

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H1/16/25
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1036

Representatives A. Collins, Ennett, D. Garner, Springer, Gonzales Worthen

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING VOTER
REGISTRATION; TO ALLOW VOTER REGISTRATION DURING
EARLY VOTING AND ON ELECTION DAY; TO AMEND PROVISIONS
OF ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 51, UNDER THE
AUTHORITY OF ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 51, §
19; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING VOTER
REGISTRATION; TO ALLOW VOTER
REGISTRATION DURING EARLY VOTING AND ON
ELECTION DAY; AND TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF
ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 51.

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

SECTION 1. Under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 6(a)(2)(G), concerning statements informing voter registration applicants, is amended to read as follows:

(G) Inform the applicant that if the voter registration application is being collected by a third-party voter registration organization, the third-party voter registration organization may be unable to deliver the application to the permanent registrar in the county in which the applicant resides before the thirty-day pre-election voter registration deadline under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 9(b)(1) to vote in the next election and that the applicant may elect to deliver the application in



person or by mail; and

SECTION 2. Under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 8(a), concerning the processing of voter registration applications, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The Office of Driver Services, ~~State Revenue Offices~~ state revenue offices, public assistance agencies, disabilities agencies, and other voter registration agencies shall transmit all completed voter registration applications to the Secretary of State in sufficient time to allow the Secretary of State to transmit the applications to the appropriate permanent registrar no later than ten (10) days after the date of acceptance by the assisting agency. When applications are accepted within five (5) days before the last day of for an election under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 9(b)(1), they must be transmitted no later than five (5) days after the date of acceptance at the assisting agency.

(2) The Secretary of State shall transmit all mail voter registration applications to the appropriate permanent registrar no later than ten (10) days after the date of receipt. When applications are received within five (5) days before the last day of pre-election registration for an election under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 9(b)(1), they must be transmitted no later than five (5) days after date of receipt. If forms are received by the wrong election office, they shall be forwarded to the appropriate permanent registrar not later than the fifth day after receipt.

SECTION 3. Under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 9(b), concerning the voter registration deadline, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section, Registration registration shall be in progress at all times except during the thirty-day period immediately prior to any election scheduled within the county, during which period registration of voters shall cease for that election, but registration during such period shall be effective for subsequent elections.

(2) Registration shall be permitted:

(A) During early voting for a person appearing in person

at an early voting location; and

(B) On election day for a person appearing in person at a polling site or a vote center established in his or her county of residence.

SECTION 4. Under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 9(c)(2), concerning voter registration submitted to the permanent registrar, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Any person who assists applicants with a voter registration application as part of a voter registration drive or who, in furtherance of a voter registration drive, gathers or possesses completed applications for submission to the permanent registrar or Secretary of State shall deliver all applications in his or her possession to the permanent registrar or Secretary of State within twenty-one (21) days of the date on the voter registration application and, in any event, no later than the deadline for pre-election voter registration for the next election under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 9(b)(1).

SECTION 5. Under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 10(b)(2), concerning updating voter registration, is amended to read as follows:

(2)~~(A)~~ If the updated registration information is actually received in the office of the county clerk of the voter's new county not later than four (4) days before a scheduled election, the voter shall have the right to vote in the scheduled election in the precinct into which the voter just moved in the new county.

(B) If the updated registration information is not actually received by the fourth day before a scheduled election, the voter ~~shall not be eligible to vote in the scheduled election~~ may update his or his voter registration in accordance with subsection (g) of this section.

SECTION 6. Under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 10(c), concerning the deadline to change legal residence on voter registration, is amended to read as follows:

(c) If the change of legal residence is made pursuant to subsection

(a) or subdivision (d)(1) of this section following the deadline for pre-election voter registration during the thirty day administrative cut-off period under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 9(b)(1) immediately prior to any election scheduled within the county, the registered voter shall retain his or her right to vote in the scheduled election in the precinct to which he or she just moved.

SECTION 7. Under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 10, concerning transfer and change of status for voter registration, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(g) A person appearing in person on election day or during early voting at an open polling site, a vote center, or an early voting location established in his or her county of residence may update his or her voter registration on the same day as his or her appearance in accordance with § 7-5-113.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 7-1-113(c)(3), concerning duties of an election official before a person is permitted to cast a vote at a vote center, is amended to read as follows:

(3) If the voter's name or address is not the same as that in the county voter registration record files, request that the voter complete an updated voter registration application ~~form~~ in accordance with § 7-5-113; and

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code Title 7, Chapter 5, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

7-5-113. Voter registration on election day or during early voting.

(a) A person appearing in person on election day or during early voting at an open polling site, a vote center, or an early voting location established in his or her county of residence is eligible to register to vote or update registration on the same day as his or her appearance.

(b) To register or update registration and vote under subsection (a) of this section:

(1) The person shall:

(A) Register in the manner set forth by Arkansas

Constitution, Amendment 51; or

(B) Update his or her registration by completing an updated voter registration application;

(2) The person shall sign a written eligibility affirmation under penalty of perjury in the presence of a poll worker that he or she is eligible to vote and has not already voted in the election in any county in the state;

(3) The poll worker shall verify that the person has not already voted in the election in any county in the state; and

(4) The poll worker shall update the voter registration records in a manner immediately evident to every open polling site, vote center, and early voting location in every county in the state to indicate that the person has voted in the election.

(c)(1) If the poll worker is unable to complete the required duties in subdivisions (b)(3) or (b)(4) of this section, the voter may cast a provisional ballot in accordance with the procedures in § 7-5-308.

(2) Unless enjoined by a court with jurisdiction, a provisional ballot under this subsection shall be counted if:

(A) The voter returns to the county board of election commissioners or the county clerk by 12:00 noon on the Monday following the election and presents documentation that allows the county board of election commissioners or the county clerk to verify the requirements in subdivisions (b)(3) and (b)(4) of this section; and

(B) The county board of election commissioners does not determine that the provisional ballot is invalid and should not be counted based on other grounds.

(d) Poll workers shall maintain an additional list in the same format as the precinct voter registration list for all persons who register to vote or update voter registration under this section which shall be considered part of the precinct voter registration list.

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 7-5-201(a), concerning voter qualifications, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be qualified to vote, a person shall have registered ~~at least thirty (30) calendar days immediately prior to the election and~~ in the manner set forth by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51.

SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 7-5-305(a)(5) and (6), concerning poll worker duties before a person is permitted to vote, is amended to read as follows:

(5)(A) If the voter's address is not the same as that on the precinct voter registration list, verify with the county clerk that the address is within the precinct.

(B) If the address is within the precinct, request the voter to complete a voter registration application ~~form for the purpose of updating county voter registration record files~~ in accordance with § 7-5-113.

(C) If the address is not within the precinct:

(i) Verify with the county clerk's office the proper precinct; and

(ii) Instruct the voter to go to the polling site serving that precinct in order for his or her vote to be counted;

(6) If the voter's name is not the same as that on the precinct voter registration list, request the voter to complete a voter registration application ~~form for purposes of updating county voter registration record files~~ in accordance with § 7-5-113;

SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 7-5-306(a), concerning procedure when a voter's name is not on the precinct voter registration list, is amended to read as follows:

(a) If ~~the~~ a voter's name is not on the precinct voter registration list, ~~the poll worker shall permit the voter to vote only under the following conditions~~ voter shall not vote until the voter registers or updates his or her registration in accordance with § 7-5-113.+

~~(1) The voter identifies himself or herself by stating his or her name and date of birth and is verified by the county clerk as a registered voter within the county and, if the county is divided into more than one (1) congressional district, within the same congressional district;~~

~~(2) The voter gives and affirms his or her current residence and the poll worker verifies with the county clerk that the voter's residence is within the precinct;~~

~~(3) The voter completes an updated voter registration application form; and~~

~~(4) The voter signs the precinct voter registration list.~~

/s/A. Collins