

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 277

By: Senators K. Hammer, Dees, M. McKee, Stone, J. Petty

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

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FILING PERIOD FOR POLITICAL PARTIES; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING POLITICAL PARTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE FILING PERIOD FOR POLITICAL PARTIES; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING POLITICAL PARTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(c)(1), concerning dates under election law, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**APPROVED: 4/4/23**