

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: H3/6/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 308

By: Senator K. Hammer

By: *Representative Rose*

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING A WRITE-IN
CANDIDATE; TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO A WRITE-IN
CANDIDATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING A WRITE-IN
CANDIDATE; AND TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO A
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-4-109(c)(2)(A), concerning the qualifications of state and county commissioners, election officials, poll workers, and certified election monitors, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2)(B) of this section, a person serving on the county board of election commissioners shall not participate in the campaign of any candidate listed on a ballot ~~or of a write-in candidate~~ seeking election in that county that falls under the county board of election commissioners' jurisdiction or authority.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-416(e)(2)(A) and (B), concerning the counting of absentee ballots, are amended to read as follows:

~~(2)(A) The ballots shall first be counted for write-in votes by the election officials.~~

~~(B) Then, at~~ At the discretion of the county board of election commissioners, the ballots may be either hand counted or counted on an electronic vote tabulating device.



SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-5-615(e), concerning the tabulation of votes, defective ballots, and certification of returns, is amended to read as follows:

(e) The return printed by the electronic vote tabulating device, to which the return of ~~write-in~~, early, and absentee votes have been added, shall constitute the official return of each polling site. All returns shall be certified by the election officials in charge of the tabulation thereof in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-6-102(a)(4), concerning the political practices pledge and penalty for falsification, is repealed.

~~(4) Write-in candidates shall file the political practices pledge at the time of filing the notice to be a write-in candidate.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-11-102(9), concerning content of the calling document for an election to fill a vacancy, is repealed.

~~(9) The deadline for filing as a write-in candidate if applicable;~~

/s/K. Hammer