

ARKANSAS SENATE
87th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2009
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 894

"TO AMEND VARIOUS LAWS CONCERNNG THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS
AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS."

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 894.

Amend Senate Bill No. 894 as originally introduced:

Page 1, line 9, delete "CONCERNNG" and substitute "CONCERNING"

AND

Page 1, line 14 , delete "CONCERNNG" and substitute "CONCERNING"

AND

Delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 2-16-504(b)(1), concerning petitions to establish Johnson grass control and eradication districts, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. and notify the county board or boards of election commissioners in writing. The election shall be held on a date in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. but in no event more than ninety (90) days following publication of the proclamation.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 3-9-206(b)(1), concerning referendum elections for or against the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. and held and conducted in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-14-106, as amended by Act 292 of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

6-14-106. Polling places – Qualifications and appointment of election commissioners and poll workers.



(a)(1) The county board of election commissioners of each county shall designate all the polling sites for each school district in its respective county, including districts having territory in more than one (1) county but which are domiciled in its county for administrative purposes, and shall provide the election supplies and appoint the ~~election officials~~ poll workers for holding all school elections.

(2) The county board shall consult with each school district regarding:

(A) The number of polling sites to designate for each school district; and

(B) The location of the polling sites.

~~(3) Each polling site for a school district's annual school election shall be located within the school district.~~

(3) Polling sites for school elections shall be established by a majority vote of the members of the county board of election commissioners present.

(4)(A) The polling sites for each school election shall be the same as those established for the immediately preceding school election unless changed by order of the county board of election commissioners.

(B) Each polling site for a school district's annual school election shall be located within the school district.

(b) If a school district has territory in more than one (1) county, the county board of election commissioners of the county in which it is domiciled shall either:

(1) Designate one (1) or more polling sites in each county in which any part of the school district lies; or

(2) Designate one (1) or more polling sites in the county in which the school district is domiciled for administrative purposes, at which all qualified electors of the school district, regardless of their county of residence, may vote.

(c) When the county board of election commissioners of any county in which a school district is domiciled for administrative purposes determines that a polling site shall not be designated in the other county in which a portion of the school district lies, it shall designate and publish in a paper of general circulation in that area the location of the polling site in the county in which the school district is administered for those electors of the school district in the other county to vote. The county board of election commissioners shall take appropriate action to assure that the necessary precinct registration files are delivered to that polling site in order that the electors in the nonadministering county may vote in the school election.

(d) The board of directors of each school district shall cause to be published, by at least one (1) insertion in a newspaper with general circulation in the county or counties in which the school district is located, not more than ten (10) days nor less than three (3) days before any school election, a notice identifying the polling site for each ward or precinct. If the polling site for any ward or precinct has changed since the last school election, the notice shall indicate the change.

(e)(1) In addition to any other qualification under Arkansas law regarding members of the county board of election commissioners, a member of the county board of election commissioners who is a paid employee of any school district holding the election in the county shall be disqualified from participating as a member of the county board of election commissioners in

any matter concerning the school election.

(2) In the event of a disqualification under subdivision (e)(1) of this section, the disqualified member shall notify the chair of the county committee of the affected party of the disqualification no later than sixty (60) days before the school election or, if the disqualified member is the county chair, the notice shall be provided to the chair of the state committee of the affected party.

(3) The chair of the county committee of the party affected by disqualification of a member of the county board of election commissioners shall appoint a qualified person to replace the disqualified member for the school election or, if the disqualified member is the county chair, the state chair of the affected party shall appoint a qualified person to replace the disqualified member for the school election.

(f)(1) The county board of election commissioners of the domicile county shall appoint one (1) election judge and one (1) election sheriff for each polling site and as many additional election clerks as are necessary for the efficient administration of elections at each polling site.

(2) In addition to any other qualification under Arkansas law regarding poll workers, a poll worker at a school election shall not be a paid employee of the school district holding the election.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-14-111 is amended to read as follows:
6-14-111. Ballots – Write-in candidates.

(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.

(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 political practices pledge, an affidavit of eligibility, and either:

(1) a A petition; or

(2) ~~filing a~~ A notice of write-in candidacy.

(d)(1) 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 school district and, if applicable, the electoral zone for the position.

(2) The petition shall:

(A) State the name and title of the candidate that the candidate proposes to appear on the ballot; and

(B) Identify the position sought, including without limitation the position number or other identifying information if applicable.

(e) The petition, affidavit of eligibility, 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 12:00 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, identifying the position sought, including without limitation the position number or other identifying information if applicable;

(2) An affidavit of eligibility; and

~~(2)(3)~~ 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 and affidavits of eligibility 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~~ the affidavit of eligibility, the notice of write-in candidacy, and the political practices pledge 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.

(k) When a candidate has identified the position sought on the petition or notice of write-in candidacy, the candidate shall not be allowed to change the position on that petition or notice of write-in candidacy but may withdraw a petition or notice of write-in candidacy and file a new petition or notice of write-in candidacy designating a different position before the deadline for filing.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-14-122(c), concerning special elections to consider consolidation or annexation of school districts, is amended to read as follows:

(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 of directors, 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. to consider the question of consolidation or annexation of the school districts as otherwise allowed for in subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-53-307(e), concerning special elections on the issue of dedicating all or a portion of any undedicated county sales or use tax to any technical college, community college, two-year college, or satellite campus of a community college for capital improvements or maintenance and operation, is amended to read as follows:

(e) Any election called by the quorum court pursuant to this section shall be called pursuant to the proclamation issued by the quorum court and held in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-53-602(b)(2), concerning elections for the formation of a technical college district, is amended to read as follows:

(2) 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. but in no event later than ninety (90) days after the publication of the proclamation.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-53-602(c)(2)(B), concerning elections for the formation of a technical college district, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-53-602(d)(3), concerning elections for tax levies in a technical college district, is amended to read as follows:

(3) In the alternative, the local board or acting local board may set a date for a special election in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

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

The date of the election shall be set by the Secretary of State in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-61-520(c)(2), concerning filing as a candidate for the local board of a community college, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Any person desiring to be a candidate for a position on the local board shall, ~~not less than forty five (45) days~~ not later than noon of the seventieth day prior to the general or annual school election at which the position on the board is to be filled, file a notarized statement of such candidacy with the county ~~board of election commissioners~~ clerk of each county of which any portion is in the community college district, in substantially the following form:

“State of Arkansas

County of

I,, being first duly sworn, state that I reside at; that I am a resident and qualified elector of community college district; that I am a candidate for the office of position No. on the local board of such community college, and I hereby request that my name be placed on the

ballot as a candidate for such position at the coming general or annual school election.

(Signed)
Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of
., 20
(Signed).Notary Public”

SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-61-602(c) and (d), concerning elections concerning millage taxes for community colleges, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. as determined by the local board.

(d)(1) 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 more than ninety (90) days after the date of the proclamation required by § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

(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.

SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 6-71-105(b)(2)(A), concerning elections related to improvement districts for colleges and universities, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) The commission may call at any time within five (5) years an election in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. to determine whether this chapter shall become operative and may call subsequent elections in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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.

SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101 is amended to read as follows:
7-1-101. Definitions.

As used in this title, unless the context or chapter otherwise requires:

(1) "Administrator" means the administrative head of a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state who is authorized in writing by a patient of the long-term care or residential care facility to deliver the application for an absentee ballot and to obtain or deliver the absentee ballot to the county clerk;

(2) "Affidavit of eligibility" means an affidavit signed by a candidate for elective office stating that the candidate is eligible to serve in the office he or she seeks;

~~(2)~~(3) "Audit log" means an electronically stored record of events and ballot images from which election officials may produce a permanent paper record with a manual audit capacity for a voting system using voting machines;

~~(3)~~(4) "Authorized agent" means a person who is identified and authorized to deliver the application, obtain a ballot, and deliver the ballot on the day of the election to the county clerk by an applicant who is medically unable to cast a ballot at a polling site due to unforeseen medical necessity as set forth in an affidavit from the administrative head of a hospital or long-term or residential care facility;

~~(4)~~(5) "Canvassing" means examining and counting the returns of votes cast at a public election to determine authenticity;

~~(5)~~(6) "Constitutional officers of this state" means the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, and Commissioner of State Lands;

~~(6)~~(7) "Counting location" means a location selected by the county board of election commissioners with respect to all elections for the automatic processing or counting, or both, of votes;

~~(7)~~(8) "Designated bearer" means any person who is identified and authorized by the applicant to obtain from the county clerk or to deliver to the county clerk the applicant's ballot;

~~(8)~~(9) "Election official" or "election officer" means a person who is a member of the county board of election commissioners or a person who is a poll worker designated by a county board of election commissioners to be an election clerk, election judge, or election sheriff;

~~(9)~~(10) "Electronic vote tabulating device" means a device used to electronically scan a marked paper ballot for the purpose of tabulation;

~~(10)~~(11) "Fail-safe voting" means the mechanism established under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 that allows voters who have moved within the same county to vote at their new precinct without having updated their voter registration records;

~~(11)~~(12) "First-time voter" means any registered voter who has not previously voted in a federal election in the state;

~~(12)~~(13) "General or special election" means the regular biennial or annual elections for election of United States, state, district, county, township, and municipal officials and the special elections to fill vacancies therein and special elections to approve any measure. The term as used in this act shall not apply to school elections for officials of school districts;

~~(13)~~(14) "Majority party" means that political party in the State of Arkansas whose candidates were elected to a majority of the constitutional offices of this state in the last preceding general election;

~~(14)~~(15) "Marking device" means any approved device for marking a paper ballot with ink or other substance that will enable the votes to be tabulated by means of an electronic vote tabulating device;

~~(15)~~(16) "Minority party" means that political party whose candidates were elected to less than a majority of the constitutional offices of this state in the last preceding general election or the political party that polled the second greatest number of votes for the office of Governor in the last preceding general election if all of the elected constitutional officers of this state are from a single political party;

~~(16)~~(17) "Party certificate" means a written statement or receipt signed by the secretary or chair of the county committee or of the state committee, as the case may be, of the political party evidencing the name and title proposed to be used by the candidate on the ballot, the position the candidate seeks, payment of the fees, and filing of the party pledge, if any, required by the political party;

(18) "Party filing period" means the period of time established by law for the candidate for a political party's nomination to file his or her party certificate with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as the case may be;

~~(17)~~(19)(A) "Political party" means any group of voters that at the last preceding general election polled for its candidate for Governor in the state or nominees for presidential electors at least three percent (3%) of the entire vote cast for the office.

(B) No group of electors shall assume a name or designation that is so similar in the opinion of the Secretary of State to that of an existing political party as to confuse or mislead the voters at an election.

(C) When any political party fails to obtain three percent (3%) of the total votes cast at an election for the office of Governor or nominees for presidential electors, it shall cease to be a political party;

~~(18)~~(20) "Polling site" means a location selected by the county board of election commissioners where votes are cast;

~~(19)~~(21) "Precinct" means the geographical boundary lines dividing a county, municipality, township, or school district for voting purposes;

~~(20)~~(22) "Primary election" means any election held by a political party in the manner provided by law for the purpose of selecting

nominees of the political party for certification as candidates for election at any general or special election in this state;

~~(21)~~(23) "Provisional ballot" means a ballot:

(A) Cast by special procedures to record a vote when there is some question concerning a voter's eligibility; and

(B) Counted contingent upon the verification of the voter's eligibility;

~~(22)~~(24) "Qualified elector" means a person who holds the qualifications of an elector and who is registered pursuant to Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51;

~~(23)~~(25) "Sample ballot" means a ballot for distribution to the public or the press marked with the word "SAMPLE" so as to prevent the production of counterfeit ballots;

~~(24)~~(26) "Vacancy in election" means the vacancy in an elective office created by death, resignation, or other good and legal cause, arising prior to election to the office at a general or special election but arising subsequent to the certification of the ballot;

~~(25)~~(27) "Vacancy in nomination" means the circumstances in which the person who received the majority of votes at the preferential primary election or general primary election cannot accept the nomination due to death or notifies the party that he or she will not accept the nomination due to serious illness, moving out of the area from which the person was elected as the party's nominee, or filing for another office preceding the final date for certification of nominations;

~~(26)~~(28)(A) "Vacancy in office" means the vacancy in an elective office created by death, resignation, or other good and legal cause arising subsequent to election to the office at a general or special election or arising subsequent to taking office and prior to the expiration of the term of office in those circumstances wherein the vacancy must be filled by a special election rather than by appointment.

(B) The phrase "vacancy in office" shall not apply to the election of a person at a general election to fill an unexpired portion of a term of office;

~~(27)~~(29) "Voter-verified paper audit trail" means a contemporaneous paper record of a ballot printed for the voter to confirm his or her votes before the voter casts his or her ballot that:

(A) Allows the voter to verify the voter-verified paper audit trail before the casting of the voter's ballot;

(B) Is not retained by the voter;

(C) Does not contain individual voter information;

(D) Is produced on paper that is sturdy, clean, and resistant to degradation; and

(E) Is readable in a manner that makes the voter's ballot choices obvious to the voter without the use of computer or electronic code;

~~(28)~~(30) "Voting machine" means either:

(A) A direct recording electronic voting machine that:

(i) Records votes by means of a ballot display provided with mechanical or electro-optical components that may be actuated by the voter;

(ii) Processes the data by means of a computer program;

(iii) Records voting data and ballot images in

internal and external memory components; and

(iv) Produces a tabulation of the voting data stored in a removable memory component and on a printed copy; or

(B) An electronic device for marking a paper ballot to be electronically scanned; and

~~(29)~~(31) "Voting system" means:

(A) The total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic equipment, including the software, firmware, and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment that is used:

(i) To define ballots;

(ii) To cast and count votes;

(iii) To report or display election results; and

(iv) To maintain and produce any audit trail

information; and

(B) The practices and documentation used to:

(i) Identify system components and versions of components;

(ii) Test the system during its development and maintenance;

(iii) Maintain records of system errors and defects;

(iv) Determine specific system changes to be made to a system after the initial qualification of the system; and

(v) Make available any materials to the voter, including, but not limited to, notices, instructions, forms, or paper ballots.

SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 7-5-101, as amended by Act 250 of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

7-5-101. Precinct boundaries and polling sites – Establishment and alteration.

~~(a)(1) A county board of election commissioners is empowered to alter the boundaries of existing election precincts and to establish new ones when in its judgment it may be necessary.~~

~~(2)(A)(i) The county board shall establish a polling site for each election precinct.~~

~~(ii)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(A)(ii)(b) of this section, the establishment of a polling site shall be by a unanimous vote of the county board.~~

~~(b) A polling site for a school election shall be established by a majority of the county board.~~

~~(B)(i) The county board may combine polling sites for two (2) or more precincts when, in its judgment, it may be necessary.~~

~~(ii)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B)(ii)(b) of this section, the combining of polling sites shall be by a unanimous vote of the county board.~~

~~(b) Polling sites for school elections shall be fixed by a majority of the county board.~~

~~(C) The county board may allow school elections to be conducted by early voting and absentee voting only and open no polling sites on a school election day in any election year if no more than one (1) candidate for school district director presents a petition or notice in~~

~~writing to the county board of election commissioners as required by § 6-14-111 and if there are no other ballot issues to be submitted to district electors for consideration, if requested by resolution adopted by the board of directors of any school district.~~

~~(3) In changing the boundaries of existing precincts or in creating new ones, the county board shall arrange them so that all qualified voters residing in the precincts may vote on the same day.~~

~~(4)(A) The county board shall not have the power to change the boundaries of existing precincts, to create any new precinct, or to change the polling site in any precinct within thirty (30) days of any election, but all elections shall be held at the sites and within the boundaries as they existed thirty (30) days before the date of the election.~~

~~(B) In the event of an emergency, a county board may change a precinct boundary or a polling site.~~

~~(b) All polling sites shall be fixed at well-known points in the several precincts and easily accessible to all electors entitled to vote therein.~~

~~(c)(1)(A) The action of the county board in changing the polling site in any precinct, in altering the boundaries of any precinct, or in establishing any new one shall be determined in a public meeting pursuant to § 7-4-105 and shall be entered in the record to be kept on file in the county clerk's office.~~

~~(B) A copy of the order, which shall set out intelligently and accurately the boundaries of precincts as so altered or established, shall be filed with the clerk of the county court, who shall record the order at full length on the record book on which the minutes of the proceedings of the county court are recorded.~~

~~(2)(A)(i)(a) Within thirty (30) days after altering the boundaries of an election precinct or establishing a new one, the county board shall submit four (4) copies of the changes to the Secretary of State.~~

~~(b) The changes shall be submitted in the form of a map and shall include a written description.~~

~~(ii) A short statement of why the changes were made may be included.~~

~~(B) Upon receipt of the changes, the Secretary of State shall immediately forward a copy to the office of the Attorney General, the Census State Data Center, and the Cartography Section of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.~~

~~(d)(1) Notice of any changes made in polling sites shall also be given to the electors by prominently posting information about any changes at all previous polling sites that were used in the last election.~~

~~(2) Except for school elections and special elections, the notice shall also be mailed by the county clerk to each affected registered voter at least fifteen (15) days before the election.~~

~~(c) If the county board wishes to combine or eliminate polling sites fixed for the preferential primary election or general election for the general primary election or general runoff election, each combination or elimination of polling sites shall require a unanimous vote of the county board.~~

(a)(1) The county board of election commissioners shall:

(A) Establish election precincts; and

(B)(i) Designate a polling site for each precinct.

(ii) A polling site may serve two (2) or more precincts, including parts of precincts.

(2) Except as provided in § 6-14-106, the designation of polling sites shall be by a unanimous vote of the members of the county board present.

(b)(1) The county board by order may alter the boundaries of existing election precincts and establish new ones.

(2) A precinct shall not be altered and a new precinct shall not be created less than thirty (30) days before an election, except in the event of an emergency as determined by the county board.

(3)(A) An order to alter the boundaries of any precinct or establish any new one shall not be effective until it has been filed with the county clerk.

(B) The order shall contain a:

(i) Written description; and

(ii) Map of the boundaries of the precincts altered or established.

(c)(1) Within thirty (30) days after the boundaries of an election precinct are altered or a new election precinct is established, the county clerk shall submit five (5) copies of the changes in the form of a map and written descriptions to the Secretary of State.

(2) Upon receipt of the changes, the Secretary of State immediately shall forward a copy to the:

(A) Office of the Attorney General;

(B) Census State Data Center; and

(C) Cartography Section of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

(d)(1) Except for school elections under § 6-14-106, the polling sites for each election shall be the same as those established for the immediately preceding general election unless changed by order of the county board.

(2) The county board shall not change a polling site for any precinct less than thirty (30) days before an election, except in the event of an emergency.

(3) Notice of any changes made in polling sites shall be provided by posting information at the polling sites used in the last election and, except for school elections and special elections, the notice shall be mailed by the county clerk to each affected registered voter at least fifteen (15) days before the election.

SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 7-5-103 is repealed.

~~7-5-103. Special elections.~~

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

~~(2) The proclamation, ordinance, resolution, or order shall be published as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation in which the special election is held and the proclamation, ordinance, resolution, or order 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 on at the special election, nonpartisan 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, ordinance, resolution, 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, ordinance, resolution, 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, ordinance, resolution, 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, ordinance, resolution, 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, ordinance, resolution, or order required by the provisions of this section, notice of special elections to fill vacancies called under this section shall~~

~~be published and posted under §§ 7-5-202 and 7-5-206.~~

~~(b)(1) Except for special school elections held under § 6-14-102(d), all special elections on measures or questions referred to the voters shall be called by proclamation, ordinance, resolution, or order of the properly constituted authority.~~

~~(2) The proclamation, ordinance, resolution, 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 the issue or issues or candidates to be voted on 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 ordinance or resolution is adopted or the date 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, ordinance, resolution, 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 Arkansas law.~~

SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 7-5-203 is amended to read as follows:
7-5-203. Certification of candidate lists.

(a)(1) Not less than ~~seventy five (75)~~ seventy (70) 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 or otherwise submitted to him or her.

(2) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be placed on the ballot if prior to the certification a candidate on the list:

(A) Notifies the Secretary of State in writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the office or position; or

(B) Dies.

(b)(1) Not less than ~~seventy five (75)~~ seventy (70) 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 or otherwise submitted to him or her.

(2) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be placed on the ballot if prior to the certification a candidate on the list:

(A) Notifies the county clerk in writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the office or position; or

(B) Dies.

(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 18. Arkansas Code § 7-5-205 is amended to read as follows:
7-5-205. Write-in candidates' votes – When counted.

~~(a)~~ No votes for write-in candidates ~~in general elections~~ shall be counted or tabulated unless:

(1) ~~The candidate or his or her agent shall notify~~ notifies in writing the county board of election commissioners of each county in which the candidate seeks election and files the notice with either: the Secretary of State, if a United States state or district candidate, or a county clerk, if a candidate for a county or township office, of his or her intention to be a write in candidate no earlier than noon on the third Tuesday in March and not later than ninety (90) days before the election day; and

(A) The Secretary of State, if a candidate for United States Senate, United States House of Representatives, or any state or district office; or

(B) The county clerk if a candidate for a county or township office;

(2) The candidate files with the county clerk or the Secretary of State, as required, a political practices pledge and an affidavit of eligibility for the office at the same time the candidate files his or her notice of write-in candidacy;

(3) The notice of write-in candidacy, the political practices pledge, and the affidavit of eligibility are filed no earlier than noon on the last day of the party filing period and not later than ninety (90) days

before the election day; and

~~(2)(4)~~ The name written on the ballot is the same name listed on the write-in candidate's political practices pledge, except that any abbreviation, misspelling, or other minor variation in the form of the name of the candidate shall be disregarded if the intention of the voter may be ascertained.

~~(b) This section shall not apply to the offices of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, or district judge.~~

SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 7-5-207 is amended to read as follows:
7-5-207. Ballots – Names included.

~~(a)(1) All Except as provided in subdivisions (a)(2) and (3) of this section, 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, 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 or her 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.~~

(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section, unopposed candidates for municipal offices shall be declared and certified elected without the necessity of including those names on the general election ballot.

(B) The names of all unopposed candidates for the office of mayor shall be separately placed on the general election ballot, and the votes for mayor shall be tabulated as in all contested races.

(3)(A)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(3)(B) of this section, the names of all other unopposed candidates for all offices, including without limitation the names of all unopposed write-in candidates, shall be grouped together on the ballot indicating the office and the name of the unopposed candidate.

(ii) The phrase "unopposed candidates" shall appear at the top of the list of the names of all unopposed candidates.

(iii) Adjacent to the phrase "unopposed candidates" shall be a place in which the voter may cast a vote for all the candidates by placing an appropriate mark.

(B) The names of all unopposed candidates for the office of circuit clerk shall be separately placed on the general election ballot, and the votes for circuit clerk shall be tabulated as in all contested races.

(b) No person's name shall be ~~printed~~ placed upon the ballot as a candidate for any public office in this state at any election unless the person is qualified and eligible at the time of filing as a candidate for the office to hold the public office for which he or she is a candidate, except if a person is not qualified to hold the office at the time of filing because of age alone, the name of the person shall be ~~printed~~ placed on the ballot as a candidate for the office if the person will qualify to hold the office at

the time prescribed by law for taking office.

(c)(1) The order in which the names of the candidates shall appear on the ballot shall be determined by lot at a public meeting of the county board not less than sixty-five (65) days before the general election.

(2) Notice of the public meeting shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least three (3) days before the drawing.

(3) For runoff elections, the ballot order for eligible candidates shall be the same as for the previous election leading to the runoff.

(d)(1) Beside or adjacent to the name of each candidate in the general election shall be:

(A) His or her party designation; or

(B) The term "INDEPENDENT" if he or she represents no officially recognized party.

(2) Subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall not apply to a:

(A) Nonpartisan judicial election; or

(B) Nonpartisan municipal election.

SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 7-5-208 is amended to read as follows:
7-5-208. ~~Paper ballots~~ Ballots – Form.

(a) All election ballots provided by the county board of election commissioners of any county in this state for any election shall be alike and shall be ~~printed~~ in plain type.

~~(b) Each ballot shall be printed on paper with a perforated portion capable of being detached for use as the ballot stub.~~

~~(c) As ballots are printed, the portion that shall be used as the ballot stub shall be numbered consecutively from one (1) to the number which is the total amount of ballots provided for the election.~~

~~(d)(b)(1) The heading on the front or inner side of each ballot shall be: "OFFICIAL BALLOT _____ ELECTION _____, 20 _____ (description) _____ ELECTION _____ (date) _____ (year) _____"~~

Vote by placing an appropriate mark opposite the person for whom you wish to vote".

(2) If the ballot contains an initiated or referred amendment, act, or measure, the heading shall also contain these words – "Vote on amendments, acts, and measures by placing an appropriate mark above the amendment (or act or measure) either FOR or AGAINST".

~~(e) Beneath the heading on each paper ballot there shall be printed instructions that inform the voter:~~

~~(1) Of the effect of casting multiple votes for an office; and~~

~~(2) How to correct the ballot before it is cast and counted, including, but not limited to, instructions on how to correct an error through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct an error.~~

~~(f)(c)(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 all offices, including the names of all unopposed write-in candidates, 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. At the top of the list of the names of all unopposed candidates, there shall appear on the ballot the words "Unopposed Candidates", and adjacent thereto there shall be a place in which the voter may cast a vote for all the candidates by placing an appropriate mark.~~

~~(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)(2) In all elections except primary elections and municipal elections in which votes for a write-in candidate may be counted, at the bottom of each list of names for each position or office appearing on the ballot, there shall be a blank line for a possible write-in vote 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 notice of intention 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 sixty five (65) days prior to the general 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, except for the nonpartisan judicial general election, shall be his or her party designation or the name "INDEPENDENT" if he or she represents no officially recognized party.~~

~~(g)(d) Adjacent to the name of each candidate and on the same line there shall be a place for marking a vote for the candidate. Below each act, amendment, or measure to be voted on, there shall be the words "FOR" and "AGAINST" situated one above the other with a place for marking a vote for the act, amendment, or measure adjacent to each word and on the same line. With respect to all offices and the candidates for those offices who are unopposed and have been grouped together in the manner provided in subsection (f) of this section, the names of all those candidates and their respective offices shall appear under the heading of "Unopposed Candidates". The elector shall vote on each and all such candidates by casting a single vote in the place for marking a vote adjacent to the heading "Unopposed Candidates" as provided in subdivision (f)(2) of this section.~~

~~(h)(e) Opposite the designation of each office, there shall appear these words: "VOTE FOR _____". The number of persons required to fill the vacancy in office shall be placed in the blank space.~~

SECTION 21. Arkansas Code 7-5-209 is amended to read as follows:
7-5-209. Ballots – Correction of errors.

Whenever it shall appear by affidavit that an error or omission has occurred in the publication of the names or description of candidates nominated for office or in the printing preparation of ballots, the county

board of election commissioners shall in a public meeting announce the error or omission and immediately correct the error or omission or show cause why the correction should not be done.

SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 7-5-210 is repealed.

~~7-5-210. Ballots — Number — Official.~~

~~(a) The county board of election commissioners of each county in this state using paper ballots counted by hand at the polling site, paper ballots counted by an electronic vote tabulating device at the polling site, or paper ballots cast at a polling site and counted at a central location shall provide for each election precinct one hundred fifty (150) printed ballots for each one hundred (100), or fraction of one hundred (100), electors voting thereat at the last preceding comparable election. Provided, however, the total number of ballots required to be printed for each election precinct shall not be required to exceed one hundred five percent (105%) of the total number of registered voters for the respective precinct.~~

~~(b) No ballot shall be received or counted in any election to which this act applies unless it is provided by the county board as provided in this section.~~

SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 7-5-211(a)(1)(A), concerning the delivery of election supplies, is amended to read as follows:

(a) At least one (1) day before any election:

(1)(A) The county board of election commissioners shall designate a suitable person or persons and deliver to the person or persons the ballots ~~as set forth in § 7-5-210.~~

SECTION 24. Arkansas Code § 7-5-212 is repealed.

~~7-5-212. Permanent ink when ballots counted by hand.~~

~~At general, primary, special, and school elections in counties which use paper ballots and in which those ballots are counted by hand, the ballots shall be marked using permanent ink.~~

SECTION 25. Arkansas Code § 7-5-308 is amended to read as follows:

7-5-308. Provisional ballot procedure.

(a) When the voter is required by law to cast a provisional ballot, the ballot shall be cast pursuant to the following procedures:

(1) ~~An election official at the polling place~~ A poll worker shall notify the individual that the individual may cast a provisional ballot in that election;

(2) The voter shall execute a written eligibility affirmation in the presence of the ~~election official~~ poll worker stating that he or she is a registered voter in the precinct in which he or she desires to vote and is eligible to vote;

(3) ~~The election official~~ poll worker shall initial the back of the ballot, remove the ballot stub from the provisional ballot, and place the stub in the stub box provided;

(4) The voter shall mark his or her provisional ballot;

(5) The voter shall place the voted provisional ballot in a ballot secrecy envelope marked "provisional ballot" and seal the envelope;

(6) The voter shall place the sealed provisional ballot envelope containing the voted provisional ballot in a voter envelope, seal the

envelope, and give it to the ~~election official~~ poll worker;

(7) The ~~election official~~ poll worker shall provide the voter written information instructing him or her on how to determine whether his or her provisional ballot was counted, and if not, the reason the ballot was not counted; and

(8) The ~~election official~~ poll worker shall make a separate list of the names and addresses of all persons voting a provisional ballot.

(b) ~~Election officials~~ The poll worker shall preserve, secure, and separate all provisional ballots from the remaining ballots so that the right of any person to vote may be determined later by the county board of election commissioners or the court in which an election contest may be filed.

(c)(1) Whenever a person casts a provisional ballot, the ~~election official~~ poll worker shall provide the voter written information that states that the individual who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain whether the vote was counted, and if not, the reason the vote was not counted, ~~by accessing a toll free telephone number, Internet website, or other free access system established by the Secretary of State for that purpose.~~

(2) The Secretary of State shall establish a free access system to allow a provisional voter to ascertain whether his or her vote was counted, and if not, the reason his or her vote was not counted.

~~(2)(3)~~ Access to information about an individual provisional ballot shall be restricted to the individual who cast the ballot.

~~(d)(1) Any person who votes in an election as a result of a federal or state court order or any other order extending the time established for closing the polls only may vote in that election by casting a provisional ballot.~~

~~(2) The ballot shall be separated and held apart from other provisional ballots cast by those not affected by the order.~~

~~(e)(d)(1)~~ Before certification of the results of the election, the county board shall determine whether the provisional ballots are valid.

(2) Unless enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction, a provisional ballot shall be counted if it is cast by a registered voter and is the correct ballot, according to the precinct listed on the voter's eligibility affirmation, for the precinct of the voter's residence.

~~(f)(e)~~ If, upon examination of any provisional ballots, the county board suspects that a violation of the election laws has occurred, the county board may refer the matter to the prosecuting attorney.

SECTION 26. Arkansas Code § 7-5-312 is amended to read as follows:

7-5-312. Challenge of voter's ballot by poll watchers, candidates, or designees.

(a) Poll watchers shall include any:

(1) Candidate in person, but only during the counting and tabulation of ballots and the processing of absentee ballots;

(2) Authorized representative of a candidate;

(3) Authorized representative of a group seeking the passage or defeat of a measure on the ballot; and

(4) Authorized representative of a political party with a candidate on the ballot.

(b) Each candidate, group, or party may have, at any given time during

the election, including early voting:

(1) One (1) authorized representative present at any one (1) time at each location within a polling site where voters identify themselves to election officials, so as to observe and ascertain the identity of those persons presenting themselves to vote for the purpose of challenging ~~any voter who appears for the purpose of casting a ballot~~ voters; and

(2) One (1) authorized representative present at any one (1) time at each location within the absentee ballot processing site where absentee ballots are processed, so as to observe and ascertain the identity of absentee voters for the purpose of challenging any absentee vote.

(c) In accordance with §§ 7-5-316, 7-5-413, 7-5-416, 7-5-527, and 7-5-615, a candidate in person or an authorized representative of a candidate or political party may be present at a polling site, central counting location, and absentee ballot counting location for the purpose of witnessing the counting of ballots by election officials and determining whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted.

(d) The document designating and authorizing a representative of a candidate, a representative of a group seeking the passage or defeat of a measure on the ballot, and a representative of a political party with a candidate on the ballot shall be filed with the county clerk and a file-marked copy shall be presented by the poll watcher to the election official immediately upon entering the polling site, absentee ballot processing site, or counting location in the following form:

“POLL WATCHER AUTHORIZATION FORM

Representative of a Candidate

I, , state that I am a candidate for the office of in the election. I further state that I have designated as my authorized representative at the election at polling sites and absentee ballot processing sites in County, Arkansas, to observe and ascertain the identity of persons presenting themselves to vote in person or by absentee for the purpose of challenging any voter in accordance with Arkansas Code §§ 7-5-312, 7-5-416, and 7-5-417. I further state that I have designated and authorized my representative named above to be present at the ballot counting locations at in County, Arkansas, for the purpose of witnessing the counting of ballots by election officials and determining whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted in accordance with Arkansas Code §§ 7-5-312, 7-5-316, 7-5-413, 7-5-416, 7-5-527, and 7-5-615.

Representative of a Group

I, , state that I represent the group that is seeking passage/defeat (circle one) of the ballot measure entitled on the ballot in the election at polling sites and absentee ballot

processing sites in
. County, Arkansas, to observe and ascertain the
identity of persons presenting themselves to vote in person or by absentee
for the purpose of challenging any voter in accordance with Arkansas Code §§
7-5-312, 7-5-416, and 7-5-417.

Representative of a Party

I,, state that I am the chair or
secretary of the state/county (circle one) committee for the
. party with candidates on the ballot in the
. election. I further state that I have designated
. as an authorized party representative
at the election at polling sites and
absentee ballot processing sites in
. County, Arkansas, to observe and
ascertain the identity of persons presenting themselves to vote in person or
by absentee for the purpose of challenging any voter in accordance with
Arkansas Code §§ 7-5-312, 7-5-416, and 7-5-417. I further state that I have
designated and authorized my representative named above to be present at the
ballot counting locations at in . .
. County, Arkansas, for the purpose of
witnessing the counting of ballots by election officials and determining
whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted in accordance with Arkansas
Code §§ 7-5-312, 7-5-316, 7-5-413, 7-5-416, 7-5-527, and 7-5-615.

.
Signature of Candidate, Group Representative, or Chair/Secretary of the
State/County Committee

Acknowledged before me this day of, 20
Notary Public: My Commission Expires:
I do hereby state that I am familiar with the rights and responsibilities of
a poll watcher as outlined on the back of the poll watcher authorization form
and will in good faith comply with the provisions of same.

.
Signature of the Poll Watcher

Acknowledged before me this day of, 20
Notary Public: My Commission Expires:
I do hereby acknowledge the filing of this poll watcher authorization form
with the county clerk's office.

.
Signature of County Clerk”

(e) Poll watcher rights and responsibilities shall be printed on the
back of the document in the following form:

“POLL WATCHER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A poll watcher may be:

- (1) A candidate in person, but only during the counting and
tabulation of ballots and the processing of absentee ballots;

- (2) An authorized representative of a candidate;
- (3) An authorized representative of a group seeking the passage or defeat of a measure on the ballot; or
- (4) An authorized representative of a party with a candidate on the ballot.

Official recognition of poll watchers:

(1) Only one (1) authorized poll watcher per candidate, group, or party at any one (1) given time may be officially recognized as a poll watcher at each location within a polling site where voters identify themselves to election officials;

(2) Only one (1) authorized poll watcher per candidate, group, or party at any one (1) given time may be officially recognized as a poll watcher at each location within the absentee ballot processing site where absentee ballots are processed; and

(3) Only one (1) authorized poll watcher per candidate or party at any one (1) given time may be officially recognized as a poll watcher at the counting of the ballots.

Poll watcher credentials:

(1) Except for candidates in person, poll watchers must present a valid affidavit in the form of a "Poll Watcher Authorization Form" to an election official immediately upon entering the polling or counting location; and

(2) Candidates in person attending a counting site or absentee ballot processing site are not required to present a "Poll Watcher Authorization Form" but must present some form of identification to an election official immediately upon entering the ~~polling or counting location site~~ for the purpose of confirming the poll watcher as a candidate on the ballot.

Poll watchers may:

(1) Observe the election officials;

(2) Stand close enough to the ~~precinct voter registration lists~~ place where voters check in to vote so as to hear the voter's name ~~and observe the voter's signature~~;

(3) Compile lists of persons voting;

(4) Challenge ballots upon notification to an election official before the voter signs the precinct voter registration list and upon completing a "Challenged Ballot Form";

(5) Call to the attention of the election sheriff any occurrence believed to be an irregularity or violation of election law. The poll watcher may not discuss the occurrence unless the election sheriff invites the discussion; and

(6) Be present at the opening, processing, and canvassing of absentee ballots for the purpose of challenging absentee votes in the manner provided by law for personal voting challenges.

Poll watchers representing a candidate or political party may:

(1) Remain at the polling site after the poll closes if ballots are counted at the poll;

(2) Be present at the counting of votes by hand or by an

electronic vote tabulating device at a central location;

(3) Be present at the counting of absentee ballots for the purpose of witnessing the counting of ballots by election officials and determining whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted; and

(4) Upon request made to an election official, inspect any or all ballots at the time the ballots are being counted.

Poll watchers may not:

(1) Be within six feet (6') of any voting machine or booth used by voters to cast their ballot;

~~(2) Electioneer inside the polling site or within one hundred feet (100') of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to the building containing the polling site;~~

~~(3)(2)~~ Speak to any voter or in any way attempt to influence a voter inside the polling site or within one hundred feet (100') of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to the building containing the polling site; or

~~(4)(3)~~ Disrupt the orderly conduct of the election."

(f) Poll watcher rights and responsibilities shall be posted in plain view at each polling site, absentee ballot processing site, and counting site.

(g) A poll watcher may challenge a voter only on the grounds that the voter is not eligible to vote in the precinct or that the voter has previously voted at that election.

~~(g)(h)~~(1) When the ballot of any voter is thus challenged, it shall be treated as a provisional ballot.

(2) The poll watcher shall notify an election official of the challenge before the voter signs the precinct voter registration list.

(3) The poll watcher shall complete a challenged ballot form.

(4) The election official shall inform the voter that his or her ballot is being challenged.

(5) The procedures for casting a provisional ballot under § 7-5-308 shall be followed.

SECTION 27. Arkansas Code § 7-5-313 is repealed.

~~7-5-313. Spoiled ballots—Cancellation and return.~~

~~(a) Any voter who shall by accident or mistake mar or spoil any ballot so that he or she cannot conveniently or clearly vote on the ballot may return it to the election officials and receive another not to exceed three (3) in all.~~

~~(b) Spoiled ballots shall be cancelled by an election official's writing "CANCELLED" on its face and initialling the ballot. The cancelled ballots shall be preserved separately from other ballots and returned to the county board of election commissioners and shall be open to public inspection.~~

SECTION 28. Arkansas Code § 7-5-315 is amended to read as follows:

7-5-315. Counting paper ballots at the polling site votes for unopposed and deceased candidates.

~~In counting the paper ballots at the polling site, the following procedures shall be followed:~~

~~(1)(a)~~ The votes received by an unopposed candidate in any election held in this state shall not be counted or tabulated by the election officials. The word "UNOPPOSED" shall be sufficient to insert on the tally sheet to indicate that the candidate has received a majority of the votes cast in the election. However, the votes received by an unopposed candidate for the office of mayor or circuit clerk shall be counted and tabulated by the election officials.

~~(2)~~ No write in vote in any election in this state may be counted unless the name of the write in candidate shall have been handwritten on the ballot;

~~(3)~~ In counting the ballots, the ballot box shall be opened, and the ballots shall be counted by counting each ballot in turn or by counting by offices and issues. The election officials must witness the counting of the ballots and shall keep separate tally lists of the votes cast for each candidate or issue on the ballot;

~~(4)~~ When two (2) or more ballots are found folded together, it shall be considered as conclusive evidence of their being fraudulent, and neither of them shall be counted. If a ballot shall be found to contain marks for more than the maximum allowable number of candidates in any one (1) contest, the contest shall be considered overvoted, and it shall be the responsibility of the election officials to determine the voter's intent;

~~(5)~~ Upon the close of the polls, the election officials shall immediately certify and attest the list of voters and continue the count to completion. If any of the election officials become sick or incapacitated from any other cause, the remaining election officials shall continue the count until it is completed;

~~(6)~~ After the count is completed, the election officials shall make out the certificates of election in triplicate and immediately post one (1) copy outside the polling site; and

~~(7)(A)(b)(1)~~ The votes received by any person whose name appeared on the ballot and who withdrew or died after the certification of the ballot or filing period ended shall be counted.

~~(B)(i)(2)(A)~~ If the person received enough votes to win the nomination or election, a vacancy in the nomination or election shall be declared.

~~(ii)(a)(B)(i)~~ If the person received enough votes to qualify for a runoff, the person's name shall appear on the runoff ballot.

~~(b)(ii)~~ If enough votes are cast for the person to win the runoff, then a vacancy in the nomination or election shall exist.

SECTION 29. Arkansas Code § 7-5-316(a), concerning the designation of representatives by a candidate or political party, is amended to read as follows:

(a) After the polls have been closed, the counting of votes shall be open to the public, and any candidate or political party may be present in person or by representative designated in writing pursuant to § 7-5-312 at the count of the ballots in any election for the purpose of determining whether or not the ballots in any election precinct are fairly and accurately counted. ~~The candidate, political party, or authorized representative of the~~

~~candidate or political party shall be permitted, upon a request being made to an election official, to inspect any or all ballots at the time the ballots are being counted.~~

SECTION 30. Arkansas Code § 7-5-317 is amended to read as follows:
7-5-317. Processing and delivery of election materials.

(a) After the ~~count of the ballots is completed~~ polls close, all of the election ~~returns~~ materials shall be processed and delivered in the following manner:

(1) The poll workers shall total the number of voters on the list of voters form and certify and attest the form;

~~(1)(2)~~ (2) The list-of-voters form, precinct voter registration list, voter registration application forms, and other recordkeeping supplies shall be delivered to the county clerk;

~~(2)(3)~~ (3) Certificates of election results and tally sheets:

(A) One (1) copy of the certificate of election results with one (1) copy of the tally sheets, if any, shall be delivered to the county clerk; and

(B) One (1) copy of the certificate of election results shall be returned with one (1) copy of the tally sheets, if any, and reports of challenges of voters, if any, to the county board of election commissioners;

~~(3)(4)~~ (4) Ballots:

(A) The ~~election officials~~ poll workers shall securely envelope ~~the~~ any voted ballots separately from ~~the~~ any unused ballots and place the ballots in a container with a numbered seal and then deliver the ballots with the tally sheets, if any, and other election materials to the county board; and

(B) All cancelled ballots shall be preserved separately from the other ballots and returned to the county board; and

~~(4)(5)~~ (5) ~~Stub boxes:~~ Sealed stub boxes shall be delivered to the county treasurer for storage.

(b) All of the election materials and returns shall be delivered to the county board by the ~~election officials~~ poll workers immediately after the polls close.

SECTION 31. Arkansas Code § 7-5-319(c), concerning recount in an election using a voter-verified paper audit trail, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) For any recount of an election in which ballots are cast using a direct recording electronic voting machine with a voter-verified paper audit trail, the voter-verified paper audit trail shall serve as the official ballot to be recounted.

(2) The county board of election commissioners either may:

(A) Manually sum the total votes for each candidate involved in the recount that is printed on the voter-verified paper audit trail; or

(B) Count by hand the votes for each candidate involved in the recount as shown on the voter-verified paper audit trail.

(3) If the voter-verified paper audit trail is damaged or for some other reason is incapable of being used for a recount, the paper record produced by the machine for manual audit shall be the official ballot to be

recounted.

(4) If the voting machine is exempt from the requirement to have a voter-verified paper audit trail and does not have one, the paper record produced by the machine for manual audit shall be the official ballot to be recounted.

SECTION 32. Arkansas Code § 7-5-320 is repealed.

~~7-5-320. Election to fill vacancy — Unopposed candidate.~~

~~(a)(1) If, after all deadlines for filing as a candidate or write-in candidate have passed in a special election to fill a vacancy, there is only one (1) candidate and if no other office or issue is on the ballot, then the county board of election commissioners may reduce the number of polling places for the election.~~

~~(2) The county board shall provide at least one (1) polling place.~~

~~(b) In a county that uses voting machines or electronic voting, the county board may choose to use paper ballots for the election.~~

SECTION 33. Arkansas Code 7-5-515(c)(1), concerning the preparation of voting machines for elections, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) At least ~~five (5)~~ seven (7) days prior to the ~~election day beginning of voting~~, the county board, with respect to all elections, shall have ~~the machines~~ each machine tested to ascertain that the voting system will correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

SECTION 34. The Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall rename Arkansas Code Title 7, Chapter 5, Subchapter 6 as "Paper Ballots and Electronic Vote Tabulating Devices."

SECTION 35. Arkansas Code § 7-5-601 is amended to read as follows:

~~7-5-601. Purpose Paper ballots -- Form.~~

~~The purpose of this subchapter is to authorize the use of electronic vote tabulating devices in which the voter records his or her votes by means of marking a paper ballot which is so designed that votes may be counted by an electronic scanner at one (1) or more counting places. This method of marking ballots and electronically tabulating election results shall be in addition to and supplemental to the existing systems of voting.~~

(a) All paper ballots provided by the county board of election commissioners of any county in this state for any election shall be alike and shall be printed in plain type.

(b) Each ballot shall be printed on paper with a perforated portion capable of being detached for use as the ballot stub.

(c)(1) As ballots are printed, the portion that shall be used as the ballot stub shall be numbered consecutively beginning with the number 1.

(2) The number on the last ballot printed shall show the total number of ballots provided for the election.

(d)(1) The heading on the front or inner side of each ballot shall be: "OFFICIAL BALLOT. Vote by placing an appropriate mark opposite the person for whom you wish to vote".

(2) If the ballot contains an initiated or referred amendment, act, or measure, the heading shall also contain these words: "Vote on amendments, acts, and measures by placing an appropriate mark above the

amendment (or act or measure) either FOR or AGAINST".

(e) Beneath the heading on each paper ballot there shall be printed instructions that inform the voter:

(1) Of the effect of casting multiple votes for an office; and

(2) How to correct the ballot before it is cast and counted, including without limitation instructions on how to correct an error through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct an error.

SECTION 36. Arkansas Code Title 7, Chapter 5, Subchapter 6 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

7-5-602. Ballots -- Number -- Official -- Marking device -- Spoiled.

(a)(1) The county board of election commissioners of each county in this state using paper ballots counted by hand at the polling site, paper ballots counted by an electronic vote tabulating device at the polling site, or paper ballots cast at a polling site and counted at a central location shall provide for each election precinct one hundred fifty (150) printed ballots for each one hundred (100) or fraction of one hundred (100) electors voting on paper ballots at the last preceding comparable election.

(2) The total number of ballots required to be printed for each election precinct shall not exceed one hundred five percent (105%) of the total number of registered voters for the respective precinct.

(b) A ballot shall not be received or counted in any election to which this subchapter applies unless it is provided by the county board under this section.

(c) At all elections in counties that use paper ballots and in which those ballots are counted by hand, the ballots shall be marked using permanent ink.

(d)(1) A voter who shall by accident or mistake mar or spoil any ballot so that he or she cannot conveniently or clearly vote on the ballot may return it to the poll workers and receive another ballot, not to exceed three (3) ballots in total.

(2) Spoiled ballots shall be cancelled by a poll worker writing "CANCELLED" on its face and initialing the ballot.

(3) The cancelled ballots shall be preserved separately from other ballots and returned to the county board of election commissioners and shall be open to public inspection.

SECTION 37. Arkansas Code § 7-5-603 is amended to read as follows:

7-5-603. Penalty Counting paper ballots at the polling site.

~~Persons violating the provisions of this subchapter shall be subject to the same fine and imprisonment as is provided by law for violating the comparable provisions of the laws of this state regarding voting by other voting methods.~~

When paper ballots are to be counted at the polling site, the following procedures shall be followed:

(1)(A) In counting the ballots, the ballot box shall be opened and each ballot shall be counted in turn or by counting by offices and issues.

(B) The poll workers shall witness the counting of the ballots and shall keep separate tally lists of the votes cast for each candidate or issue on the ballot;

(2)(A) When two (2) or more ballots are found folded together, it shall be considered as conclusive evidence the ballots are fraudulent and neither of the ballots shall be counted.

(B) If a ballot is found to contain marks for more than the maximum allowable number of candidates in any one (1) contest, the contest shall be considered overvoted, and it shall be the responsibility of the poll workers to determine the voter's intent;

(3)(A) Upon the close of the polls, the poll workers immediately shall certify and attest the list of voters and continue the count to completion.

(B) If a poll worker becomes sick or incapacitated from any other cause, the remaining poll workers shall continue the count until it is completed;

(4) After the count is completed, the poll workers shall make out the certificates of election in triplicate and immediately post one (1) copy outside the polling site; and

(5)(A) The counting of ballots shall be open to the public.

(B) Any candidate or political party may be present in person or by representative designated in writing under § 7-5-312 at the count of the ballots in any election for the purpose of determining whether or not the ballots in any election precinct are fairly and accurately counted.

(C) The candidate in person or an authorized representative of the candidate or political party shall be permitted, upon a request's being made to a poll worker, to inspect any or all ballots after the ballots have been counted.

SECTION 38. Arkansas Code § 7-5-604(a), concerning voting systems that include electronic vote tabulating devices, is amended to read as follows:

(a) ~~Voting Paper~~ ballot voting systems that include electronic vote tabulating devices may be used in elections, provided that the systems shall:

(1) Enable the voter to cast a vote in secrecy;

(2) Enable the voter to vote for all offices and measures on which he or she is entitled to vote;

(3) Permit the voter to verify in a private and independent manner the votes selected by the voter on the ballot before the ballot is cast;

(4) Provide the voter with the opportunity in a private and independent manner to change the ballot or correct any error before the ballot is cast;

(5)(A) Notify the voter that he or she has selected more than one (1) candidate for the office, notify the voter before the ballot is cast and counted of the effect of casting multiple votes for the office, and provide the voter with the opportunity to correct the ballot before the ballot is cast if the voter is legally entitled to select only one (1) candidate for an office but the voter selects more than one (1) candidate for the office.

(B) Electronic vote tabulating devices used to cast and count votes at the polling place shall be programmed to reject ballots containing overvotes as described in this section.

(C) When votes are cast at polling places and are to be counted by hand or at the courthouse or other central counting location, the

county board of election commissioners shall provide a voter education program to inform the voters:

(i) Of the effect of casting multiple votes for an office; and

(ii) How to correct the ballot before it is cast, including, but not limited to, instructions on how to correct the error through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct any error;

(6)(A) Notify the voter that the voter has selected more than the allowed number of candidates for the office on the ballot, notify the voter before the ballot is cast and counted of the effect of casting more than the allowed number of votes for that office, and provide the voter with the opportunity to correct the ballot before the ballot is cast if the voter is legally entitled to select multiple candidates for an office but the voter selects more than the number of candidates he or she is legally entitled to select.

(B) Electronic vote tabulating devices used to cast and count votes at the polling places shall be programmed to reject ballots containing overvotes as described in this section.

(C) When votes are cast at polling places and are to be counted by hand or at the courthouse or other central counting location, the county board of election commissioners shall provide a voter education program to inform the voters:

(i) Of the effect of casting more votes than the voter is legally entitled to cast for an office; and

(ii) How to correct the ballot before it is cast, including, but not limited to, instructions on how to correct the error through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct any error;

(7) Permit the voter to vote:

(A) At any election for all persons and officers for whom he or she is lawfully entitled to vote and no others;

(B) For as many persons for an office as he or she is entitled to vote;

(C) For or against any question upon which he or she is entitled to vote; and

(D) By means of a single device, if authorized by law, for all candidates for one (1) party or to vote a split ticket as he or she desires;

(8) Permit the voter by one (1) mark to vote for the candidates for that party for president, vice president, and their presidential electors at presidential elections;

(9) Generate a printed record at the beginning of its operation which verifies that the tabulating elements for each candidate position and each question and the public counter are all set to zero (000); and

(10) Generate a printed record at the finish of its operation of the total number of:

(A) Voters whose ballots have been tabulated;

(B) Votes cast for each candidate whose name appears on the ballot;

(C) Votes cast for or against any question appearing on the ballot; and

(D) Undervotes and overvotes by contest.

SECTION 39. Arkansas Code 7-5-611(a)(2), concerning the preparation of electronic vote tabulating machines, is amended to read as follows:

(2) At least ~~five (5)~~ seven (7) days prior to the ~~election day beginning of voting~~, the county board, with respect to all elections, shall have ~~the electronic vote tabulating devices~~ each electronic vote tabulating device tested to ascertain that the devices will correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

SECTION 40. Arkansas Code Title 7, Chapter 5, Subchapter 6 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

7-5-616. Penalty.

A person who violates this subchapter shall be subject to the same fine and imprisonment as provided by law for violating the comparable provisions of the laws of this state regarding voting by other voting methods.

SECTION 41. Arkansas Code § 7-7-103, as amended by Act 188 of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

7-7-103. Filing as an independent – Petitions – Disqualification.

(a)(1) ~~Any~~ A person desiring to have his or her name placed upon the ballot as an independent candidate without political party affiliation for any United States office other than President of the United States or Vice-President of the United States or state, county, township, or district office in any general election in this state shall file, ~~as an independent candidate~~, during the party filing period for the year in which the election is to be held, a political practices pledge, an affidavit of eligibility, and a notice of candidacy stating the name and title the candidate proposes to appear on the ballot and identifying the elective office sought, during the period for filing political practices pledges and party pledges if any are required by the rules of the party to qualify as a candidate of a political party in a primary election including the position number, if any.

(2)(A) An independent candidate shall state the same position, including the position number, if any, on his or her petition.

(B) When a candidate has identified the position sought on the notice of candidacy, the candidate shall not be allowed to change the position but may withdraw a notice of candidacy and file a new notice of candidacy designating a different position before the deadline for filing.

(b)(1)(A) The person shall furnish by 12:00 noon on 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 the petition 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 ninety (90) calendar days before the deadline for filing petitions to qualify as an independent candidate unless the number of days is reduced by a proclamation, ordinance, resolution, ~~or order, or other authorized document~~ or for a special election under § 7-5-103 7-11-101 et seq.

(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, ordinance, resolution, ~~or order, or other authorized document~~ for a special election under § 7-5-103 7-11-101 et seq., the number of signatures required on the petition shall be reduced proportionately.

~~(c)(1)(A) Independent candidates for municipal office may qualify by a petition of not fewer than ten (10) electors for incorporated towns and cities of the second class and not fewer than thirty (30) electors for cities of the first class of the ward or city in which the election is to be held.~~

~~(B) The county clerk shall determine within ten (10) days of filing whether the petition contains the names of a sufficient number of qualified electors. The county clerk shall promptly notify the candidate of the result.~~

~~(2)(A) Independent candidates for municipal office shall file their petitions of nomination with the county clerk not more than ninety (90) days nor less than seventy (70) days before the general election.~~

~~(B) The filing on the last day shall occur before 12:00 noon.~~

~~(d) The sufficiency of any petition filed under the provisions of this section may be challenged in the same manner as is provided by law for election contests, § 7-5-801 et seq.~~

~~(e) A person who has been defeated in a party primary shall not be permitted to file as an independent candidate in the general election for the office for which he or she was defeated in the party primary.~~

~~(f) This section shall not apply to the offices of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, or district judge.~~

SECTION 42. Arkansas Code § 7-7-105 is amended to read as follows:

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 in accordance with § 7-5-103(a).~~

(a) Nominees for special elections called for the purpose of filling a vacancy in office for a member of the United States House of Representatives, Lieutenant Governor, or for a member of the Senate or House of Representatives of the General Assembly shall be chosen as follows:

(1) 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 or her in writing within ten (10) days with respect to whether the political parties desire to hold a special primary election or a convention of delegates held under party rules to choose nominees; and

(2)(A) If the state committee of any political party timely notifies the Governor that it chooses to hold a special primary election, any political party desiring to choose a nominee shall choose the nominee at a special primary election.

(B) The Governor's proclamation shall set dates for the special primary election and the runoff primary election to be held if no candidate receives a majority of the vote at the special primary election; and

(3)(A) A special election to fill the vacancy in office shall be held on a date as soon as possible after the vacancy occurs, but not more than one hundred fifty (150) days after the occurrence of the vacancy.

(B) The special election shall be held in accordance with laws governing special elections.

(C)(i) If a nominee is to be chosen at a special primary election and if, after the close of the filing period, only one (1) or two (2) candidates have filed for the nomination of a party holding a primary, the state committee of a party holding a primary shall notify the Governor.

(ii) The Governor shall issue a new proclamation setting the special election for an earlier date so long as the earlier date is in accordance with state laws governing special elections.

(b) If no state committee of any political party timely notifies the Governor of the desire to hold a special primary election or convention, the Governor, in issuing his or her proclamation calling for the special election, shall declare that the nominee of a political party shall be chosen at a convention.

SECTION 43. Arkansas Code § 7-7-301 is amended to read as follows:

7-7-301. Party pledges, affidavits of eligibility, and party filing fees.

(a) A political party may impose a filing fee for candidates seeking nomination by that party. The filing fee for county, municipal, and township offices shall be fixed by the county committee, as authorized by the state executive committee. For all other races, the filing fee shall be established by the state executive committee. On or before noon of the time provided in § 7-7-203(e), last day of the political party filing period, all candidates at primary elections of political parties shall file an affidavit of eligibility and any pledge required by such party and shall pay the party filing fees required by the party, as follows:

(1) Candidates for United States Senator, United States Representative, and for all state offices shall file the pledge and the affidavit of eligibility, and pay the party filing fees with the secretary of the state committee of the political party or his or her designated agent;

(2) Candidates for district offices, including, but not limited to, the offices of State Representative and State Senator, shall file the pledge and affidavit of eligibility with the secretary of the state committee of the political party or his or her designated agent and pay the party

filing fees with the secretary of the state committee of the political party or his or her designated agent; and

(3) All candidates for county, municipal, and township offices, candidates for county committeeman, and delegates to the county convention shall file the pledge and the affidavit of eligibility and pay the party filing fees with the secretary of the county committee of the political party.

~~(b)(1) Before the name of any person shall appear on the primary ballot of a political party as a candidate for any local, state, or federal office, the secretary of the county committee or the secretary of the state committee, as the case may be, of the political party must make an affirmative determination that the person complies with the eligibility requirements of the office.~~

~~(2) The secretary of the county committee or of the state committee, as the case may be, shall require an affidavit of eligibility from the candidate, and the secretary may make an independent investigation as he or she deems necessary to determine the eligibility of the candidate to serve in the office he or she seeks, including the power to compel the person to answer interrogatories. The affidavit of eligibility shall be filed, along with the filing fee and party pledge, with the county or state committee, and the investigation concerning the eligibility shall be concluded within two (2) weeks after the filing deadline for nomination.~~

~~(e)(b) The county clerk shall not accept for filing the political practices pledge of any candidate for nomination by a political party to any county, township, or partisan municipal office, nor shall the Secretary of State accept for filing the political practices pledge of any candidate for nomination by a political party to any state or district office, unless the candidate first files a party certificate.~~

~~(d)(c) Any candidate who shall fail to file the party pledge and affidavit of eligibility and pay the party filing fee at the time and in the manner as provided in this section shall not receive a party certificate and shall not have his or her name printed on the ballot at any primary election.~~

~~(e)(d) The names of candidates who file with the state committee as provided in this section shall be certified to the various county committees and the various county boards of election commissioners in the manner and at the time provided in § 7-7-203(d).~~

SECTION 44. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304 is amended to read as follows:

7-7-304. Names to be included on ballots – Withdrawal – Unopposed candidates – Position.

~~(a)(1) Whenever a person qualifies for a primary election of a political party as a candidate for an office or a position, his or her name shall be printed on the ballot at the preferential primary election.~~

~~(2) If at the preferential primary election for a political party a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for that office or position, the person shall be declared the party nominee, and it shall not be necessary for the candidate's name to appear on the ballot at the general primary election.~~

~~(3) If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for an office or a position at the preferential primary election for a political party, the names of the two (2) candidates of the political party who received the highest number of votes for an office or a position shall be~~

~~printed upon the ballots at the general primary election.~~

~~(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 Secretary of State, 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 a 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.~~

(a)(1) Not less than seventy (70) days before each preferential primary election, the Secretary of State shall certify to all county boards of election commissioners full lists of the names of all candidates who have filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballots in their respective counties at the preferential primary election.

(2) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be placed on the ballot if prior to the certification a candidate:

(A) Notifies the Secretary of State in writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the office or position; or

(B) Dies.

(b)(1) Not less than seventy (70) days before each preferential primary election, the county clerk shall certify to the county board full lists of the names of all candidates who have filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballot at the preferential primary election.

(2) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be placed on the ballot if prior to the certification a candidate:

(A) Notifies the county clerk in writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the office or position; or

(B) Dies.

(c)(1) The votes received by a person whose name appeared on the preferential primary ballot and who withdrew or died after the certification of the ballot shall be counted.

(2) If the person receives enough votes to win the nomination, a vacancy in nomination shall exist.

(3) If the person receives enough votes to advance to the general primary election, the person's name shall be printed on the general primary election ballot.

(4) If the person receives enough votes to win the general

primary election, a vacancy in nomination shall exist.

~~(e)~~(d) When only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position, the office or position and the name of the unopposed candidate shall be printed on the political party's ballot in all primary elections.

~~(d)~~(e) When there are two (2) or more nominees to be selected for the same office, such as ~~Associate Justice of the Supreme Court~~, state senator, state representative, justice of the peace, alderman, or for any other office, the proper committee shall require the candidates to designate in writing a particular position, i.e., Position Number 1, Position Number 2, Position Number 3, etc., at the time that a party pledge is required to be filed with the secretary of the committee. ~~An independent candidate shall designate his or her position prior to circulation of his or her petition.~~ When a candidate has once filed and designated for a certain position, that candidate shall not be permitted to thereafter change the position.

~~(e) The provisions of subsection (d) of this section with respect to filing for positions shall be equally applicable to candidates seeking election at all general and special elections of this state and to all school elections.~~

(f)(1) If at the preferential primary election for a political party a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for that office or position, the person shall be declared the party nominee and it shall not be necessary for the candidate's name to appear on the ballot at the general primary election.

(2) If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for an office or position at the preferential primary for a political party, the names of the two (2) candidates of the political party who received the highest number of votes for an office or a position shall be placed upon the ballots at the general primary election.

SECTION 45. Arkansas Code § 7-8-102(b), concerning filling Senate vacancies, is amended to read as follows:

(b) 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 in accordance with ~~§ 7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-101 et seq. but in no event more than one hundred twenty (120) days after the vacancy occurs.

SECTION 46. Arkansas Code § 7-9-111(h), concerning special elections on municipal referendum petition measures, is amended to read as follows:

(h) 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 be set in accordance with ~~§ 7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. but in no event more than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after the date of certification of sufficiency by the municipal clerk.

SECTION 47. Arkansas Code Title 7 is amended to add an additional chapter to read as follows:

CHAPTER 11- SPECIAL ELECTIONS

SUBCHAPTER 1-
ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES

7-11-101. Calling elections to fill vacancies.

All special elections and other elections to fill a vacancy in an office shall be called by proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the appropriate constituted authority.

7-11-102. Content of calling document.

The proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the appropriate constituted authority calling a special election or other election to fill a vacancy in an office shall set forth:

- (1) The date of the election;
- (2) The date of the special primary election, if any;
- (3) The date of the special primary runoff election, if any is required;
- (4) The deadline for filing as a party candidate with the county clerk or Secretary of State, as the case may be;
- (5) The deadline for party conventions to select nominees if applicable;
- (6) The deadline for parties to issue certificates of nomination or certified lists of nominees, as the case may be, if applicable;
- (7) The deadline for candidates to file certificates of nomination, if applicable, with the county clerk or Secretary of State, as the case may be;
- (8) The deadline for filing as an independent candidate and the period in which petitions for independent candidacy may be circulated;
- (9) The deadline for filing as a write-in candidate if applicable;
- (10) The deadline for drawing for ballot position by the county board of election commissioners; and
- (11) The date the election shall be certified by the county board in each county in which the election takes place and, if applicable, by the Secretary of State.

7-11-103. Filling vacancies in state, federal, or district offices.

(a) The proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the appropriate constituted authority calling a special election to fill a state, federal, or district office shall be filed with the Secretary of State, who shall immediately transmit the document to the county board of election commissioners of each county where the special election shall be held.

(b) The county board shall cause the proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document to be published as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the special election is held.

7-11-104. Filling vacancies in local offices.

(a) The proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the appropriate constituted authority calling a special election to fill a local office shall be filed with the county clerk

of the county administering the election, who shall immediately transmit the document to the county board of election commissioners of each county where the special election shall be held.

(b) The county board shall cause the proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document to be published as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the special election is held.

7-11-105. Special elections to be held on the second Tuesday of a month – Exceptions – Separate ballots.

(a) Except as provided in this chapter, all special elections to fill vacancies in office and associated special primary elections shall be held on the second Tuesday of any month.

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

(c) A special election called in June of an even-numbered year shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

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

(2) If a special election to fill a vacancy in office is held on the date of the preferential 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.

(3) Separate ballots containing the names of the candidates to be voted on at the special election or nonpartisan 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.

(4)(A) A voter shall not be required to vote in a political party's preferential primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.

(B)(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 may include the special election on a separate ballot if the special election is held at the same time as the general election and the commission determines that a separate ballot is necessary to avoid voter confusion.

(e)(1) A special election to fill a vacancy in office shall be held not less than sixty-five (65) days following the date established in the proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document for drawing for ballot position when the special election is to be held on the date of the preferential primary election or general election.

(2) If a special election to fill a vacancy in office is not held at the same time as a preferential primary election or general election,

the special election shall be held not less than fifty (50) days following the date established in the proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document for drawing for ballot position.

7-11-106. Special primary elections held in conjunction with regularly scheduled primary election -- Separate ballots optional.

(a) When a special primary election is held on the date of the preferential primary election, the candidates to be voted upon at the special primary election shall be included on the ballot of each political party 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.

(b) 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 preferential primary election and the commission determines that a separate ballot is necessary to avoid voter confusion.

7-11-107. Unopposed candidates.

(a) If there is only one (1) candidate after all deadlines for filing as a candidate have passed in a special election or special primary election to fill a vacancy and if no other office or issue is on the ballot, the county board of election commissioners may provide that:

(1) Polling places shall not be open on election day and the election shall be conducted by absentee ballot and early voting only; or

(2) Only one (1) polling place shall be open and that polling place may be at the courthouse and may be staffed by the county clerk or as many poll workers as the county board deems necessary.

(b) In a county that uses voting machines or an electronic vote tabulating device, the county board may:

(1) Choose to use paper ballots counted by hand for the election; and

(2)(A) Provide that no voting machines shall be used in the election.

(B) If the county board chooses to provide that no voting machines shall be used in the election, any other provision in Arkansas law requiring the use of a voting machine shall not apply to this section.

SUBCHAPTER 2- SPECIAL ELECTIONS ON MEASURES AND QUESTIONS

7-11-201. Calling special elections on measures or questions.

Except for special school elections, all special elections on measures or questions referred to the voters by governmental entities as authorized by law shall be called by proclamation, ordinance, statute, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the properly constituted authority as required by law.

7-11-202. Calling special elections on state measures or questions.

(a) The document under § 7-11-201 calling the special election on a state measure or question shall be filed with the Secretary of State, who shall immediately transmit the document to the county board of election

commissioners in each county where the special election is to be held.

(b) The county board shall publish the document as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the special election is held.

7-11-203. Calling special elections on local measures or questions.

(a) The document under § 7-11-201 calling the special election on a local measure or question shall be filed with the county clerk of the county administering the election, who shall immediately transmit the document to the county board in each county where the special election is to be held.

(b) The county board shall publish the document as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the special election is held.

7-11-204. Content of calling document.

(a) The proclamation, ordinance, statute, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the properly constituted authority calling the special election shall state:

- (1) The date of the special election;
- (2) The full text of any measure or question for which the election is called;
- (3) The ballot title, if any, for the measure or question for which the election is called; and
- (4) Any other information required by law.

7-11-205. Dates of special elections on measures and questions -- Exceptions -- Separate ballots.

(a)(1)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section, 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 preferential primary election or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the preferential primary election or general election.

(B)(i) 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.

(ii) A special election called in June of an even-numbered year shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

(2)(A) If a special election is held on the date of the preferential 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) 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.

(3) Separate ballots containing the issue or issues to be voted on at the special election and candidates for nonpartisan judicial office shall be prepared and made available to voters requesting a separate ballot.

(4) A voter shall not be required to vote in a political party's preferential primary in order to be able to vote in the special election.

(b)(1) A special election shall be held not less than sixty-five (65) days following the date that the proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order,

or other authorized document is filed with the county clerk when the special election is to be held on the date of the preferential primary election or general election.

(2) If the special election is not held at the same time as a preferential primary election or general election, the special election shall be held not less than fifty (50) days following the date that the proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document is filed with the county clerk.

SUBCHAPTER 3-
CERTAIN PROCEDURES FOR SPECIAL ELECTIONS

7-11-301. Law governing special elections.

In cases of circumstances or procedures that may arise in connection with any special election for which there is no provision in law governing the circumstances or procedures, the special election shall be governed by:

- (1) The general election laws of this state; or
- (2) In the case of special primary elections, the primary election laws of this state.

7-11-302. Special procedures for vacancies filled under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 29.

(a) Whenever a vacancy in office is to be filled under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 29, the following shall apply:

(1) The Governor shall issue a proclamation calling an election to fill a vacancy;

(2) If the vacancy occurs less than one hundred eighty (180) days before a general election at which the vacancy is to be filled and the position is one that may be filled by partisan election, the political parties shall choose their nominees at a convention of delegates held in accordance with the party rules for the convention;

(3) If the vacancy occurs more than one hundred eighty (180) days before the general election and is a position that may be filled by partisan election, 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 or her in writing within ten (10) days with respect to whether the political parties desire to hold a special primary election or a convention of delegates under party rules to choose nominees;

(4) If the state committee of any political party shall timely notify the Governor that it chooses to hold a special primary election, it is mandatory that any political party desiring to choose a nominee shall choose the nominee at a special primary election, and the Governor's proclamation shall set dates for both the special primary election and for any runoff primary election to be held if no candidate receives a majority of the vote at the special primary election; and

(5) If no state committee of any political party timely notifies the Governor of the desire to hold either a primary election or convention of delegates, the Governor, in issuing his or her proclamation calling for the special election, shall declare that the nominee of any political party shall be chosen at a convention of delegates.

7-11-303. Notice.

In addition to the publication of the calling document, notice of special elections under this chapter shall be published and posted under § 7-5-202 and 7-5-206.

SECTION 48. Arkansas Code § 12-10-318(a)(2), concerning special elections on emergency telephone service charges, is amended to read as follows:

(2) 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 49. Arkansas Code § 13-2-501(b)(1), concerning an election for the establishment of a public library, 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 50. Arkansas Code § 14-14-915(b), concerning the time requirements for filing petitions, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Time Requirements for Filing Petitions.

(1) INITIATIVE PETITIONS. All petitions for initiated county measures shall be filed with the county clerk not less than ~~sixty (60) calendar days nor more than~~ ninety (90) calendar days nor more than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days prior to the date established for the next regular election.

(2) REFERENDUM PETITIONS. All petitions for referendum on county measures must be filed with the county clerk within sixty (60) calendar days after passage and publication of the measure sought to be repealed.

(3) CERTIFICATION. All initiative and referendum petitions must be certified sufficient to the county board of election commissioners not less than ~~forty (40)~~ seventy (70) calendar days prior to a regular general election to be included on the ballot. If the adequacy of a petition is determined by the county clerk less than ~~forty (40)~~ seventy (70) days prior to the next regular election, the election on the measure shall be delayed until the following regular election unless a special election is called on a referendum measure as provided by law.

SECTION 51. Arkansas Code § 14-14-917(a)(4), concerning special election associated with initiative and referendum petitions, is amended to read as follows:

(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 established under § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. When 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 52. Arkansas Code § 14-20-108(a)(1)(B)(i)(b), concerning

election of the issue of the levy of volunteer fire department dues and as amended by Act 300 of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) The issue may be placed on the ballot at a special election by order of the quorum court in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

(2) The special election shall be held by August 1.

SECTION 53. Arkansas Code § 14-37-112(a)(1), concerning the conversion of an incorporated town into a city of the second class, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq., in favor of the ordinance.

SECTION 54. Arkansas Code § 14-37-112(b)(2)(B), concerning special elections for officers after the conversion of an incorporated town to a city of the second class, is amended to read as follows:

(B) 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, to be held in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-101 et seq., which shall be published by two (2) insertions 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.

SECTION 55. Arkansas Code § 14-38-112(c)(2)(A), concerning special elections to elect municipal officers of a reactivated city or incorporated town, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-101 et seq. for the election of the officials of the city or incorporated town.

SECTION 56. Arkansas Code § 14-38-113(a)(1), concerning special elections on reorganization under a different form of municipal government, is amended to read as follows:

(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, to be held in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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;

SECTION 57. Arkansas Code § 14-38-113(a)(3)(B)(i), concerning special elections for municipal offices in municipalities reorganizing under a different form of municipal government, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-101 et seq. 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.

SECTION 58. Arkansas Code § 14-40-303(b)(1), concerning special elections on annexation, is amended to read as follows:

(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 called by ordinance or proclamation of the mayor of the annexing municipality in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 59. Arkansas Code § 14-40-303(f), concerning special elections on annexation held by more than one (1) city and as amended by Act 420 of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

(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 on the next available date in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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)(a) Except as provided in subdivisions (f)(2)(B)(ii)(b) and (c) of this section, 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)~~ 7-11-201

et seq. governing the procedures and dates on which special elections may be held shall not apply to the third annexation election provided in this subsection.

(b) If the date of the third election falls upon a legal holiday, the election shall be held four (4) weeks after the second annexation election.

(c) If the date of the election under subdivision (f)(2)(B)(ii)(b) of this section is a legal holiday, the election shall be held five (5) weeks after the second annexation election.

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

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

(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.

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

(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 60. Arkansas Code § 14-40-1202(a)(1)(A), concerning special elections on the consolidation of municipalities, 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. in both of the municipal corporations on the question of the annexation and the name of the proposed consolidated municipality.

SECTION 61. Arkansas Code § 14-40-1207(a)(1), concerning special elections for alderman or all city officials, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-101 et seq., 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)~~ 7-11-101 et seq. for all city

unexpired term or call for a special election to be held in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(a)~~ 7-11-101 et seq. to fill the vacancy; or

SECTION 66. Arkansas Code § 14-44-103(a)(4)(B), concerning elections to approve a four-year term for certain alderman, is amended to read as follows:

(B) 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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.

SECTION 67. Arkansas Code § 14-44-106 is amended to read as follows:
14-44-106. Vacancy in mayor's office.

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 § ~~7-5-103(a)~~ 7-11-101 et seq. to fill the vacancy. At this election, a mayor shall be elected to fill out the unexpired term.

SECTION 68. Arkansas Code § 14-47-106(b)(1)(A), concerning elections on the city manager form of government, is amended to read as follows:

(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 in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 69. Arkansas Code § 14-47-107(a)(1), concerning subsequent elections on the aldermanic form of government, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) 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 in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 70. Arkansas Code § 14-47-110(a)(1), concerning the election of directors in a city manager form of municipal government, is amended to read 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 in accordance

with § ~~7-5-103(a)~~ 7-11-101 et seq.

(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 in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(a)~~ 7-11-101 et seq.;

SECTION 71. Arkansas Code § 14-48-104(b), concerning the submission of municipal governmental form questions to electors, is amended to read as follows:

(b) 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. a special election to be held not more than ninety (90) days from the date of the clerk's certification.

SECTION 72. Arkansas Code § 14-48-105(b)(2)(A)(i), concerning procedures for changing to another form of government in the city administrator form of municipal government, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A)(i) Thereupon, the mayor by proclamation in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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.

SECTION 73. Arkansas Code § 14-48-108(a), concerning the calling of elections for directors and mayors in the city administrator form of municipal government, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-101 et seq. 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) The primary election shall be held in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(a)~~ 7-11-101 et seq.

(B) The special general election shall be held in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(a)~~ 7-11-101 et seq.

SECTION 74. Arkansas Code § 14-48-109(a)(1), concerning special elections for the initial membership of the board of directors and mayor in a city administrator form of municipal government, is amended to read 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 in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(a)~~ 7-11-101 et seq.

(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 in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(a)~~ 7-11-101 et seq. in some newspaper having a bona fide circulation in the municipality;

SECTION 75. Arkansas Code § 14-48-114(b)(3), concerning the removal of mayors or directors in a city administrator form of municipal government, is amended to read as follows:

(3) The county board of election commissioners shall issue a proclamation in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. calling a special election on the question and shall fix a date for holding it not more than ninety (90) days from the date of the certification of the petitions by the clerk.

SECTION 76. Arkansas Code § 14-48-115(b), concerning mayor or director vacancies in the city administrator form of municipal government, is amended to read as follows:

(b) If the vacancy occurs more than six (6) months prior to the next general municipal election, a special election to fill the vacancy shall be called by proclamation issued in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(a)~~ 7-11-101 et seq. 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.

SECTION 77. Arkansas Code § 14-57-704(a)(1), concerning special elections for a city or town 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 78. Arkansas Code § 14-61-113(1), concerning the petition process for special elections for selecting members of the board of directors in the city manager form of government, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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) The special election shall be held not 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 ninety (90) days after the proclamation.

SECTION 79. Arkansas Code § 14-61-119(g), concerning elections for the removal of directors in the city manager form of government, 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. This date shall be not more than ninety (90) days from the date of the clerk's certificate to the board that a sufficient petition is filed.

SECTION 80. Arkansas Code § 14-72-303(a), concerning special elections on the issuance of bonds by the county court, is amended to read as follows:

(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 a special election to be held in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 81. Arkansas Code § 14-72-606(a)(2), concerning special elections on the issuance of local government revenue bonds, is amended to read as follows:

(2) The question of the issuance of revenue bonds may be submitted at a special election called for that purpose in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq., as provided in the ordinance, and held in the manner provided in this subchapter.

SECTION 82. Arkansas Code § 14-116-303(a), concerning nomination and election of directors for water districts and as amended by Act 370 of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) If a water district is composed of all or a portion of four (4) or more counties, then nominations for directors shall be upon petitions signed by at least fifty (50) qualified electors residing in the area of the district from which the director is to be elected. This petition shall be filed with the county ~~board of election commissioners no later than July 1~~ clerk not later than 12:00 noon on July 1 before the general election.

(2) If a water district is composed of all or a portion of less than four (4) counties, then nominations for directors shall be upon

petitions signed by at least fifty (50) qualified electors residing in the part of the service area of the customers of the district from which the director is to be elected. This petition shall be filed with the county ~~board of election commissioners no later than July 1~~ clerk not later than 12:00 noon on July 1 before the general election.

SECTION 83. Arkansas Code § 14-120-209 is amended to read as follows:
14-120-209. Date of election.

The election shall be held on a date to be fixed by the directors of the drainage and levee improvement district at a special meeting called for that purpose in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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).

SECTION 84. Arkansas Code § 14-122-104 is amended to read as follows:
14-122-104. Filing referendum petitions – Special election.

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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. to be held not more than ninety (90) days after the proclamation.

SECTION 85. Arkansas Code § 14-142-208(a), concerning the issuance of local government library bonds, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq., 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.

SECTION 86. Arkansas Code § 14-163-207(d)(2)(A), concerning special election on the levy of a special tax for certain purposes, is amended to read as follows:

(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 in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 87. Arkansas Code § 14-164-309(a), concerning the issuance of local government bonds, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq., as provided in the ordinance and held in the manner provided in this subchapter.

SECTION 88. Arkansas Code § 14-174-103(a)(2)(A), concerning special election on the levy of new economic development taxes, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) However, no ordinance levying any tax authorized by this subchapter shall be valid until adopted at a special election in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. by qualified electors of the city or in the county where the tax is to be imposed, as the case may be.

SECTION 89. Arkansas Code § 14-200-107 is amended to read as follows: 14-200-107. Election to authorize purchase by municipality.

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 in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 90. Arkansas Code § 14-201-109(b)(1), concerning special elections on the abolition or continuance of a utility commission, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. not later than fourteen (14) days from the date on which the petition was filed to be held at least ninety (90) days after the order on the question whether the utility commission shall be abolished or continued.

SECTION 91. Arkansas Code § 14-206-103(a), concerning special elections on the acquisition of a gas or electric public utility by a municipality, is amended to read as follows:

(a) 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 special election held in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 92. 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. in the county, city, or designated area of the city to determine whether a mosquito abatement district shall be established for the area.

SECTION 93. Arkansas Code § 14-283-102(a), concerning special elections on the establishment and financing of a mosquito abatement district, is amended to read as follows:

(a) 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. within ninety (90) days after the proclamation calling the election.

SECTION 94. 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. to submit the question of the establishment and financing of a fire protection district to the electors of a proposed district.

(2) The special election shall be held within ninety (90) days after the filing of the petitions requesting the election.

(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 95. Arkansas Code § 14-284-224 is amended to read as follows:
14-284-224. Petition to annex territory to an existing district –
Special election.

(a)(1)(A) When petitions are filed with the board of commissioners of a fire protection district created pursuant to this subchapter containing the signatures of at least ten percent (10%) of qualified electors of a portion of the unincorporated area of the county, as determined by the number of votes cast by the qualified electors of that portion of the county for all candidates for Governor at the last preceding general election, requesting the annexation of the territory to an existing fire protection district created under this subchapter and requesting that assessed benefits be made on the property located within the area to be annexed to help finance the operation of the district, the board of commissioners shall conduct a public hearing on the petition.

(B) If the board determines the annexation to be desirable, the board shall notify the quorum court, and the quorum court may at its discretion call a special election within the area of the existing fire protection district and the area proposed to be annexed to determine whether the annexation should occur.

(2) No annexation shall occur except pursuant to an election under subsection (b) of this section or by ordinance under subsection (d) of this section.

(b)(1) 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 no later than ninety (90) days after the proclamation of a special election in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

(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 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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 96. Arkansas Code § 14-286-103(a), concerning special elections on the establishment and financing of a red imported fire ant abatement district, is amended to read as follows:

(a) 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 in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. no later than ninety (90) days after the proclamation of the election.

SECTION 97. Arkansas Code § 14-387-301(b), concerning special elections 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, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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.

SECTION 98. Arkansas Code § 15-4-3020(b), concerning special elections to issue bonds under the Arkansas General Obligation Economic Development Superprojects Bond and Project Funding Act, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The proclamation shall be issued in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq., 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.

SECTION 99. Arkansas Code § 15-43-204(a)(1), concerning special elections to redetermine a doe killing area, 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. to be held not more than ninety (90) days after the date of filing of the petition.

SECTION 100. Arkansas Code § 23-110-306(a), concerning special elections on subsequent referendums on horse racing, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. on the proposition of continuing horse racing in the county.

SECTION 101. Arkansas Code § 23-111-306(a), concerning special elections on subsequent referendums on greyhound racing, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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.

SECTION 102. Arkansas Code § 24-11-402(a), concerning special elections to suspend the applicability of § 24-11-401 et seq., is amended to read as follows:

(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 a special election in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. for the purpose of voting on the question.

SECTION 103. Arkansas Code § 24-11-402(d), concerning special elections on the question of policemen's pension, is amended to read as follows:

(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 a special election in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. held in the city as provided in this section.

SECTION 104. Arkansas Code § 24-11-404(b), concerning special elections for tax levies for pensions in cities of the first and second class, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) In those cities that do not have a policemen's pension and relief fund but that 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 a special election in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. 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 ninety (90) days before the date of the election 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 call the election in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

(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 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.

SECTION 105. Arkansas Code § 24-11-812(b)(3), concerning special elections on tax levies by the city council relating to firemen's relief and pension funds, is amended to read as follows:

(3) Upon the filing with the county board of election commissioners not later than ninety (90) days before the date of the election 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 call the election in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 106. Arkansas Code § 24-12-103(c), concerning special elections on the question of the levying of a tax on paid nonuniformed employees' pensions, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Upon the filing with the county board of election commissioners not later than ninety (90) days before the date of the election 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 (1½) mills, be submitted, it shall be the duty of the county board of election commissioners to call the election in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 107. Arkansas Code § 26-52-605(a), concerning special elections on the question of the imposition of an additional state tax of one percent (1%) to be administered and collected as a local sales tax upon the gross receipts or gross proceeds derived from taxable sales within the border city or town, is amended to read as follows:

(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 in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. in the city or town on the question of the imposition of an additional state tax of one percent (1%) to be administered and collected as a local sales tax upon the gross receipts or gross proceeds derived from taxable sales within the border city or town under the provisions of this chapter, 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.

SECTION 108. Arkansas Code § 26-73-111(b), concerning special elections on local sales and use taxes for the benefit of a county, city, or town, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The special election shall be in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. and conducted in the manner provided by law for all county or

municipal elections unless otherwise specified in this section.

SECTION 109. Arkansas Code § 26-74-210(a)(2)(C), concerning special elections on the levy or repeal of a county sales and use tax, is amended to read as follows:

(C) The special election shall be called in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. for a date not more than ninety (90) days from the date on which the county clerk certifies the sufficiency of the petition to the county board of election commissioners.

SECTION 110. Arkansas Code § 26-74-603(b)(2), concerning elections for a sales and use tax for capital improvements of a community college, is amended to read as follows:

(2) The election shall be called by ordinance and proclamation issued in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 111. Arkansas Code § 26-75-208(a)(1), concerning a special election by a city on the issue of a sales and use tax for capital improvements, 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 of a special election on the question in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 112. Arkansas Code § 26-75-213(a)(4), concerning special elections on the resubmission of a question on the levy or repeal of a city sales and use tax, is amended to read as follows:

(4) The special election shall be called in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. for a date not more than ninety (90) days from the date on which the city clerk certifies the sufficiency of the petition to the governing body of the city.

SECTION 113. Arkansas Code § 26-75-308(a)(1), concerning special elections to approve sales and use taxes for capital improvements for cities, 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.

SECTION 114. Arkansas Code § 26-75-404(a)(2), concerning special elections for a tax on the acquisition, construction, or improvement of parks, is amended to read as follows:

(2) If the ordinance provides for submitting the question at a special election, the election shall be called in accordance with § ~~7-5-103(b)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. for a date not more than ninety (90) days from the date of the adoption of the ordinance calling the special election.

SECTION 115. Arkansas Code § 26-78-103(b)(1), concerning special elections on county and municipal motor vehicle taxes, is amended to read as follows:

(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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq. upon the first levy of the tax by the county quorum court, to be held not more than 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.

SECTION 116. Arkansas Code § 27-64-206(a), concerning special elections under the Arkansas Highway Financing Act of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

(a) 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)~~ 7-11-201 et seq.”

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator Faris

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MBM261

Secretary