Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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1. **Am I registered to vote?**

You can determine whether a voter is registered to vote by checking the Arkansas Secretary of State’s “Voter View” website ([https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do](https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do)). There is also a mobile version of the website ([https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/VoterView/HomeMobile.do](https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/VoterView/HomeMobile.do)).

2. **Where do I vote?**

You can determine a voter’s proper polling place by checking the “Voter View” website ([https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do](https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do)). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to **Question #6**.

Note: Arkansas Secretary of State John Thurston declared that anyone in the state can request an absentee ballot during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under state law, a voter who can’t vote in person on Election Day because of travel, illness, or physical disability may cast an absentee ballot. Secretary Thurston has said that a health concern because of COVID-19 is a qualifying reason to vote absentee. In other words, anyone who fears that going to a polling place on November 3 will put his or her health at risk may request an absentee ballot.
While the State has expanded mail-in voting during the pandemic to all eligible voters, it is also offering early voting and in-person voting options. Check in with your local county election board on any updates to your polling location, https://www.vote.org/state/arkansas/. You can also vote early in person beginning two weeks before the election.

3. When do the polls open and close?

The polls must be open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Central on Election Day.¹ A voter waiting in line at the polling place by 7:30 p.m. must be allowed to vote.² For the primary and nonpartisan election, early voting begins Monday, February 17 and closes Monday, March 2; for the municipal primary election on Tuesday August 11, the deadline to register to vote is July 13, 2020; for the November General Election, early voting begins Monday, October 19 and closes Monday, November 2. Early voting hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

Voters must submit their voter registration application no later than thirty days before the date of the election they intend to vote in.³ Likewise, registration applications submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than thirty days before the date of the election.⁴ For the municipal primary election on Tuesday August 11, the deadline to register to vote is July 13, 2020. For the 2020 General Election, the in-person or postmark deadline to register is Tuesday, October 5, 2020. The deadline to register (either in-person or postmark) for the 2020 primary and nonpartisan elections held on March 3, 2020 is February 3, 2020.

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

Arkansas poll workers are required to request that voters present a photo ID card. This ID must show the voter’s name and photo, and must be issued by either the state of Arkansas or the federal government. A free voter verification card is available through the Secretary of State’s office or the voter’s county clerk for any voter who does not have another ID valid for voting. The ID card must not be expired for more than four (4) years on election day. IDs that meet the requirements include a driver’s license, a photo identification card, a concealed carry handgun permit, a U.S. Passport, a student ID or employee badge from an accredited postsecondary institution in the state of Arkansas, a military ID, a voter verification card, or a public assistance ID that shows a photo of the cardholder.⁵ The ID is not required to have an exact name or an address match – though some poll workers may try to assert that a match is required.

6. A person who is a resident of a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state of Arkansas is not required to present a photo identification card when voting in person, but must provide documentation from the administrator of the facility attesting that the person is a resident of the facility.⁶ Voters can sign the voter’s statement swearing that they are the voter and the ballot will satisfy the ID law. However, the ballots are provisional and are subject to not being counted for some other non-voter ID reason. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?

If the voter did not update their registration information, the answer to this question depends on where the voter moved. Refer to the table below for the location specific information.
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<td>The voter should vote at the polling place associated with their new address (which should be the same polling place as for the old address). To find the polling place, see the Arkansas “Voter View” website from <a href="#">Question 2</a>.</td>
<td>If the voter has not updated their address within the county, they will be able to cast a regular ballot at the polling place associated with the new address. Election officials may seek to confirm the voter’s registration status with the county clerk, and the voter should update the change of address portion of a Voter Registration Application before obtaining their ballot to vote. If the voter initially went to the polling place for their old address, they will have to travel to the polling place for the new address to vote.</td>
<td>If a voter moves across county lines, the voter is required to transfer their voter registration to the new county. The voter is required to submit their updated registration to the county clerk in their new county no later than four days before a scheduled election. If the application arrives less than four days before an election, the voter will not be eligible to vote in their new county for that election. The voter can go to the new polling site in the new county and complete the change of address portion of a voter registration application but the voter will be given a provisional ballot and it is not likely to count in the new county if the change is made within four days of an election.</td>
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Poll workers may call the County Clerk’s office to confirm that the old address is in the precinct. If it is, the voter will fill out a voter registration form to update their address and vote on a regular ballot.

The county clerks’ listing can be found on the Arkansas Association of Counties website [https://www.arcounties.org/counties/](https://www.arcounties.org/counties/).

If a voter’s registration status cannot be verified, for whatever reason, they have the right to fill out an “Eligibility Affirmation” and cast a provisional ballot. Note, if the voter voted provisionally because they did not have the requisite must show up at the county board of election commissioners by 12 noon the Monday following election day with the requisite identification.

7. **What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?**

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. A voter can use an emergency paper ballot, and should request one if it is not offered.

8. **I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the precinct where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?**

If a voter is not found on the rolls of the voting place at which they are attempting to vote, an election clerk should check the county rolls. If the voter is still not found, the clerk should contact the Elections Supervisor to make sure the voter is registered and is in the correct precinct. If the voter is found to be registered, they should be able to vote a regular ballot.
If the voter is in the wrong precinct, the clerk should give them directions to the correct precinct and issue a precinct pass (which allows the voter to enter the correct precinct without waiting in line) when that option is available.

If the election official cannot confirm your registration in the county, you are entitled to cast a provisional ballot regardless of whether your name appears on the polling site’s voter registration list. As part of the provisional ballot, you will be asked to sign a statement affirming your eligibility to vote. The election official is then required to provide you with written instructions on how to determine whether your provisional vote is counted or, if not, the reason the vote was not counted.12

9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

Voters’ names may be missing or removed from the list of registered voters if:13

- The voter is at the incorrect polling location;
- The voter has been marked as no longer a U.S. citizen;
- The voter has registered to vote elsewhere;
- The voter has failed to respond to address confirmation mailings and has not voted or appeared in an election during the period beginning on the date of notice and ending on the date after the second general election for federal office that occurs after the date of the address confirmation notice;
- The voter has been marked as deceased;
- The voter has been marked as not a lawfully qualified or registered voter of Arkansas or of the given county;
- The voter has been convicted of a felony and the sentence has not been discharged or pardoned;
- The voter has been adjudged as mentally incompetent; or
- Errors in updating the voter registration list may have been made by the state or clerk.

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter’s name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter’s registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place. (See Question 1.)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See Question 1 and Question 6.)
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter’s name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (See Question 1.)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?
- A voter history report can be requested from the county clerk.

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

In Arkansas, the right to vote is only affected by a felony conviction. Felony charges without conviction, as well as misdemeanor convictions, do not affect the right to vote. Those who have been convicted of a felony may vote if they are not currently incarcerated and they are not on parole or other court supervision and have paid all fees, fines and costs. To restore the right to vote, proof of discharge and proof of payment of all probation or parole fees, court costs, fines, or restitution must be given to the local county clerk with the Voter Registration Application.14

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?
A voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when:

- A voter’s name was not on the Precinct Voter Registration List;
- A voter failed to comply with the identification requirements when they mailed in their registration and failed to provide the required identification with the mailing;
- A voter does not present photo ID as required by law or the voter has a “MUST HAVE ID” notation in the Precinct Voter Registration List and that voter failed to provide a photo ID or ID that pollworkers said did not meet the requirements of the law;
- The Precinct Voter Registration List indicated the voter requested an absentee ballot or voted during the early voting period;
- The voter’s vote was challenged by a poll watcher; or
- The voter attempted to vote after the established time for polls to close due to a court order or other order requiring the polls to remain open extended hours and the voter was not in line at 7:30 p.m. when the polls were supposed to close.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. Before a voter casts a provisional ballot, ensure that the voter is in the right precinct for their current address. Give the poll worker the voter’s current address and ask whether the voter is in the right precinct. The poll worker may contact the County Clerk’s office. If a voter uses a provisional ballot in the wrong precinct, their vote will most likely not count. Hotline and command center volunteers should also verify that the voter is in the correct precinct.

As part of the provisional ballot, the voter will be asked to sign a statement affirming their eligibility to vote. The election official is then required to provide written instructions on how to determine whether the provisional vote is counted or, if not, the reason the vote was not counted. In many instances, the voter will be asked to appear at their county election commissioners by 12 noon on the Monday following election day to verify their identity with the proper documentation.

A voter may be able to cure any deficiency that required them to vote a provisional ballot by attending the meeting of the county board of election commissioners. The date, time, and address of this meeting will be included on either the written instructions given by the poll worker when the voter casts their provisional ballot or in a separate notice mailed to the voter. First-time voters that failed to submit proper identification when they submitted the voter registration form and failed to show identification at the polls should bring with them proof of identity.¹⁵

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

Yes. Voters can establish residency and vote in Arkansas if they intend to remain at their Arkansas address for the time being and to make it their principle home.¹⁶ If the student plans to return to their original home after college, the student can choose to register and vote at their prior residence.

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Yes. All polling places in Arkansas should be accessible to people with disabilities. Voters may call the State Board of Election Commissioners (1-800-411-6996) if they are uncertain about the accessibility of their polling site.¹⁷
Every polling site will offer at least one touch-screen voting machine that is accessible for voters with physical and visual disabilities. Some counties utilize all touch-screen voting machines (called Direct RecordELECTronic or DRE).\(^\text{18}\)

Voters who because of physical, sensory, or other disability present themselves for voting and who then inform a poll worker at the polling site that they are unable to stand in line for extended periods of time are entitled to advance to the head of the line of voters then waiting at the polling site.\(^\text{19}\)

### 14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. Any voter, regardless of whether they are able to read, write or speak English or are blind or are otherwise disabled, have the right to receive help voting from a person of their choice except the voter’s employer, an agent of the voter’s employer, or an officer or agent of the voter’s union.

A voter may also ask to be assisted by two poll workers, one of whom shall assist with voting, the other shall observe, or by the County Clerk (during early voting) or the Deputy County Clerk (during early voting). Anyone assisting the voter must do so according to the wishes of the voter without comment or interpretation.\(^\text{20}\)

### 15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Yes. Written step-by-step instructions will be distributed to voters. Voters will be able to practice with sample machines at various locations across Arkansas prior to Election Day, if they so choose. Additional county-by-county information is on the Arkansas Secretary of State’s website (https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/arkansass-voting-machines/).

### 16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?

#### Early Voting

During presidential election years, early voting begins 15 days prior to Election Day.\(^\text{21}\) For the August 11, 2020 municipal and local elections that will be held in certain Arkansas counties, check your county election board’s website to locate the polling places for early voting and the hours and days of operation.

For the 2020 General Election, early voting begins at 8:00 a.m. Central Time on Monday, October 19, 2020. Early voting is then available between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Early voting closes at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2020.\(^\text{22}\)

In most counties, early voting is conducted at the county clerk’s office. Some counties may choose to conduct off-site early voting (a location other than the county clerk’s office), and local newspapers regularly publish the designated sites. Voters can contact their county clerk’s office to confirm their early voting location. The location of all Arkansas county clerks’ offices and their contact information can be found on the Secretary of State’s website or the Arkansas Association of Counties website, listed in #6 above.

#### Absentee Voting

Arkansas’s permanent absentee voting regime:
Voters may cast an absentee ballot if they:

- Will be unavoidably absent from their polling site on election day;
- Will be unable to attend their polling site on election day due to illness or physical disability;
- Reside in a long-term care or residential facility licensed by the state;
- Are a member of the Uniformed Services, a merchant marine, or the spouse or a dependent family member and are away from their polling location due to the member’s active duty status; or
- Are a United States citizen whose residence is in Arkansas but is temporarily living outside the territorial limits of the U.S. 23

To receive an absentee ballot, voters may either pick up an absentee ballot application from their county clerk or request to have one sent to them by contacting the county clerk’s office in the county where they are registered to vote. They may also download an absentee ballot application directly from the Secretary of State’s website:  
https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/Absentee_Ballot_Application.pdf. When a voter submits their application for an absentee ballot, they may designate how they wish to receive their ballot—whether in person, by mail, or by designated bearer.

Deadlines for Submission of Absentee Voting Application:

You may apply for an absentee ballot online, by mail, or in person. If you apply in person, you must apply by the close of business the day before the election. To apply by mail or online, your application must be submitted seven days before the election.

- In person: by close of business the day before the election—Monday, November 2, 2020.
- By mail or electronic means: received seven days before the election—Tuesday, October 27, 2020
- By designated bearer or administrator: by close of business the day before the election—Monday, November 2, 2020
- By authorized agent: by 1:30 p.m. on Election Day. The authorized agent must file with the County Clerk an affidavit from the administrative head of a hospital or nursing home located in Arkansas verifying that the applicant is a patient of the hospital or long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state and is thereby unable to vote on Election Day at their regular polling site.

Deadlines for Ballot Pickup & Delivery of Voted Ballot to County Clerk:

- In person: Ballots must be delivered by close of regular business the day before the election—Monday, November 2, 2020.
- By mail: Ballots must be delivered by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day—Tuesday, November 3, 2020.
- By designated bearer: Ballots may be picked up no earlier than 15 days before the election—Monday, October 19. Ballots must be delivered by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day—Tuesday, November 3, 2020.
- By authorized agent: Ballots must be delivered by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day—Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Amendments to Arkansas’s absentee voting regime during COVID-19:
Arkansas Secretary of State John Thurston declared that anyone in the state can request an absentee ballot in the November 3 general election during the COVID-19 pandemic. As discussed above, under state law, a voter who can’t vote in person on Election Day because of travel, illness, or physical disability may cast an absentee ballot. Secretary Thurston has said that a health concern because of COVID-19 is a qualifying reason to vote absentee. In other words, anyone who fears that going to a polling place will put his or her health at risk may request an absentee ballot.

The same mail-in ballot pickup and delivery rules in normal times apply for the November 3 general election. For more information on Arkansas’s absentee voting rules during the pandemic go to: https://static.ark.org/euploads/elections/Resolution_No. 4 of 2020 Regarding Absentee Voting Procedures.pdf.

17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

As long as the voter has not already submitted the absentee ballot, the voter will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot in person.24

18. Does my state have same-day registration? If so, what is the process?

No. Arkansas does not have same-day registration.

19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

Individuals are prohibited from distributing campaign literature, soliciting signatures or contributions, or otherwise electioneering within the polling place or within 100 hundred feet of its primary entrance.25 However, voters may take and use a voting aid when voting, including list of candidates for which they intend to vote or not vote, or how they wish to vote on ballot issues.

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

Poll watchers, who may be candidates or authorized representatives of candidates or parties or ballot issues, can challenge voter eligibility. Election officials are required to inform voters if their ballot has been challenged. Challenged ballots are treated as provisional ballots; they will be counted if the county board of election commissioners verifies the voter’s eligibility.26

21. Can I vote in the primary election?

The August 11, 2020 primary elections in Arkansas are municipal and are under the supervision of the county board of commissioners. Check your local county clerk’s office to get more details about voting in these municipal elections.

1 Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-304(a); County Board of Election Commissioners Procedures Handbook (Ed. 2014).