

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 420

By: Senator J. Dotson  
By: Representative A. Collins

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE REDISTRICTING OF PRECINCTS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF ELECTION RESULTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE REDISTRICTING OF PRECINCTS; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF ELECTION RESULTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-101(b)(4), concerning the establishment and alteration of precinct boundaries, polling sites, and vote centers, is amended to read as follows:

(4)(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:

(i) A written description of the boundaries of the precinct;

(ii) A printed map of the boundaries of the precincts altered or established; ~~and~~

(iii) A digital map detailing the precinct boundaries altered or established in a format prescribed by the Arkansas Geographic



Information Systems Office; and

(iv) The numerical codes designated for each precinct.

(5) When redistricting the county board of election commissioners shall:

(A) Designate precincts using a six digit numeric code:

(i) The beginning three digits shall be the Federal Information Processing Series numerical county location code used by the United States Bureau of the Census;

(ii) The last three digits of the numeric code shall be designated by the county board of election commissioners; and

(iii) A sequential numerical system beginning with the precinct located in the northwest of the county;

(B) Ensure that precincts are numbered consecutively with contiguous precincts having consecutive numbers;

(C) Develop precincts that are:

(i) Contiguous;

(ii) Compact;

(iii) Easily identifiable and understandable by the voters; and

(iv) Easy to locate on a map of the county.

(6) As used in subdivision (b)(5)(C)(i), "contiguous" means the boundaries of the precinct:

(i) Are touching;

(ii) Use major roads, railways, or other similar infrastructure to delineate a portion of the outer boundary of the precinct, if major roads, railways or other similar infrastructure is available; and

(iii) Use the edge of the body of water if possible if the body of water is adjacent to or within the precinct, or the center of the body of water if the body of water is not fully included in the precinct.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-701(a)(3), concerning the declaration, certification, delivery, and custody of election results and return, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) As results are received and tabulated on election night

for all state and federal elections, the county board of election commissioners shall declare preliminary and unofficial results of the election as soon as early voting, absentee, or individual precinct results are tabulated on election night and immediately shall transmit the results by precinct using the six digit numeric code precinct number to the Secretary of State through the election night reporting interface provided by the Secretary of State.

(B) The county board of election commissioners may, by agreement with the county clerk, transmit the results to the county clerk who immediately shall transmit the results by precinct using the six digit numeric code precinct number to the Secretary of State under subdivision (a)(3)(A) of this section.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-5-701(a)(3)(C)(ii), concerning the declaration, certification, delivery, and custody of election results and return, is amended to read as follows:

(ii) Immediately transmit the results by precinct using the six digit numeric code precinct number to the Secretary of State through the election night reporting interface provided by the Secretary of State.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-5-701(a)(3)(D) and (E), concerning the declaration, certification, delivery, and custody of election results and return, are amended to read as follows:

(D) The county board of election commissioners may, by agreement with the county clerk, transmit the results to the county clerk who shall immediately transmit the results by precinct using the six digit numeric code precinct number to the Secretary of State as described in subdivision (a)(3)(C) of this section.

(E) The Secretary of State may establish policies and procedures to accomplish the objectives set forth under this section and the format of the six digit numeric code precinct number.

SECTION 5. DO NOT CODIFY. Designation of precinct boundaries and six digit numeric code precinct number.

Before the general election in 2028, each county board of election

commissioners shall establish all precinct boundaries under § 7-5-101 and designate the precincts using the six digit numeric code precinct number.