

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

SJR 18

By: Senator J. Payton
By: Representative Ray

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO CREATE "THE CITIZENS ONLY VOTING AMENDMENT"; TO PROVIDE THAT ONLY A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES MEETING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION MAY VOTE IN AN ELECTION IN THIS STATE; AND PROVIDING THAT A PERSON WHO DOES NOT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO VOTE IN ANY STATE OR LOCAL ELECTION HELD IN THIS STATE.

Subtitle

THE CITIZENS ONLY VOTING AMENDMENT.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

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

SECTION 1. Short title. This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be known and may be cited as "The Citizens Only Voting Amendment."



SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 3, § 1, is amended to read as follows:

§ 1. Qualifications of electors.

(a)(1) Only a citizen of the United States meeting the qualifications of an elector under this section may vote in an election in this state.

(2) A person who does not meet the qualifications of an elector under this section shall not be permitted to vote in any state or local election held in this state.

~~(a)(b)~~ Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, ~~any person may vote in an election in this state who~~ to vote in an election in this state a person shall be:

- (1) A citizen of the United States;
- (2) A resident of the State of Arkansas;
- (3) At least eighteen (18) years of age; and
- (4) Lawfully registered to vote in the election.

~~(b)(1)(c)(1)~~ In addition to the qualifications under subsection ~~(a)(b)~~ of this section, the General Assembly shall provide by law that a voter shall:

- (A) Present valid photographic identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person; and
- (B) Enclose a copy of valid photographic identification with his or her ballot when voting by absentee ballot.

(2) The General Assembly shall establish by law the types of photographic identification that a person may present to comply with subdivision ~~(b)(1)(c)(1)~~ of this section.

~~(e)(d)~~ The State of Arkansas shall issue photographic identification at no charge to an eligible voter who does not have a form of photographic identification meeting the requirements of the law enacted by the General Assembly under this section.

~~(d)(1)(A)(e)(1)(A)~~ A voter unable to present valid photographic identification when voting in person shall be permitted to vote a provisional ballot.

(B) An absentee ballot that is not accompanied by a copy of valid photographic identification shall be considered a provisional ballot.

(2) A provisional ballot under subdivision ~~(d)(1)(e)(1)~~ of this

section shall be counted only if the voter subsequently certifies the provisional ballot in a manner provided by law.

~~(e)(1)~~(f)(1) The General Assembly shall implement the provisions of this amendment by law.

(2) The General Assembly may provide by law for exceptions to the requirement that a voter:

(A) Present valid photographic identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person; and

(B) Enclose a copy of valid photographic identification with his or her ballot when voting by absentee ballot.

~~(f)~~(g) A voter meeting the requirements of this section also shall comply with all additional laws regulating elections necessary for his or her vote to be counted.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

SECTION 4. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election ballot:

(1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot title; and

(2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to be Known as "The Citizens Only Voting Amendment" and Providing That Only a Citizen of the United States Meeting the Qualifications of an Elector Under the Arkansas Constitution May Vote in an Election in this State."