date of the first publication of the notice of the filing of the outline of the project with the district as provided in § 14-120-206(c).

~~(b)(1)~~ The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

~~(2)(A)(i)~~ Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

~~(ii)~~ If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.

~~(2)~~ However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.

~~(b)~~ No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.

~~(B)~~ Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

SECTION 65. Arkansas Code § 14-122-104 is amended to read as follows:
14-122-104. Filing referendum petitions - Special election.

~~(a)~~ If petitions signed by not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the qualified electors voting on the office of mayor in the city at the last preceding general election are filed with the city clerk of the city within forty-five (45) days after the enactment of the ordinance creating the municipal drainage improvement district requesting that the ordinance be referred to a vote of the qualified electors of the district, the petitions shall be referred to the people at a special election to be called by the

mayor of the municipality in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) to be held not ~~less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60)~~ ninety (90) days after the filing of the petitions proclamation.

~~(b)(1) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(2) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(b) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(B) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 66. Arkansas Code § 14-142-208 is amended to read as follows:
14-142-208. Bonds generally - Election to authorize issuance.

(a) The question of the issuance of such bonds shall be submitted to the electors of the municipality or county at the general election, or at a special election called for that purpose in accordance with § 7-5-103(b), as provided in the ordinance or order and held in the manner provided in this subchapter; provided, however, that no voter residing within a municipality levying a maintenance tax for libraries or levying a tax pledged for the purpose of retiring library bonds issued by the municipality or pledged to pay for capital improvements to or construction of a public library pursuant to Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 30 and Amendment 72, shall be entitled to vote on the question of the issuance of bonds by the county within which the municipality is located as authorized pursuant to Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 38 and Amendment 72, and this section.

(b)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, the election shall be held and conducted in the same manner as a special or general election under the election laws of the state.

(2) The ordinance or order shall set forth the form of the ballot question or questions in the form prescribed by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 30 or Amendment 38, as amended by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 72.

(3) Notice of the election shall be given by the clerk of the issuer by one (1) publication in a newspaper having general circulation within the municipality or county not less than ten (10) days prior to the election. No other publication or posting of a notice by any other public official shall be required.

~~(4)(A)(i) The election shall be held no earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of adoption of the ordinance or entry of the order in~~

~~which the election is called.~~

~~(ii) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(4)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i) Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(2) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(b) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(iii) Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(c) The chief executive officer of the municipality or county shall proclaim the results of the election by issuing a proclamation and publishing it one (1) time in a newspaper having general circulation within the municipality or county.

(d)(1) The results of the election as stated in the proclamation shall be conclusive unless suit is filed in the circuit court in the county in which the issuer is located within thirty (30) days after the date of the publication.

(2) No other action shall be maintained to challenge the validity of the bonds and of the proceedings authorizing the issuance of the bonds unless suit is filed in such circuit court within thirty (30) days after the date of adoption of an ordinance or entry of the order authorizing the sale of the bonds.

SECTION 67. Arkansas Code § 14-163-207(d), concerning the levy of special taxes, is amended to read as follows:

(d)(1) At the time, date, and place specified in the notice, the governing body of the city shall hold the hearing and shall determine and make a finding as to whether or not the petition is signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the owners of real property in the city.

(2)(A) If the governing body finds that the petition is signed by the requisite owners of real property, it shall adopt an ordinance setting forth its finding and calling a special election to be held in the city ~~on the date specified in the ordinance, which shall not occur earlier than thirty (30) days after the passage of the ordinance~~ in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

(B) The ordinance shall be published one (1) time.

~~(3) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (d)(4)(B) of this section.~~

~~(4)(A)(i) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election,~~

~~general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii)(a) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(b) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(iii) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(B) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(C) The finding that the petition is sufficient shall be conclusive unless attacked in the courts within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of the ordinance.~~

~~(D)(i) The ordinance shall contain at least the information set forth in this section as required information to be included in the petition.~~

~~(ii) In addition, the ordinance shall specify the form of the ballot to be submitted to the electors.~~

SECTION 68. Arkansas Code § 14-164-309 is amended to read as follows: 14-164-309. Bonds generally - Election to authorize issuance.

(a) The question of the issuance of such bonds shall be submitted to the electors of the county or municipality at the general election or at a special election called for that purpose in accordance with § 7-5-103(b), as provided in the ordinance and held in the manner provided in this subchapter.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, the election shall be held and conducted in the same manner as a special or general election under the election laws of the state.

(c) The ordinance shall set forth the form of the ballot question or questions, which shall include a statement of the purpose or purposes for which the bonds are to be issued and the maximum rate of any ad valorem tax to be levied for payment of bonded indebtedness.

(d) Notice of the election shall be given by the clerk of the issuer by one (1) publication in a newspaper having general circulation within the municipality or county not less than ten (10) days prior to the election. No other publication or posting of a notice by any other public official shall be required.

~~(e)(1) The election shall be held no earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of adoption of the ordinance in which the election is called by the legislative body.~~

~~(2)(A) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (e)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i) Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date~~

~~of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii)(a) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(b) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(iii) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(iv) Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(f)(e) The chief executive officer of the municipality or county shall proclaim the results of the election by issuing a proclamation and publishing it one (1) time in a newspaper having general circulation within the municipality or county.~~

~~(g)(f)(1) The results of the election as stated in the proclamation shall be conclusive unless suit is filed in the circuit court in the county in which the issuer is located within thirty (30) days after the date of the publication.~~

~~(2) No other action shall be maintained to challenge the validity of the bonds and of the proceedings authorizing the issuance of the bonds unless suit is filed in such circuit court within thirty (30) days after the date of the adoption of an ordinance authorizing the sale of the bonds.~~

SECTION 69. Arkansas Code § 14-174-103 is amended to read as follows:
14-174-103. Levy of new taxes permitted.

~~(a)(1)(A) In addition to all other authority of local governments to levy taxes provided by law, any county, acting through its quorum court, or any municipality, acting through its governing body, may levy any tax.~~

~~(B)(i)(2)(A) However, no ordinance levying any tax authorized by this subchapter shall be valid until adopted at a special ~~or~~ general election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) by qualified electors of the city or in the county where the tax is to be imposed, as the case may be.~~

~~(ii)(B) An election will also be required to increase, decrease, or repeal a tax levied pursuant to this subchapter.~~

~~(2)(A) A special election held under this section shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(b) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to diminish the existing powers of county governments or city governments.

(c) Nothing in this subchapter shall terminate, repeal, or otherwise affect any other tax levied by a local government.

(d) The local government levying the tax shall collect and administer the tax.

SECTION 70. Arkansas Code § 14-200-107 is amended to read as follows: 14-200-107. Election to authorize purchase by municipality.

~~(a) Any municipality may determine to acquire the property of a public utility as authorized under the provisions of this act by the vote of the municipal council or city commission, taken after a public hearing, of which at least thirty (30) days' notice has been given, and ratified and confirmed by a majority of the electors voting thereon at any general or special municipal election held not less than thirty (30) days after a passage of the vote of the municipal council or city commissioners in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).~~

~~(b)(1) A special election held under this section shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(2) Separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(b) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(B) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 71. Arkansas Code § 14-201-109 is amended to read as follows: 14-201-109. Abolition of commission.

(a)(1) When such a utility commission has been established pursuant to

this subchapter by the city council or other governing body it cannot be abolished except by a majority vote of the electorate of the city at ~~either a special election called for the purpose or at a general election.~~

(2) No abolishment of any such commission, whether pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter or otherwise, shall affect the rights, properties, or obligations held or incurred by the commission.

(b)(1) If twenty-five percent (25%) of the electors of the city petition the city council to do so, a special election shall be ordered in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) not later than fourteen (14) days from the date on which the petition was filed to be held ~~within sixty (60) at least ninety (90)~~ days after the order on the question whether the utility commission shall be abolished or continued.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii)(a) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(b) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(c) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(d) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(3)(2) A majority vote of the electorate shall determine the question.~~

SECTION 72. Arkansas Code § 14-206-103 is amended to read as follows:
14-206-103. Confirmation by electors.

~~(a)(1) Any municipality may determine to seek approval from the commission to acquire the property of a gas or electric public utility as authorized under the provisions of this chapter by the vote of the municipal council, city commission, or governing body taken after a public hearing, of which at least thirty (30) days' notice has been given by publication in newspapers having a general circulation within the municipality. This vote shall have been ratified and confirmed by a majority of the electors voting thereon at any general or special election held not less than thirty (30) days after a passage of the vote of the municipal council or city commissioners in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).~~

~~(2)(A) A special election held under this section shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a~~

~~presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(b)(1) In the event the vote of the municipal council, city commission, or governing body is ratified and confirmed by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the clerk of the municipality shall notify the commission of the results of the election within ninety (90) days thereafter.

(2) Within one (1) year after the election, the municipality may file with the commission an application for approval of a certificate for the acquisition or purchase of the property of a gas or electric public utility as provided in this chapter.

SECTION 73. Arkansas Code § 14-283-101 is amended to read as follows:
14-283-101. Petition for special election.

(a) When petitions are filed with the county court of any county containing the signatures of ten percent (10%) or more of the qualified electors of all or any defined part of any county, or all or any defined part of any city, as determined by the number of votes cast by the qualified electors of the county, city, or designated portion thereof, for all candidates for Governor at the last preceding general election, requesting the establishment of a mosquito abatement district in the county or a designated portion of the county or in the city or designated portion of the city and requesting that assessed benefits be made on the property located in the district to finance the operation of the district, the county court shall call a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) in the county, city, or designated area of the city to determine whether a mosquito abatement district shall be established for the area.

(b) Petitions filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall specifically define the area proposed to be included in a mosquito abatement district and shall specify the maximum assessed benefits or taxes which may be levied against property within the district for the support of the district. In no event shall the assessed benefits in any district exceed an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the assessed valuation of real property in the district.

(c) The quorum court of the county may on its own motion enact an ordinance directing the county court to call a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) in the county, city, or designated area of the city to determine whether a mosquito abatement district shall be established for the

area.

SECTION 74. Arkansas Code § 14-283-102(a), concerning procedures for special elections on the question of the establishment and financing of mosquito abatement districts, is amended to read as follows:

~~(a)(1) The special election called by the county court to submit the question of the establishment and financing of a mosquito abatement district to the electors of the proposed district shall be held in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) within ninety (90) days after the ~~filing of the petitions requesting proclamation calling the election.~~~~

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii)(a) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(b) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(iii) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(iv) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 75. Arkansas Code § 14-284-205 is amended to read as follows:
14-284-205. Establishment by election.

(a) When petitions are filed with the county court of any county wherein the fire protection district to be established is located in a single county, or if the fire protection district is to be located in more than one (1) county and the petitions are filed with the county courts of all counties wherein the fire protection district is to be established, and the petitions contain the signatures of ten percent (10%) or more of the qualified electors within the proposed fire protection district boundaries, as determined by the number of votes cast by the qualified electors within the proposed fire protection district boundaries for all candidates for Governor at the last preceding general election, requesting the establishment of a fire protection district in the county or a designated portion thereof and requesting that assessments be made on the property or assessments be made on the landowners or assessments be made both on the property and the landowners located in the district to finance the operation of the district, the county court, or county courts if the fire protection district is located in more than one (1) county, shall call a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) within the proposed fire protection district to determine whether a fire protection district shall be established for the area.

(b)(1) The county court or county courts, if the proposed fire protection district is located in more than one (1) county, shall call a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) to submit the question of the establishment and financing of a fire protection district to the electors of a proposed district.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall be held within ninety (90) days after the filing of the petitions requesting the election.~~

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(3) If the proposed fire protection district is located within more than one (1) county, the county courts shall set the date of the election on the same date and set the places of the election within the proposed fire protection district boundaries.

(4) At the election, the question of establishing and financing the district shall be placed on the ballot in substantially the following form:

"FOR the establishment of a fire protection district in
(county), (designated area), and the levy of assessed
benefits on real property in the district to finance the district[]

AGAINST the establishment of a fire protection district in
(county), (designated area), and the levy of assessed benefits on
real property in the district to finance the district[]"

SECTION 76. Arkansas Code § 14-284-208(f), concerning the establishment of fire protection districts, is amended to read as follows:

(f)(1) If the district includes territory from more than one (1) county, the board of commissioners shall be composed of seven (7) members+.

(2) The members of the board of commissioners of multicounty fire protection districts formed after July 3, 1995, under this subchapter shall be residents of the fire protection district and elected at a public meeting as agreed upon by the county courts in order to establish the time of

the meeting and the place of the meeting being within the district. The commissioners shall be elected by the qualified electors residing within the district.

(3) The members of the board of commissioners shall serve staggered terms.

(4) Vacancies occurring on the board due to resignation, removal, or otherwise shall be filled by the remaining board members for the unexpired term.

(5)(A)(i) Members of the board may be removed by a special election to be held within ninety (90) days after the presentation of a special election removal petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the assessed landowners or the assessed per-parcel owners, with the removal of the board member to be determined by the majority votes of the votes cast in person by the assessed landowners or the assessed per-parcel property owners.

(ii) Each assessed landowner or assessed parcel property owner shall have one (1) vote per paid assessment.

~~(B)(i)~~ The election for the removal of board members shall be held at a meeting at a designated location within the fire protection district.

~~(ii)(a)~~ ~~The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (f)(5)(B)(ii)(b) of this section.~~

~~(b)(1)(A)~~ ~~Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(B)(i)(a)~~ ~~If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(b)~~ ~~However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(ii)~~ ~~No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(2)~~ ~~Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 77. Arkansas Code § 14-284-224(b), concerning the annexation and financing of fire protection districts, is amended to read as follows:

~~(b)(1)(A)~~ The special election called by the quorum court to submit the question of the annexation and financing of the fire protection district to the electors of the district and the area to be annexed shall be held within no later than ninety (90) days after the quorum court received notification from the board of commissioners proclamation of a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(B)(i)~~ ~~The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii)~~ ~~Special elections held in months in which a~~

~~presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(2) At the election, the question of annexing the area to the district and the financing of the district shall be placed on the ballot in substantially the following form:

"FOR the annexation of (description of area to be annexed), and the levy of assessed benefits on real property within the area to be annexed to help finance the district []

AGAINST the annexation of (description of area to be annexed), and the levy of assessed benefits on real property within the area to be annexed to help finance the district []"

(c) If a majority of those voting at the election who reside within the area to be annexed, and if a majority of those voting at the election who reside within the existing district, vote in favor of the annexation, the area shall be deemed annexed and shall become a part of the fire protection district and governed accordingly.

(d)(1) As an alternative to an election on the annexation issue, if the board of commissioners of a fire protection district is in favor of the annexation, the board may refer the petitions to the county quorum court that may then accomplish the annexation by enactment of a county ordinance providing for the annexation.

(2)(A)(i) However, the ordinance shall not go into effect until sixty (60) days after its enactment.

(ii) During that time, if petitions calling for a referendum on the ordinance are presented to the quorum court and the petitions are signed by the number prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, the quorum court shall call a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) on the issue of the annexation.

(B) The election shall be conducted as prescribed in subsection (b) of this section.

(C) Unless at least a majority of those voting at the election who reside within the area to be annexed and a majority of those voting at the election who reside within the existing district vote in favor of the annexation, the annexation shall not occur.

(3) If the petitions are filed within sixty (60) days after

enacting the ordinance, the ordinance shall not go into effect until and unless the annexation is approved at the election provided for in this section.

(e) An attempt at annexation under this section, whether successful or not, shall in no way reduce the bonding authority of the fire protection district, nor shall the failure of the attempt at annexation have any effect on the existing fire protection district.

(f) No area shall be annexed under this section if it is located within the service area of another fire protection district or a nonprofit fire protection corporation.

SECTION 78. Arkansas Code § 14-286-103(a), concerning the establishment of red imported fire ant abatement districts, is amended to read as follows:

~~(a)(1)~~ The special election called by the county court to submit the question of the establishment and financing of a red imported fire ant abatement district to the electors of the proposed district shall be held within in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) no later than ninety (90) days after the petitions requesting the election have been filed with the county court proclamation of the election.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 79. Arkansas Code § 14-387-301 is amended to read as follows: 14-387-301. Order for election.

(a) Whenever twenty-five percent (25%) of the qualified electors of three (3) or more townships in any county in this state, as shown by the election returns for Governor at the last general election preceding the date of the petition, shall petition the county court for the privilege of voting on the question of restraining horses, mules, asses, cattle, goats, swine, and sheep, or any two (2) or more of these animals, or the male species of them, from running at large, the court shall make an order for an election in the townships, to be held at any general or special election for state or county officers.

(b) If petitioners shall file with their petition proper bond to be approved by the court conditioned to pay all the cost and expense of a special election, the court may call an election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) at any time upon the filing of the petition by giving notice of it as provided by law for general elections, if the petition contains twenty-five percent (25%) of the qualified electors residing within each township mentioned in the petition.

~~(c)(1) Any special election held under this section shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this section.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(ii) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(2) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(b) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(B) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 80. Arkansas Code § 15-4-3020 is amended to read as follows:
15-4-3020. Consent by qualified electors to issue bonds.

(a) No bonds shall be issued under this subchapter except by and with the consent of a majority of the qualified electors of the state voting on the question in substantially the form described in this section at ~~the general election or~~ a special election called by proclamation of the Governor.

~~(b)(1)~~ The proclamation shall be issued at least sixty (60) calendar days prior to the date fixed by the proclamation for the election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b), and notice of the special election shall be given by publication of the proclamation by one (1) insertion in one (1) newspaper of general circulation published in each county in the state not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date of the election.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or~~

~~general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(c) If there is no newspaper regularly published in a county, the proclamation may be published in any newspaper having a general circulation in the county.

(d) In the case of the notice or proclamation for the election, it is not necessary to publish this subchapter in its entirety, but the notice or proclamation shall state that it is issued for the purpose of submitting to the people the following question:

"Shall the Arkansas Development Finance Authority be authorized to issue general obligation bonds under the authority of the Arkansas General Obligation Economic Development Superprojects Bond and Project Funding Act in total principal amount not to exceed four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000), in series from time to time in principal amounts not to exceed, without prior approval of the General Assembly, sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) in any fiscal biennium, for the financing and refinancing of superprojects as defined in the Arkansas General Obligation Economic Development Superprojects Bond and Project Funding Act, which bonds shall be secured by a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State of Arkansas?"

(e) The title of this subchapter shall be the ballot title, and there shall be printed on the ballot the proposition stated in subsection (d) of this section, and the following:

"FOR Issuance of State of Arkansas Economic Development Superprojects General Obligation Bonds _____"

"AGAINST Issuance of State of Arkansas Economic Development Superprojects General Obligation Bonds _____"

(f)(1) The county boards of election commissioners of the several counties of the state shall conduct the election.

(2) Each board shall take action with respect to the appointment of election officials and other matters as the law requires.

(3) The vote shall be canvassed and the result declared in each county by the several county boards.

(4) The results shall be certified within ten (10) calendar days after the date of the election by the county boards to the Secretary of State, who shall tabulate all returns so received and certify to the Governor the total vote for and against the proposition.

(5) The result of the election shall be proclaimed by the Governor by publication one (1) time in a newspaper published in the City of Little Rock, and the results as proclaimed shall be conclusive unless attacked in the courts within thirty (30) calendar days after the date of the

publication.

SECTION 81. Arkansas Code § 15-43-204(a), concerning local elections to redetermine doe killing areas, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Whenever fifty (50) or more qualified electors residing within an area wholly or partly located within their particular county, which has been designated by regulation of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission as a doe killing area, petition the appropriate county court, praying that an election be held to determine whether or not such an area or portion thereof should remain a doe killing area, the county court shall order a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) to be held not more than ~~thirty (30)~~ ninety (90) days after the date of filing of the petition.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(3) Notice of the election shall be given in a newspaper of general circulation within the county, not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the election.~~

~~(4)(2) Only those qualified electors residing within the affected area or portion thereof, which is located within the county where the election is held, may vote in the election.~~

~~(5)(3) Except as provided in this section, the election shall be held in conformity with the general election laws of this state.~~

SECTION 82. Arkansas Code § 23-110-306 is amended to read as follows: 23-110-306. Subsequent referendum elections.

(a) After the elapse of not less than two (2) years next following the date of any election conducted pursuant to § 23-110-304, upon petitions filed with it containing the signatures of qualified electors of the county of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the total number voting in the election for county clerk of the county at the next preceding general election, together with a sum of money estimated by the county board of election commissioners as sufficient to pay all expenses of the election, the board shall call a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) on the proposition of continuing horse racing in the county.

~~(b)(1)(A) The date of the special election shall be fixed by the board on a day not less than thirty (30) days nor more than ninety (90) days following the date of filing the petitions. The deposit of the funds and the election shall be conducted and shall be subject to contest under the general election laws of this state.~~

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(2)(1) The proposition printed on the ballot shall be "FOR Horse Racing" and "AGAINST Horse Racing".~~

~~(3)(2) By published notice, the board shall proclaim the results of the election and shall also certify the results to the commission.~~

~~(4)(3) All contests in relation to the results of the election shall be commenced within twenty (20) days next following the date of publication of notice as given pursuant to this subsection.~~

(c) If a majority of the qualified electors of the county voting on the question shall disapprove the continuance of horse racing, the franchise held by the corporation shall, ipso facto, be null and void as of the final date on which a contest of the results of the election may be commenced or, in the event of contest, upon the date of final determination of the issue.

SECTION 83. Arkansas Code § 23-111-306 is amended to read as follows:
23-111-306. Subsequent referendum elections.

(a) After the elapse of not less than four (4) years next following the date of any election conducted pursuant to § 23-111-304, the county board of election commissioners shall call a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) on the proposition of continuing greyhound racing in the county. The election shall be called upon petitions filed with it containing the signatures of qualified electors of the county of not less than five percent (5%) of the total number voting in the election for county clerk of the county at the next preceding general election, together with a sum of money estimated by the board as sufficient to pay all expenses of the election.

~~(b)(1)(A) The date of the special election shall be fixed by the board on a day not less than thirty (30) days nor more than ninety (90) days~~

following the date of filing the petitions. The deposit of the funds as provided in subsection (a) of this section and the election shall be conducted and shall be subject to contest under the general election laws of this state.

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(2) The proposition printed on the ballot shall be "FOR Greyhound Racing" and "AGAINST Greyhound Racing".

(3) By published notice, the board shall proclaim the results of the election and shall also certify the results to the Arkansas Racing Commission.

(4) All contests in relation to the results of the election shall be commenced within twenty (20) days next following the date of publication of notice as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) If a majority of the qualified electors of the county voting on the question shall disapprove the continuance of greyhound racing, the franchise held by the corporation shall, ipso facto, be null and void as of the final date on which a contest of the results of the election may be commenced or, in the event of contest, upon the date of final determination of the issue.

SECTION 84. Arkansas Code § 24-11-402 is amended to read as follows:
24-11-402. Vote to effect subchapter.

(a) The provisions of this subchapter shall be suspended and inoperative in any city affected by the provisions of this subchapter until made available by a vote favorable thereto of the majority of qualified electors of the cities participating in any election on the question and held ~~at the time of any election in the city, whether state, city, special, or federal, or at a special election~~ in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) for the purpose of voting on the question.

~~(b)(1)~~ The election may be held in connection with the first general city election following the passage and approval of this subchapter, but the failure to submit at that city or other election shall not defeat the right

of submission at any subsequent election.

~~(2)(A) Any special election held under this section shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(c) Upon filing with the county board of election commissioners not later than ~~ten (10)~~ seventy (70) days before the date of the election the petition signed by twenty (20) or more qualified electors of the city affected and praying that the question of police officers' pensions be submitted, it shall be the duty of the county board of election commissioners to place the question upon the ballot.

(d) In the event that for any reason the question of policemen's pension was not voted upon in the next general city election after June 10, 1937, the question may be submitted at ~~any other general or~~ a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) held in the city as provided in this section.

(e) The question on the ballot shall be as follows:

"FOR Police Officer's Pension[]

AGAINST Police Officer's Pension[]".

SECTION 85. Arkansas Code § 24-11-404 is amended to read as follows:
24-11-404. Tax levy for pensions in cities of first and second class.

(a)(1) After being once approved by a majority of those voting on the question at any general or special election in any city of the first class or city of the second class, a tax not to exceed one (1) mill on the dollar upon the assessed value of the real and personal property of the city shall be levied annually by the city for the purpose of paying police officers' retirement salaries and pensions, as well as pensions to the surviving spouses and minor children of deceased police officers and the surviving spouses and minor children of deceased retired police officers.

(2) The levy shall be made by the city council or other governing body of the city on or before the time fixed by law for levying county taxes, and the city council or other governing body shall make out and

certify to the county clerk the rate of taxation levied by the municipal corporation on the real and personal property within the city.

(3) The amount so certified shall be placed upon the tax book by the county clerk of the county and collected in the same manner that state and county taxes are collected and shall be turned over to the board of trustees of the policemen's pension and relief fund of the city.

(b)(1) In those cities which do not have a policemen's pension and relief fund but which cover their police officers under the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System, the tax shall also be allowed when approved by a majority of qualified electors of the cities participating in any election on the question and held at ~~the time of any election in the city, whether state, city, special, or federal, or at a special election~~ in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) for the purpose of voting on the question.

(2) The election may be held in connection with the first general city election following March 6, 1989, but the failure to submit at a city or other election shall not defeat the right of submission at any subsequent election.

(3) Upon the filing with the county board of election commissioners not later than ~~sixty (60)~~ ninety (90) days before the date of the election ~~of~~ requested in a petition signed by twenty (20) or more qualified electors of the city affected and praying that the question of a policemen's pension be submitted, it shall be the duty of the county board of election commissioners to ~~place the question upon the ballot~~ call the election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

(4) In the event that for any reason the question of the policemen's pension is not voted upon in the next general city election after March 6, 1989, the question may be submitted at ~~any other general or a~~ a special election held in the city as provided in this subsection.

(5) The question on the ballot shall be as follows:

"FOR Police Officer's Pension[]

AGAINST Police Officer's Pension[]".

(6) The tax so levied shall not exceed one (1) mill on the dollar upon the assessed value of the real and personal property of the city or town.

(c) Once so approved, the tax shall be levied and certified in the same manner as provided in this section and shall be collected and turned over to the city or town for the sole purpose of making payment for coverage of employees under the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System.

~~(d)(1)~~ A vote on the question of the tax provided for in this section shall be had in the same manner that the Constitution and laws of this state provide for the initiation of measures in municipalities.

~~(2)(A) Any special election held under this section shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (d)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the~~

~~presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(e) The funds provided for in this section shall be supplemental and in addition to any funds provided for by any laws in effect at the time of passage of this section and shall become part of the policemen's pension and relief fund of the city and be administered by the board of trustees of the policemen's pension and relief fund for the same class of beneficiaries and in the same manner as prescribed by law.

(f) In those cities which do not have a policemen's pension and relief fund but which cover their police officers under the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System, the funds shall be applied to each city's account in that system, in such manner and amounts as determined by the board of trustees of that system.

SECTION 86. Arkansas Code § 24-11-812 is amended to read as follows:
24-11-812. Tax levy by city council.

(a)(1) After being once approved by a majority of those voting on the question at any general or special election of any city of the first class or city of the second class, a tax not to exceed one (1) mill on the dollar upon the assessed value of the real and personal property in the city shall be levied annually by the city for the purpose of paying firefighters' retirement salaries and pensions and pensions to the widows and minor children of deceased firefighters and the widows and minor children of deceased retired firefighters.

(2) The levy shall be made by the city council or other governing body of the city on or before the time fixed by law for levying county taxes, and the city council or other governing body shall make out and certify to the county clerk the rate of taxation levied by the municipal corporation on the real and personal property within the city.

(3) The amount so certified shall be placed upon the tax book by the county clerk of the county and collected in the same manner that state and county taxes are collected. This amount shall be turned over to the board of trustees of the firemen's relief and pension fund of the city, as created under §§ 24-11-801 - 24-11-807, 24-11-809, 24-11-810, 24-11-813 - 24-11-815, and 24-11-818 - 24-11-821.

(b)(1) However, in those cities which do not have a firemen's pension and relief fund but which cover their firefighters under the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System, the levy shall also be allowed when approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the cities or towns participating in ~~any election on the question and held at the time of any election in the city, whether state, city, special, or federal, or at a special election for the purpose of voting on the question.~~

(2) The election may be held in connection with the first general city election following the passage and approval of this subsection, but the failure to submit at the city or other election shall not defeat the right of submission at any subsequent election.

(3) Upon the filing with the county board of election commissioners not later than ~~sixty (60)~~ ninety (90) days before the date of the election ~~of requested in~~ a petition signed by twenty (20) or more qualified electors of the city or town affected, stating the amount of tax to be voted on, not to exceed one (1) mill on the dollar, and praying that the question of a firemen's pension be submitted, it shall be the duty of the county board of election commissioners to ~~place the question upon the ballot~~ call the election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

(4) In the event that for any reason the question of a firemen's pension is not voted upon in the next general city election after the passage and approval of this subsection, the question may be submitted at any other general or special election held in the city or town as provided in this subsection.

(5) The ballot shall state the amount of tax being voted on and the purpose thereof, and the question on the ballot shall be as follows:

"FOR Firemen's Pension[]

AGAINST Firemen's Pension[]".

(c) Once so approved, the levy shall be certified in the same manner as provided in this section and shall be collected and turned over to the city for the sole purpose of payment for coverage of employees under the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System.

~~(d)(1)~~ A vote on the question of the tax provided for in this section shall be had in the same manner that the Constitution and laws of this state provide for the initiation of measures in municipalities.

~~(2)(A) Any special election held under this section shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (d)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(e) The funds provided for in this section shall be supplemental to

and in addition to any funds provided for by any laws in effect at the time of the passage of this section, shall become part of the firemen's relief and pension fund of the city, as created under §§ 24-11-801 - 24-11-807, 24-11-809, 24-11-810, 24-11-813 - 24-11-815, and 24-11-818 - 24-11-821, and shall be administered by the board of trustees created by those sections, for the same class of beneficiaries and in the same manner as the funds provided for in §§ 24-11-801 - 24-11-807, 24-11-809, 24-11-810, 24-11-813 - 24-11-815, and 24-11-818 - 24-11-821, since it is the specific intention of this section not to repeal §§ 24-11-801 - 24-11-807, 24-11-809, 24-11-810, 24-11-813 - 24-11-815, and 24-11-818 - 24-11-821, or any amendments thereto, but rather to provide additional money for the firemen's relief and pension fund.

(f) In those cities which do not have a firemen's pension and relief fund but which cover their firefighters under the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System, the funds shall be applied to each city's account in that system in such manner and amounts as determined by the board of trustees of that system.

SECTION 87. Arkansas Code § 24-12-103 is amended to read as follows:
24-12-103. Vote to effect act.

(a) The provisions of this act shall be suspended and inoperative in any city affected by the provisions of the act until made available by a vote favorable thereto of the majority of the qualified electors of the cities participating in any election on the question ~~and held at the time of any election in the city, whether state, city, special, or federal, or at a special election called for the purpose of voting on the question.~~

(b) The election may be held in connection with the first general city election following the passage and approval of this act, but the failure to submit or the failure to adopt at the city or other election shall not bar, abridge, or defeat the right of submission at any subsequent election.

(c) Upon the filing with the county board of election commissioners not later than ~~ten (10)~~ ninety (90) days before the date of the election ~~of requested in~~ a petition signed by twenty (20) or more qualified electors of the city affected and praying that the question of paid nonuniformed employees' pensions and the levying of a tax therefor, not exceeding one and one-half (1 1/2) mills, be submitted, it shall be the duty of the county board of election commissioners to ~~place the question on the ballot~~ call the election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(d)(1)~~ If for any reason the question is not voted upon at the next general city election after the passage and approval of this act, the question may be submitted at any other general or special election held in the city as provided in this section.

~~(2)(A) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (d)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) Elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If an election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(ii) Elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(e) The question on the ballot shall be as follows:

"FOR Paid Nonuniformed Employees pensions and the levying of a mill tax of (amount here designated on ballot not exceeding one and one-half (1 1/2) mills) therefor[]"

AGAINST Paid Nonuniformed Employees pensions and the levying of a mill tax of (amount here designated on ballot not exceeding one and one-half (1 1/2) mills) therefor[]".

SECTION 88. Arkansas Code § 26-52-605 is amended to read as follows:
26-52-605. Election proceedings.

(a) The governing body of an Arkansas border city or town, as described in § 26-52-602, by ordinance, may call a special election, or, upon petition of not less than ten percent (10%) of the qualified electors of the Arkansas border city or town, as determined by the number of votes cast in the Arkansas border city or town for all candidates for election to the Office of Governor of Arkansas in the immediately preceding general election, filed with the city clerk of the city or town petitioning that a special election be called, a special election shall be called by proclamation of the mayor in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) in the city or town on the question of the imposition of an additional state tax of one percent (1%) upon the gross receipts or gross proceeds derived from taxable sales within the border city or town under the provisions of the Arkansas Gross Receipts Act of 1941, § 26-52-101 et seq., and the proceeds derived therefrom shall benefit the State of Arkansas in lieu of the state income tax law applying to the net taxable income derived by individuals who are residents of the border city or town.

(b)(1) The special election shall be called not later than ~~ninety (90) days nor earlier than forty five (45)~~ one hundred twenty (120) days following the adoption of the ordinance by the governing body of the city or town, or the filing of a petition requesting the special election.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) A special election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(c) Notice of the special election shall be given by publication in some newspaper of general circulation within the Arkansas border city or town on two (2) occasions not more than thirty (30) days and not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the special election.

(d) The special election shall be held by the county board of election commissioners, and the special election judges and clerks shall be selected and the special election shall be conducted and the results shall be tabulated and certified in the manner now provided by law for the holding of elections in this state.

(e) On the ballot shall be printed the following issue:

[] FOR the levy of an additional one percent (1%) state gross receipts tax in the City of County, Arkansas, in lieu of paying state income taxes by individuals who are residents of said city (town).

[] AGAINST the levy of an additional one percent (1%) state gross receipts tax in the City of County, Arkansas, in lieu of paying state income taxes by individuals who are residents of said city (town).

(f) The voter shall cast the vote of his or her choice by placing an "X" opposite the issue of his or her choice.

SECTION 89. Arkansas Code § 26-73-111 is amended to read as follows:
26-73-111. Special local sales and use tax - Election.

(a) On the date of the adoption of an ordinance levying a special local sales and use tax for the benefit of a county, city, or town, the county, city, or town shall provide, by ordinance, for calling and holding a special election on the question.

(b) The special election shall be in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) and conducted in the manner provided by law for all county or municipal elections unless otherwise specified in this section.

~~(c)(1)~~ The special election shall be called for a date within not later than one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the action of the governing body in establishing the date of the special election.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (c)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) A special election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the~~

~~presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(d)(1) The governing body of the county or municipality shall notify the county board of election commissioners that the measure has been referred to a vote of the people and shall submit a copy of the ballot title to the county board of election commissioners.

(2) The ballot title to be used at the special election shall be substantially in the following form:

[] "FOR adoption of a one-fourth of one percent (.25%) special local sales and use tax within (name of county or municipality) for support of a Public Mass Transportation System and Facilities."

[] "AGAINST adoption of a one-fourth of one percent (.25%) special local sales and use tax within (name of county or municipality) for support of a Public Mass Transportation System and Facilities."

SECTION 90. Arkansas Code § 26-74-207(a)(2), concerning calls for elections on a countywide sales and use tax, is amended to read as follows:

(2) The election shall be called by order of the quorum court and shall be held within one hundred twenty (120) days of the ordinance calling the election.

SECTION 91. Arkansas Code § 26-74-210(a), concerning the resubmission of questions of levy or repeal, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) When the question of the levy or repeal of a county sales and use tax is submitted to the electors and the proposition is approved or defeated, the question shall not again be submitted to the electors by ordinance of the quorum court of the county or by petition of electors at a special or general election for a period of six (6) months from the date the proposition was last voted upon.

(2)(A) A petition requesting that the issue be submitted to the electors of the county shall contain the signatures of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the electors of the county as determined by the total number of votes cast for all candidates for circuit clerk of the county at the last preceding general election.

(B)(i) The petition shall be filed and verified by the county clerk.

(ii) If the petition is found to be sufficient, the issue shall be submitted to the electors at a special election ~~or at the next general election~~ on a date as may be requested by the petition.

~~(C)(i) If the petition requests that the issue be~~

~~submitted at a special election, the~~ The special election shall be called in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) for a date not ~~less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) ninety (90)~~ days from the date on which the county clerk certifies the sufficiency of the petition to the county board of election commissioners.

~~(ii)(a) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(C)(ii)(b) of this section.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) A special election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) If the special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(b) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(ii) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(2) A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 92. Arkansas Code § 26-74-307(a)(2), concerning calls for elections on countywide sales taxes, is amended to read as follows:

(2) The election shall be called by order of the quorum court and shall be held within one hundred twenty (120) days of the ordinance calling for the election.

SECTION 93. Arkansas Code § 26-74-402(a), concerning elections concerning countywide sales and use taxes, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The county quorum court of any county not having a countywide one percent (1%) sales and use tax on March 14, 1991 may call an election for the levy of a one-half percent (0.5%) countywide sales and use tax for any purpose for which the county general fund or county road fund may be used including allocating portions of this tax to the municipalities located therein. The election shall be called by order of the quorum court and shall be held within one hundred twenty (120) days of the ordinance calling the election.

SECTION 94. Arkansas Code § 26-74-502(a), concerning petitions requesting an election on the issue of a county gross receipts tax on hotels and restaurants, is amended to read as follows:

(a) If petitions are filed requesting an election for an initiated ordinance levying the tax authorized under this subchapter, the quorum court shall submit the question of the levying of the tax to the electors. The

petitions must be signed by not less than five hundred (500) electors of the county. The election shall be called by order of the quorum court and shall be held within one hundred twenty (120) days of the filing of the petitions. The tax shall be levied upon approval of a majority of the qualified electors voting on the issue at the election.

SECTION 95. Arkansas Code § 26-74-603 is amended to read as follows:
26-74-603. Call for tax election.

(a) Any eligible county may by ordinance of its quorum court levy a countywide sales and use tax in the amount of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%), one-fourth of one percent (0.25%), one-half of one percent (0.50%), three-fourths of one percent (0.75%), or one percent (1%) to provide capital improvements to or the maintenance and operation of an eligible campus.

(b)(1)(A) No ordinance shall be adopted by the quorum court of an eligible county for the purpose of levying a tax under this subchapter unless the quorum court shall have been requested to adopt the ordinance by the local board and until a majority of the qualified electors of the eligible county voting on the question at a ~~general or~~ special election shall have approved levy of the tax.

(B) The election shall be called by ordinance and ~~shall be held no earlier than thirty (30) days after the adoption of the ordinance proclamation issued in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).~~

(C) The ballot for the election shall be subject to the approval of the local board.

~~(2)(A) The election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) An election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If the election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the election.~~

~~(ii) An election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(c) The quorum court shall notify its county board of election commissioners that the measure has been referred to the vote of the people and shall submit a copy of the ordinance calling the election and the proposed ballot language to its county board of election commissioners.

SECTION 96. Arkansas Code § 26-75-208(a), as amended by Act 116 of 2007 and concerning special elections on sale and use taxes, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) On the date of the filing of a petition described in § 26-75-207(b) or on the date of adoption of an ordinance levying a local sales and use tax for the benefit of the city, or within thirty (30) days following the filing of the petition described in § 26-75-207(b) or adoption of the ordinance, the city by ordinance shall provide for the calling ~~and holding~~ of a special election on the question in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(2)(A)~~ The special election shall be called for a date ~~within no~~ later than one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of action of the governing body in establishing the date of the special election.

~~(B)(i)~~ ~~The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii)~~ A special election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.

~~(2)(A)(i)~~ If the special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.

~~(ii)~~ However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.

~~(B)~~ No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.

~~(b)~~ A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

(3) The date for the special election may be the same as the date for the next regular municipal election if the next regular municipal election is to be held within the one-hundred-twenty-day period.

(4) The governing body of the city shall notify the county board of election commissioners that the question has been referred to the vote of the people and shall submit a copy of the ballot title to the county board of election commissioners.

SECTION 97. Arkansas Code § 26-75-213 is amended to read as follows:
26-75-213. Resubmission of question of levy or repeal.

(a)(1) Except as provided in § 26-75-210 and in subsection (b) of this section, when the question of the levy or repeal of a city sales and use tax is submitted to the electors and the proposition is approved or defeated, the question shall not again be submitted to the electors by ordinance of the governing body of the city or by a petition of electors for a period of six (6) months from the date the question was last voted upon.

(2) A petition requesting that the question be submitted to the electors of the city shall contain the signatures of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the electors of the city as determined by the total number of votes cast for all candidates for mayor of the city at the last preceding general

election.

(3)(A) The petition shall be filed with and verified by the city clerk.

(B) If the petition is found to be sufficient, the question shall be submitted to the electors at a special election ~~or the next general election~~ on a date as may be requested by the petition.

~~(4)(A) If the petition requests that the question be submitted at a special election, the~~ The special election shall be called in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) for a date not ~~less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) ninety (90)~~ days from the date on which the city clerk certifies the sufficiency of the petition to the governing body of the city.

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(4)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) A special election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If the special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(b) In any city in which a local sales and use tax has been adopted in the manner provided for in this subchapter and all or any portion pledged to secure the payment of lease rentals or bonds as authorized by this subchapter, that portion of the tax pledged to the payment of lease rentals or bonds shall not be repealed, abolished, or reduced so long as the lease is in effect or any of the bonds are outstanding.

SECTION 98. Arkansas Code § 26-75-308(a), as amended by Act 116 of 2007 and concerning special elections to approve a local sales and use tax, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) On the date of the filing of a petition described in § 26-75-307(b) or on the date of adoption of an ordinance levying a local sales and use tax for the benefit of the city, or within thirty (30) days following the filing of the petition described in § 26-75-307(b) or adoption of the ordinance, the city by ordinance shall provide for the calling and holding of a special election on the question in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).

~~(2)(A) The special election shall be called for a date~~ within no later than one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of action of the governing body in establishing the date of special election.

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) A special election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If the special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

(3) The governing body of the city shall notify the county board of election commissioners that the question has been referred to the vote of the people and shall submit a copy of the ballot title to the county board of election commissioners.

SECTION 99. Arkansas Code § 26-75-404(a), concerning the requirements and procedure for elections on local sales and use taxes, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) When the governing body of any city or town adopts an ordinance levying a local sales and use tax as authorized in this subchapter, the governing body shall provide, either in the ordinance levying the tax or in a separate ordinance, for submission of the question of the levy to the qualified electors of the city or town either at the next regular municipal election or at a special election.

~~(2)(A)~~ If the ordinance provides for submitting the question at a special election, the election shall be called in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) for a date not less than sixty (60) nor more than ninety (90) days from the date of the adoption of the ordinance calling the special election.

~~(B)(i) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) A special election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If the special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

SECTION 100. Arkansas Code § 26-78-103 is amended to read as follows:
26-78-103. Procedure for levying.

(a)(1) The counties of the state shall have the first opportunity to levy the County and Municipality Vehicle Tax.

(2)(A) Any levy by a county may be upon owners residing everywhere in the county or only upon owners residing within the county but outside the corporate boundaries of all municipalities in the county.

(B) That is, the tax must cover the entire county or the area outside all municipalities and cannot cover some municipalities and omit others.

(3) This levy may be in any amount not exceeding the authorized maximum.

(4) A municipality in a county may levy the tax only if the county quorum court, by the time of adjournment of its regular annual session in any calendar year, has failed to levy the tax upon the owners residing within the corporate limits of the municipality or if, by the time of adjournment, the court has not levied the full amount of the authorized tax for the next calendar year at the regular annual session or at any special session held in any calendar year prior to its regular annual session in the calendar year.

(5) Each levy by the county quorum court or by the governing body of the municipality shall be for collection during the calendar year next following the year in which the levy is made and, except in the case when bonds are issued as authorized, unless the levy is again made, the tax shall drop at the expiration of the calendar year for which collected and shall not again be collected until levied by the county quorum court by the time of adjournment of the regular annual session of the county quorum court or thereafter by the governing body of a municipality, as indicated.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, before the tax levied by any county quorum court upon owners residing everywhere in the county or only upon owners residing within the county but outside the corporate boundaries of all municipalities in the county may be collected, the county court shall call a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) upon the first levy of the tax by the county quorum court, to be held ~~not less than twenty (20) days nor more than sixty (60)~~ ninety (90) days from the date of the adoption of the levy of the tax by the quorum court, at which the qualified electors of the area to be affected by the tax shall vote on the question of the levy of the tax.

~~(2)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) A special election held in a month in which a~~

~~presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If the special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(3)(2) If at the special election a majority of the qualified electors of the area affected by the tax voting on the issue at the special election shall vote for the levy of the tax, the tax may be thereafter levied in the area in the manner authorized in subsection (a) of this section, and it shall not be necessary that an election be called again in the area on the question of levying the tax.~~

~~(4)(3) If a majority of the qualified electors of the affected area voting on the issue at the special election shall vote against the levy of the tax, the tax shall not be levied in the area.~~

~~(5)(4) The quorum court of the county at any subsequent annual meeting may propose the levy of the tax, and the election on the tax shall be called as provided in this section.~~

~~(6)(5) A special election held pursuant to this chapter shall be conducted in accordance with the election laws of this state, and the form of the ballot, the method of voting, the counting, tabulation, and certification of the special election results shall be in the manner provided by law.~~

~~(c)(1) Any tax levied by any municipality under the provisions of this chapter for the first time prior to July 1, 1967, and without the calling of a special election of the qualified electors of the municipality, shall continue in full force and effect without the calling of an election.~~

~~(2) However, before the tax levied by the governing body of any municipality for the first time after July 1, 1967, upon vehicle owners residing in the municipality may be collected, the mayor shall call a special election in accordance with § 7-5-103(b) to be held not ~~less than twenty (20) days nor~~ more than ~~sixty (60)~~ ninety (90) days from the date of the adoption of the levy of the tax by the governing body of the municipality, at which the qualified electors of the municipality shall vote on the question of the levy of the tax.~~

~~(3)(A) The special election shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided in subdivision (c)(3)(B) of this section.~~

~~(B)(i)(a) A special election held in a month in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(b)(1)(A) If the special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(B) However, a separate ballot containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to a voter requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(2) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(ii) A special election scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.~~

~~(4)(3) At the special election, if a majority of the qualified electors of the municipality voting on the issue shall vote for the levy of the tax, the tax may be thereafter levied in the municipality in the manner authorized in subsection (a) of this section, and it shall not be necessary that an election be called again in the municipality on the question of levying the tax.~~

~~(5)(4) If a majority of the qualified electors of the municipality voting on the issue at the special election shall vote against the levy of the tax, the tax shall not be levied in the municipality.~~

~~(6)(5) However, the governing body of the municipality at any time after the expiration of one (1) year from the election in the municipality may propose the levy of the tax, and the election on the tax shall be called as provided in this section.~~

~~(7)(6) A special election held pursuant to this chapter shall be conducted in accordance with the election laws of this state, and the form of the ballot, the method of voting, the counting, tabulation, and certification of the special election results shall be in the manner provided by law.~~

SECTION 101. Arkansas Code § 27-64-206(a), concerning elections on the issuance of bonds, is amended to read as follows:

27-64-206. Election.

~~(a)(1) No bonds shall be issued under this subchapter unless the issuance of bonds has been approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the state voting on the question at a statewide special election called by proclamation of the Governor in accordance with § 7-5-103(b).~~

~~(2)(A) Such an election may be in conjunction with a general election, or it may be a special election.~~

~~(B)(i) A special election held under this section shall occur on the second Tuesday of any month, except as provided by subdivision (a)(2)(B)(ii) of this section.~~

~~(ii) Special elections held in months in which a presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, general primary election, or general election.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) If a special election is held on the date of the presidential preferential primary election, preferential primary election, or general primary election, the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be included on the ballot of each political party.~~

~~(ii) However, separate ballots containing only the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.~~

~~(B) No voter shall be required to vote in a political party's presidential preferential primary, preferential primary, or general primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.~~

~~(b) Special elections scheduled to occur in a month in which the second Tuesday is a legal holiday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month."~~

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator Glover

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Secretary