

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas  
Constitution.**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4  
5 By: Senator J. Jeffress  
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SJR 5

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

9 AMENDING PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION  
10 CONCERNING VOTING AND ELECTIONS; PROVIDING THAT  
11 ALL PERSONS MAY VOTE WHO ARE CITIZENS OF THE  
12 UNITED STATES, RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF  
13 ARKANSAS, AT LEAST EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE,  
14 AND LAWFULLY REGISTERED TO VOTE; PROVIDING THAT  
15 ANY PERSON WHO WILL HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF  
16 EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE  
17 NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IS ENTITLED TO VOTE AT THE  
18 PRIMARY ELECTION; TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT THAT  
19 THE RIGHT TO VOTE SHALL NOT BE MADE TO DEPEND ON  
20 ANY PREVIOUS REGISTRATION OF AN ELECTOR'S NAME;  
21 REPEALING ARTICLE 3, SECTION 5 OF THE ARKANSAS  
22 CONSTITUTION PROVIDING THAT NO IDIOT OR INSANE  
23 PERSON SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE PRIVILEGES OF AN  
24 ELECTOR; AND PERMITTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO  
25 ESTABLISH THE DATE AND TIME OF ELECTIONS AND THE  
26 QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTION OFFICERS.

**Subtitle**

28  
29 AMENDING PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS  
30 CONSTITUTION CONCERNING VOTING AND  
31 ELECTIONS.  
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34 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
35 STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL  
36 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:



1  
 2 That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of  
 3 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state  
 4 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Senators and  
 5 Representatives, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election  
 6 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of  
 7 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

8  
 9 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Article 3 of the Arkansas Constitution is  
 10 amended to read as follows:

11 § 1. Qualifications of electors ~~—Equal suffrage—Poll tax.~~

12 ~~Every citizen of the United States of the age of twenty one years, who~~  
 13 ~~has resided in the State twelve months, in the county six months, and in the~~  
 14 ~~precinct, town or ward one month, next preceding any election at which they~~  
 15 ~~may propose to vote, except such persons as may for the commission of some~~  
 16 ~~felony be deprived of the right to vote by law passed by the General~~  
 17 ~~Assembly, and who shall exhibit a poll tax receipt or other evidence that~~  
 18 ~~they have paid their poll tax at the time of collecting taxes next preceding~~  
 19 ~~such election, shall be allowed to vote at any election in the State of~~  
 20 ~~Arkansas, provided, that persons who make satisfactory proof that they have~~  
 21 ~~attained the age of twenty one years since the time of assessing taxes next~~  
 22 ~~preceding said election and possess the other necessary qualifications, shall~~  
 23 ~~be permitted to vote; and, provided, further, that the said tax receipt shall~~  
 24 ~~be so marked by dated stamp or written endorsement by the judges of election~~  
 25 ~~to whom it may be first presented as to prevent the holder thereof from~~  
 26 ~~voting more than once at any election. It is declared to be the purpose of~~  
 27 ~~this amendment to deny the right of suffrage to aliens and it is declared to~~  
 28 ~~be the purpose of this amendment to confer suffrage equally upon both men and~~  
 29 ~~women, without regard to sex; provided, that women shall not be compelled to~~  
 30 ~~serve on juries. [As amended by Const. Amend. 8.] Except as otherwise~~  
 31 ~~provided by this Constitution, any person may vote in an election in this~~  
 32 ~~state who is:~~

33 (1) A citizen of the United States;

34 (2) A resident of the State of Arkansas;

35 (3)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (3)(B) of this section,  
 36 at least eighteen (18) years of age.

1                   (B) At a primary election, any person who will have  
 2 attained the age of eighteen (18) years on or before the date of the next  
 3 general election is entitled to vote at the primary election; and

4                   (4) Lawfully registered to vote in the election.

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 6           SECTION 2. Section 2 of Article 3 of the Arkansas Constitution is  
 7 amended to read as follows:

8           § 2. Right of suffrage.

9           Elections shall be free and equal. No power, civil or military, shall  
 10 ever interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage; nor  
 11 shall any law be enacted, ~~whereby the right to vote at any election shall be~~  
 12 ~~made to depend upon any previous registration of the elector's name; or~~  
 13 whereby such right shall be impaired or forfeited, except for the commission  
 14 of a felony at common law, upon lawful conviction thereof.

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 16           SECTION 3. Section 5 of Article 3 is repealed.

17           ~~§ 5. Idiots and insane persons~~

18           ~~No idiot or insane person shall be entitled to the privileges of an~~  
 19 ~~elector~~

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 21           SECTION 4. Section 8 of Article 3 of the Arkansas Constitution is  
 22 amended to read as follows:

23           § 8. Time of holding elections.

24           The general elections shall be held biennially, on ~~the first Monday of~~  
 25 ~~September; but the General Assembly may, by law, fix a different time the~~  
 26 days and at times fixed by the General Assembly.

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 28           SECTION 5. Section 10 of Article 3 of the Arkansas Constitution is  
 29 amended to read as follows:

30           § 10. Election officers.

31           ~~No person shall be qualified to serve as an election officer who shall~~  
 32 ~~hold, at the time of the election, any office, appointment, or employment in~~  
 33 ~~or under the government of the United States, or of this State, or in any~~  
 34 ~~city or county or any municipal board, commission or trust in any city, save~~  
 35 ~~only the justices of the peace, and aldermen, notaries public and persons in~~  
 36 ~~the militia service of the State. Nor shall any election officer be eligible~~

~~to any civil office to be filled at an election at which he shall serve save  
only to such subordinate municipal or local offices, below the grade of city  
or county officers, as shall be designated by general law~~ The General  
Assembly shall determine the qualifications of an election officer.

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