

Frequently Asked Questions

Arkansas – General Election 2024

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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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REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

To be eligible to vote, a person must be:

- a U.S. citizen;
- An Arkansas resident;
- Submit or mail voter registration application at least 30 days (if mailed, postmarked) before the first election in which the person will vote;
- Be age 18 by Election Day;
- Not be presently declared mentally incompetent as to their ability to vote by a court of competent jurisdiction; and
- Not be subject to imprisonment, probation, or parole, following a *felony* conviction (all fees, costs, and restitution must also be paid). A misdemeanor conviction does not impact voter

eligibility. See [Questions 12 and 13](#) for specifics on whether people with a criminal conviction or people currently incarcerated are eligible to vote.¹

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party's primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?

Arkansas has an "open primary," meaning voters do not have to register with a political party in order to vote. Therefore, if a voter is eligible to vote (per [Question 1](#)) and registered to vote (per [Questions 3 and 4](#)), that voter may vote in a primary election. The voter may choose in which party's primary they wish to vote, however, if there is a run-off election, a voter may only participate in the run-off if they voted in that party's primary.²

Note that for purposes of distributing the correct ballot, a poll worker may ask which primary the voter would like to participate in. This does not constitute declaring party membership.

3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?

Arkansas residents are not automatically registered to vote. A person can determine whether they are registered to vote by checking the Arkansas Secretary of State's "[Voter View](#)" website.

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

A person can register to vote by mail or in person – **there is no online registration.**³

The voter registration form may be printed from the Arkansas Secretary of State's website [ARKANSAS VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION](#). A Spanish language version of the form is also available: [SOLICITUD DE INSCRIPCIÓN COMO VOTANTE EN ARKANSAS](#).

The voter may also request an application online to be sent by mail by clicking on this link to the Arkansas Secretary of State website: [Request the Arkansas voter registration application form](#). In-person registration can be done at the voter's local County Clerk's office, the DMV (AR ODS), a public library or Arkansas State library, disability agencies, military recruitment or National Guard offices, and at local registration drives.

Contact information for each County Clerk can be found at the [Association of Arkansas Counties](#), or by calling the Secretary of State Elections Division at 501-682-5070 or toll free at 1-800-482-1127.⁴

Note: Submitting a voter application does NOT guarantee a voter's registration. The voter should follow up on the status of the registration (per [Question 3](#)). A voter is not considered registered until receiving an acknowledgment of the registration from the County Clerk. Unfortunately, each Election Day, many

¹[https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/;https://www.acluarkansas.org/sites/default/files/voting_after_a_criminal_conviction_trifold.pdf](https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/); Ark. Code. Ann. § 7-5-201.

² Ark. Code. Ann. §§ 7-1-103(a)(18)(B); 7-7-308.

³ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information>.

⁴ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/about-the-office/contact-us/>.

would-be-first-time voters in Arkansas do not have their votes counted because they failed to follow up when they did not receive a voter ID card.⁵

5. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

If registering by mail, the voter must include either the voter’s driver’s license number or the last 4 digits of their Social Security number. If the voter does not have a driver’s license number or a Social Security number, the voter must check the appropriate box in box #9 to indicate that they do not possess either a driver’s license or Social Security number. In addition, applicants must submit ONE of the following: 1) a current and valid Photo ID; or 2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck that show the applicant’s name and address, OR another government document that shows the applicant’s name and address.⁶ Failure to include one of the proceeding forms of identification will result in the newly registered voter being required to vote by provisional ballot, unless they present the missing ID at the polling place when they go to vote.⁷

6. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?

Voters must submit their voter registration application no later than thirty (30) days before the date of the election in which they intend to vote.⁸ Likewise, registration applications submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than thirty (30) days before the date of the election.⁹

The deadline to register to vote in the general election (held on November 5, 2024) is Monday, October 7, 2024. Voters registering by mail must ensure the registration is postmarked by Monday, October 7, 2024.¹⁰

7. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

No, Arkansas does not have same-day registration. See registration deadlines in [Question #6](#).

8. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?

The answer to this question depends on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county. Refer to the table below.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)	Moved from a different state
The voter should vote at the polling place associated	If the voter has not updated their address within the county, they	If the voter moves across county lines, the voter is required to	The voter cannot vote without registering to vote according to the

⁵ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-faqs>.

⁶ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/ArkansasVoterRegistrationApplication.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information>; <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/ArkansasVoterRegistrationApplication.pdf>.

⁸ Ark. Const. Amend. 51, § 9(b); Ark. Code. Ann. § 7-5-201(a).

⁹ Ark. Const. Amend. 51, § 9(c)(3)(A).

¹⁰ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information> ; Ark. Code Ann. 7-1-108

<p>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:</p> <p>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.¹¹</p>	<p>will be able to cast a regular ballot at the polling place associated with the new address.</p> <p>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.¹²</p> <p>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.¹³</p>	<p>transfer their voter registration to the new county. The voter is required to submit a voter registration application checking the box for "this is an address change" 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.¹⁴</p> <p>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.¹⁵</p>	<p>process described above and by the registration deadline</p> <p>General election: Sunday, October 6, 2024).</p>
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The County Clerk listing can be found on the Arkansas Association of Counties website: [Association of Arkansas Counties](#).

¹¹ Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners, Rules on Provisional Voting, § 902; <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/voting-in-arkansas>; https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/2020_Ark_Voter_Rights.pdf.

¹² Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-306; https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/2020_Ark_Voter_Rights.pdf.

¹³ Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners, Rules on Provisional Voting, § 902; <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/voting-in-arkansas>; https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/2020_Ark_Voter_Rights.pdf.

¹⁴ Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners, Rules on Provisional Voting, § 902; Ark. Const. Amendment 51, §10; https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/2020_Ark_Voter_Rights.pdf.

¹⁵ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/frequently-asked-questions/36>

9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?

A voter may vote by requesting an absentee ballot. The application for absentee ballot can be found here: [ARKANSAS APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT](#). Additional information concerning absentee voting can be found through the Arkansas Secretary of State's website at [Arkansas absentee voting information](#), and below in [Questions #49 through 64](#).

10. **STUDENT:** I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

A student can establish residency and vote in Arkansas if they intend to remain at their Arkansas school address for the time being and do not intend to return to reside at their prior home. If the student plans to reside in their prior place of residence after college, the student should register and vote at their prior residence.¹⁶

11. **LIVING ABROAD:** I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

A U.S. citizen whose residence is in Arkansas who is temporarily living outside the territorial limits of the United States can vote by absentee ballot.¹⁷

Military members and Arkansas residents temporarily living abroad can register by mail, online by using the Military and Overseas Voter Request Form on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website [Federal Voting Assistance Arkansas](#), or via a Federal Post Card Application (which registers a military member to vote and requests an absentee ballot at the same time, available at: [Standard Form 76, "Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)"](#)). Military members may also have a copy of the form mailed to them by calling the Federal Voting Assistance Program at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683).¹⁸

The voter must still register thirty (30) days prior to the election in which the voter wants to vote. See [Question 6](#) for applicable dates.

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act ("UOCAVA") voters may request that an absentee ballot be sent by mail or by electronic means. The ballot delivery system called Ballot Safe will allow eligible active-duty military and overseas voters to receive their absentee ballot through a secure online website. After a qualified voter has requested an absentee ballot, the voter will receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to log into the secure site. The voter will download the ballot and other necessary documents, such as a Voter Statement, instructions, and envelope templates. After marking the ballot before the polls close in Arkansas on election day, the voter will mail it back to their County Clerk. Ballots from UOCAVA voters must be received no later than ten (10) days after the election and must be postmarked by election day. After the ballot is mailed, the voter can check back on the secure site to track the status of the ballot and confirm when it has been received by their County Clerk.¹⁹

Additional information for Military and Overseas Citizens can be found here: [Military and Overseas Citizens](#) or [FVAP.gov](#).

¹⁶ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-201(b)(6); <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-faqs/>

¹⁷ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/absentee-voting>

¹⁸ <https://www.fvap.gov/info/contact>

¹⁹ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/military-and-overseas-citizens>

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?

- If the conviction is a misdemeanor, the person may register to vote.
- If the charges are pending (e.g. the person has not been convicted), the person may register to vote.
- If the person is convicted of a felony, he or she may not vote until he or she is no longer incarcerated, has been discharged from any probation or parole, *and* has paid all fees, fines, and restitution related to the voter's conviction.

Voters can obtain more details, including information on how to have voting rights restored after a felony conviction at: [Restore Your Vote: I have a felony conviction. Can I vote? | Campaign Legal Center](#) and [VOTING AFTER A CRIMINAL CONVICTION | ACLU of Arkansas](#).

13. INCARCERATED: I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?

A person may register to vote if he or she is in pre-trial custody. A person may also register to vote if he or she is incarcerated for a misdemeanor conviction. If a person is currently incarcerated for a felony conviction, he or she may not register to vote. For more information see: [VOTING AFTER A CRIMINAL CONVICTION | ACLU of Arkansas](#).

A person who is awaiting trial or has been convicted of a misdemeanor can vote from jail by mailing an absentee ballot.²⁰ See [Questions #49-64](#) for more information on absentee voting.

14. REGISTRATION CHALLENGED: My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

If a person's registration is challenged, he or she has the right to cast a provisional ballot that will be set aside by the election officials in a special envelope until the election commission determines whether the ballot may be counted.²¹

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. HOURS: When do the polls open/close on Election Day?

The polls must be open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Central Time on Election Day, or until the last person in line by 7:30 p.m. has voted.²²

16. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

²⁰ <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/voting-rights-restoration/arkansas>; see also <https://www.vipvoter.org/howtovote/prison-and-voting>.

²¹ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/voting-in-arkansas>

²² Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-304(a).

A voter can determine the voter's proper polling place by checking the "[Voter View](#)" website. If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Questions #8 and 9](#).

Even if the voter has not moved, their polling place may have changed. Voters should be advised to check the polling place listed on the state's Voter View webpage and also to watch for a Voter Notification Card from the clerk in the event of changes.

17. TIME OFF WORK: Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?

State law requires employers to schedule their employees' work hours on Election Day so that each employee has the opportunity to vote.²³

18. CLOSING: What if the polls close when I am already in line? ?

A voter waiting in line at the polling place by 7:30 p.m. must be allowed to vote.²⁴

19. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote?

A voter must provide identification to vote on Election Day.²⁵ Acceptable forms of ID include:²⁶ an Arkansas driver's license²⁷; a photo identification card; a concealed handgun carry license; a United States passport; an employee badge or identification document issued by the state or an accredited postsecondary education institution in the State of Arkansas; a United States military identification document; a U.S. or Arkansas issued public assistance identification card if the card shows a photograph of the person to whom the document or identification card was issued; a voter ID card issued by an County Clerk in Arkansas.²⁸

A voter may use an expired ID if the document expired within four years of Election Day.²⁹

If a voter is unable to provide ID at the polling place, the voter will be able to vote a provisional ballot.³⁰ If the voter voted provisionally because they did not have the requisite identification, they must go to the county board of election commissioners by 12 noon Central Time the Monday following Election Day with the requisite identification.³¹

²³ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-102.

²⁴ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-304(b).

²⁵ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/voting-in-arkansas>.

²⁶ The requirements for an ID to be used to verify registration are: 1) shows the name of the person to whom the document or identification card was issued; 2) shows a photograph of the person to whom the document or identification card was issued; 2) is issued by the United States, the State of Arkansas, or an accredited postsecondary educational institution in the State of Arkansas; and 4) If displaying an expiration date, is not expired or expired no more than four (4) years before the date of the election in which the voter seeks to vote. Ark. Admin. Code 108.00.8-801; Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 13(b)(1)(A). [Note that the copy of the AR Constitution found at law.justia.com is not correct, use the lexis.com version accessible for free from <https://arcourts.gov/courts/supreme-court/library/constitutions>]

²⁷ Ark. Const. Amend. 51 § 13(b)(1)(A)(c)

²⁸ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information>

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.*

20. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?

Yes, provisionally, but the voter must present proper identification at the county board of election commissioners by 12 noon Central Time the Monday following Election Day.³²

21. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

You may cast a provisional ballot, but if you are not registered and in the right polling place, it will not be counted. The voter has the right to cast a provisional ballot that will be set aside by election officials in a special envelope until the election commission determines whether the ballot may be counted.³³ If a voter casts a provisional ballot, a poll worker will hand the voter a notice that provides the date for a hearing for the voter if the county board of election commissioners rejects the provisional ballot, as well as other procedural information regarding provisional ballots.³⁴

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter’s name is not appearing 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 here: ([Voter View](#)).
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. ([Voter View](#)). (see [Question 8](#))
- 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. ([Voter View](#)).
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the 30-day deadline?
- A voter history report can be requested from the County Clerk.

22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?

The voter’s ballot will be placed into a special envelope and set aside. Election officials will review the circumstances and determine if the voter is eligible to vote. If the voter is eligible, the ballot will be counted.

23. REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I can’t vote, can I vote provisionally?

Yes, if the voter registered to vote but their name does not appear on the precinct voter registration list, or if he or she is unable to comply with identification requirements, the voter has the right to cast a

³² *Id.*; Ark. Code Ann § 7-5-308

³³ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/voting-in-arkansas>

³⁴ State of Arkansas Training Guide and Checklist for Poll Workers, 2024 Edition, https://static.ark.org/eeuploads/elections/2024_Poll_Worker_Guide_FINAL_11-3.pdf at pg. 40. The notice: 1) explains the provisional voting process, 2) informs the voter that they will be notified by first class mail whether their ballot was counted, 3) provides the date for a hearing for the voter if the county election commission rejects the provisional ballot, 3) contains the address, telephone number and regular office hours of the county clerk, and 4) includes an explanation of how a voter who cast a provisional ballot because the voter failed to verify their voter registration can return to the clerk or the county board to verify their voter registration before Monday at noon following the election

Provisional Ballot after signing an affirmation that he or she is a registered voter in the county is eligible to vote in that election.³⁵

24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

The voter has a right to be informed in writing of whether or not their ballot was counted and, if not, the reason it was not counted.³⁶ If the person voted provisionally because they did not have the requisite identification, they must go to the county board of election commissioners by 12 noon Central Time the Monday following Election Day with the requisite identification.³⁷

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING **(in this state defined as: early voting)**

25. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

Yes, see [Question #27](#) below for additional details.

26. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

No, anyone can vote early for any reason.

27. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

Early voting begins 15 days before the election and is available from 8am–6pm Monday to Friday, and 10am-4pm on Saturday. Early voting ends at 5pm on the Monday before the election. In most counties, early voting is conducted at the County Clerk’s office. In counties with off-site early voting (a location other than the County Clerk’s office), local newspapers will publish the designated sites.³⁸

28. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

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. Early voting locations can also be found by searching on the state’s webpage at <https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/>

³⁵ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/voting-in-arkansas>.

³⁶ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/voting-in-arkansas>; https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/2020_Ark_Voter_Rights.pdf.

³⁷ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information>.

³⁸ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/voting-in-arkansas>

The location of all Arkansas County Clerks' offices and their contact information can be found on the [Association of Arkansas Counties](#) website, or through the Arkansas Secretary of State's website at [AR County Clerks](#).

29. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?

The same identification rules apply to voting early as apply to voting on Election Day. See [Question 19](#) for additional details.

30. ASSISTANCE: What if I need assistance voting early in person?

Each county varies, but information regarding accessible voting in Arkansas is available at [Accessible Voting - Arkansas](#).

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL **(in this state defined as: absentee voting by mail)**

A mail-in ballot refers to ballots sent through the mail, which includes absentee ballots. Arkansas refers to all mail-in ballots as absentee ballots. An absentee/mail-in ballot is a ballot cast by a voter who cannot be physically present at a voting center on Election Day.

31. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT: Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

No, voters in Arkansas will not be automatically mailed an absentee ballot.

32. ELIGIBILITY: Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

See [Question #49](#) for more information regarding absentee voting.

33. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

See [Question #50](#) for more information regarding absentee voting.

34. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE: Can someone assist me with filling out the application?

See [Question #53](#) for more information regarding assistance with absentee voting.

35. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

See [Question #53](#) for more information regarding absentee voting.

36. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?

See [Question #51](#) for more information regarding absentee voting.

37. **RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT:** Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

The ballot will be sent to the address that the voter stipulates in the absentee ballot application form. Overseas voters can receive their ballot by email.³⁹ The absentee ballot application is available here:

[ARKANSAS APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT.](#)

38. **MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

See [Questions #50](#) and [#52](#) for more information regarding deadlines for absentee voting.

39. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?

Voters can check the status of their ballot application and/or mail-in ballot on the Arkansas [Voter View](#) website/

40. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

There is no standard method to contest an application or ballot rejection of a mail-in voter. The voter should contact their local County Clerk, ([AR County Clerks](#)) as soon as possible, or the Arkansas Secretary of State's office if the County Clerk is not responsive. The deadline to fix any ballot issues is by noon Central on the Monday after Election Day unless the county's published notice of election or any notice provided to the voter provides for an earlier hearing.⁴⁰

41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

See [Question #56](#).

42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

³⁹ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/military-and-overseas-citizens>

⁴⁰ County Board of Election Commissioners Procedures Manual, 2024 Edition, https://static.ark.org/eeuploads/elections/2024_CBEC_Manual_FINAL.pdf at pg. 76-77. Technically, noon Central on the following Monday appears to be only the deadline for providing any missing required identification. It is possible the notice provided to the voter may specify a later hearing. To err on the safe side, advise voters to fix any issues by noon Central on the following Monday even if a later hearing is specified.

See [Question #57](#).

43. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?

See [Question #58](#).

44. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** What are the locations for dropping off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

See [Question #59](#).

45. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

See [Question #60](#).

46. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

See [Question #61](#).

47. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

See [Question #62](#).

48. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

See [Question #63](#).

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE **(in this state defined as: absentee voting)**

49. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

Voters may vote by 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;
- Unable to attend the polls due to observance of a religious discipline or religious holiday during the entire twelve (12) hours that the polls are open on election day;

- Are a member of the Uniformed Services, a merchant marine, or the spouse or a dependent family member of one of the foregoing 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.⁴¹

50. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

The application deadline depends on the method of delivery.

- **By Mail or by Electronic Means:** by 7 days before the election;
- **In Person:** by close of business the Friday BEFORE the election;
- **By Designated Bearer or Administrator:** by close of business the Friday BEFORE the election;
 - (Designated Bearer is anyone the voter chooses to pick up and/or deliver the application or ballot);
- **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 this state 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 the election day at their regular polling site.⁴²
 -

51. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

When returning an absentee ballot, the voter must provide a copy of an acceptable form of ID.⁴³ See [Question 19](#).

Acceptable forms of ID include: an Arkansas driver's license; a photo identification card; a concealed handgun carry license; a United States passport; an employee badge or identification document issued by the state or an accredited postsecondary education institution in the State of Arkansas; a United States military identification document; a U.S. or Arkansas issued public assistance identification card if the card shows a photograph of the person to whom the document or identification card was issued; a voter ID card issued by an County Clerk in Arkansas.⁴⁴

A voter may use an expired ID if the document expired within four years of Election Day.⁴⁵

52. EMERGENCY: Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

A voter may submit an application for an absentee ballot up until 1:30 p.m. Central Time on election day if the applicant is in a hospital or nursing home and is unable to vote on election day at the regular polling place). However, the authorized agent who submits the application must file with the County

⁴¹ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-402; see also <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/absentee-voting>; <https://www.arkansas.gov/sbec/election-information/absentee-voting/>.

⁴² <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/absentee-voting> https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/Absentee_Ballot_Application_rev_8-2023_.pdf

⁴³ <https://www.washingtoncountyar.gov/government/departments-a-e/election-commission/new-voter-id-law/voter-id-breakdown-absentee-voting>; <https://www.acluarkansas.org/en/know-your-rights/know-your-rights-voting-arkansas>.

⁴⁴ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information>; Ark. Admin. Code 108.00.8-801.

⁴⁵ *Id.*

Clerk an affidavit from the administrative head of a hospital or nursing home located in this state 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 the election day at their regular polling site.

⁴⁶

53. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

The mail-in ballot application must be returned to the County Clerk in the county where a voter is registered to vote.⁴⁷ The voter can return the application via mail, fax, email, hand delivery, or by “designated bearer,”⁴⁸ e.g., a person the voter chooses to pick up and/or deliver a voter’s ballot application or ballot.⁴⁹ A designated bearer must sign Section 5 of the application⁵⁰ and may only transmit absentee ballots for no more than two (2) voters per election.⁵¹

Yes, someone can assist. The application asks whether the applicant was assisted in filling out the application and has a section for the name, signature, and residential address of the person providing assistance. Anyone providing assistance in filling out the absentee ballot application is required to provide their name, address, and signature on the application.⁵²

See [Question #50](#) for absentee application deadlines.

54. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?

Voters can check the status of their ballot application and/or mail-in ballot at [Voter View](#).

55. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

There is no standard method to contest an application or ballot rejection of a mail-in voter. The voter should contact their local County Clerk, ([AR County Clerks](#)) as soon as possible, or the Arkansas Secretary of State’s office if the County Clerk is not responsive. The deadline to fix any ballot issues is by noon Central Time on the Monday after Election Day unless the county’s published notice of election or any notice provided to the voter provides for an earlier hearing.⁵³

For additional help, a voter can contact the ACLU of Arkansas at: [Get Help](#).

⁴⁶ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/absentee-voting>

⁴⁷ https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/Absentee_Ballot_Application_rev_8-2023_.pdf

⁴⁸ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/frequently-asked-questions/67> (SOS guidance regarding designated bearers)

⁴⁹ *Id.*; <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/absentee-voting>

⁵⁰ https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/Absentee_Ballot_Application_rev_8-2023_.pdf;

https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/How_to_Complete_the_Absentee_Ballot_Application.pdf

⁵¹ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-403(a).

⁵² Ark. Code Ann. 7-5-404(a)(1)(D)

⁵³ County Board of Election Commissioners Procedures Manual, 2024 Edition,

https://static.ark.org/eeuploads/elections/2024_CBEC_Manual_FINAL.pdf at pg. 76-77 . Technically, noon Central on the following Monday appears to be only the deadline for providing any missing required identification. It is possible the published notice of election or notice provided to a voter may specify a later hearing. To err on the safe side, advise voters to fix any issues by noon Central on the following Monday even if a later hearing is specified.

56. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot?

Once a voter receives their ballot, the voter should carefully read the instructions and complete the ballot. The voter must provide a copy of an acceptable form of ID with their absentee ballot (see [Questions #51](#) and [#19](#) for identification requirements). Sign and date where indicated, and return the ballot to the County Clerk's office.⁵⁴ The voter may also have a designated bearer (anyone) or administrator (if the voter is in a hospital, nursing home or long-term care facility) return the ballot for them by the respective deadlines (see [Question #58](#) for deadlines.)

57. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

Voters may name one person to assist them in filling out the ballot. The person assisting the voter may assist in marking and casting the ballot according to the wishes of the voter. Voters 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). The person assisting may not comment on or interpret the ballot for the voter.⁵⁵

Note that no person other than a poll worker, the County Clerk during early voting, or a Deputy County Clerk during early voting is allowed to assist more than six (6) voters in marking and casting a ballot at an election.⁵⁶ However, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas ruled in 2022 that this provision of Arkansas law is preempted by federal law, and the state is permanently enjoined from enforcing the six voter assistance limit.⁵⁷

58. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

The deadline for returning the completed ballot depends on whether the ballot is being delivered in person or by mail. Voters cannot fax or email a ballot.

- **In Person:** by close of business the Friday BEFORE the election.
- **By Designated Bearer:** by close of business the Friday BEFORE the election.
- **By Mail:** received at clerk's office by 7:30 p.m. ON election day.
- **By Authorized Agent:** by 7:30 p.m. ON election day.
- **Overseas voters** must vote their ballot by Election Day, and it must be received by their county clerk by 5:00p.m. 10 days after the election.⁵⁸

59. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

⁵⁴ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/absentee-voting>

⁵⁵ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b)

⁵⁶ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b)(4)(B).

⁵⁷ *Ark. United v. Thurston*, 626 F. Supp. 3d 1064 (W.D. Ark. 2022). The decision is currently on appeal at the 8th Circuit, Docket No. 22-2918. The District Court specifically found that § 7-5-310(b)(4)(B) is preempted by § 208 of the Voting Rights Act, which reads "Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union."

⁵⁸ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/absentee-voting>

Ballots must be dropped off at the County Clerk’s office⁵⁹ (location information here - [AR County Clerks](#) and [Association of Arkansas Counties](#)).

60. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

Yes, if, on the mail-in/absentee ballot application, the voter selected a designated bearer, or if the voter is in a hospital, nursing home or long-term care facility, the voter may have their authorized agent or administrator drop off the ballot for them.⁶⁰

61. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

The voter should contact their local County Clerk, (information found here: [AR County Clerks](#) or [Association of Arkansas Counties](#)).

62. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

The voter should contact their local County Clerk (information found here: [AR County Clerks](#) or [Association of Arkansas Counties](#)). Alternatively, the voter may cast a **provisional ballot** in person.⁶¹

63. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

As long as the voter does not submit an absentee ballot, the voter can cast a **provisional ballot** in person.⁶²

64. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

As long as the voter does not submit an absentee ballot, the voter can cast a **provisional ballot** in person.⁶³

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

65. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What should I do?

The voter should immediately contact their local County Clerk, or the Arkansas Secretary of State’s office. Contact information for local County Clerks can be found at [Association of Arkansas Counties](#) or [AR County Clerks](#)

The voter may contact the Secretary of State’s Elections Division by calling 501-682-5070 or toll free at 1-800-482-1127 or by e-mail at electionsemail@sos.arkansas.gov

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-403(a)

⁶¹ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-411(b).

⁶² *Id.*

⁶³ *Id.*

66. **LONG LINES:** There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

Ask if the poll workers know (or can find out) what is causing the long lines. Often, long lines are a symptom of another problem that needs addressing.

At poll closing time, stay in line! A voter waiting in line at the polling place by 7:30 p.m. Central Time must be allowed to vote.⁶⁴

67. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

The voter should immediately contact their local County Clerk, or the Arkansas Secretary of State's office. Contact information for local County Clerks can be found at [Association of Arkansas Counties](#) or [AR County Clerks](#).

Contact the Elections Division by calling 501-682-5070 or toll free at 1-800-482-1127 or by e-mail at electionsemail@sos.arkansas.gov.

68. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? 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.⁶⁵ Electioneering is defined as "the display of or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any candidate, issue, or measure on a ballot."⁶⁶

Electioneering includes, but is not limited to:

- Handing out, distributing, or offering to hand out or distribute campaign literature or literature regarding a candidate, issue, or measure on the ballot;
- Soliciting signatures on a petition;
- Soliciting contributions for a charitable or other purpose;
- Displaying a candidate's name, likeness, or logo;
- Displaying a ballot measure's number, title, subject, or logo;
- Displaying or dissemination of buttons, hats, pencils, pens, shirts, signs, or stickers containing electioneering information; and
- Disseminating audible electioneering information.

69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

In addition to conduct that is prohibited in other public places, people may not, among other things:

- Take or carry any ballot obtained from any election official outside of the polling room;
- Participate in electioneering at a polling place;
- Place a bet or wager on the election; or

⁶⁴ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-304(b).

⁶⁵ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-103 (a)(8)(B)

⁶⁶ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-103(a)(8)(C)(i).

- Interfere with election officials.⁶⁷

Election officials have been quoted as saying that the prohibition against electioneering forbids voters from wearing clothing to the polls that reflects any of the topics listed in [Question #68](#).⁶⁸

Note that Arkansas forbids any person from entering or staying within the area within 100 ft of the primary exterior entrance of the polling place except for someone entering or leaving the building for lawful purposes.⁶⁹ This is understood to prevent volunteers from distributing food and water.

70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

Poll workers are prohibited from electioneering at polling places. See [Question #68](#) for details regarding electioneering.

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

It is a federal crime to “intimidate, threaten, coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of such other person to vote or to vote as he may choose, or of causing such other person to vote for, or not to vote for, any candidate for” federal office.⁷⁰ If a voter is intimidated, he or she can report the issue to the poll captain or judge at the polling place.⁷¹ The voter can also contact their local county clerk, or the Arkansas Secretary of State’s office. Contact information for local County Clerks can be found at [Association of Arkansas Counties](#) and [AR County Clerks](#).

Contact the Elections Division by calling 501-682-5070 or toll free at 1-800-482-1127 or by e-mail at electionsemail@sos.arkansas.gov.

72. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

Poll watchers 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.⁷²

73. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?

⁶⁷ See Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-103(a)(8)(B), (a)(13), (a)(19)(G), (a)(20).

⁶⁸ <https://www.fourstateshomepage.com/news/no-political-clothing-allowed-at-polls-in-arkansas/>.

⁶⁹ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-103(a)(23).

⁷⁰ 52 U.S.C 10101 (b).

⁷¹ <https://www.acluarkansas.org/en/voting-rights>.

⁷² <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/voting-in-arkansas>.

Police are allowed inside the polling place, but are subject to the same harassment and intimidation rules as anyone else.⁷³

74. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?

If a voter's registration status cannot be verified, for whatever reason, they have the right to cast a **provisional ballot**.⁷⁴ Note, if the voter voted provisionally because they did not have the requisite identification, they must go to the county board of election commissioners by 12 noon Central Time the Monday following Election Day with the requisite identification.⁷⁵

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter's name is not appearing 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. ([Voter View](#)).
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. ([Voter View](#)).
- 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. ([Voter View](#)).
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?
- A voter history report can be requested from the County Clerk.

75. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

See info in the [How to Vote: Election Day](#) Section.

A voter should only be offered a provisional ballot 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 does not provide either a current and valid photo ID **or** a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government document showing name and address;
- A voter does not present photo ID as required by law or the voter has a "MUST SHOW ID" notation in the Precinct Voter Registration List and that voter failed to provide a photo ID or the voter provides an ID that a poll worker believes does 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. Central when the polls were supposed to close.⁷⁶

⁷³ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(a)(3).

⁷⁴ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information/voting-in-arkansas>.

⁷⁵ <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/voter-registration-information>

⁷⁶ Ark. Code Ann. §§ 7-5-308, 7-5-304(c); State of Arkansas Training Guide and Checklist for Poll Workers, 2024 Edition, https://static.ark.org/eeuploads/elections/2024_Poll_Worker_Guide_FINAL_11-3.pdf at pg. 40.

“MUST SHOW ID” voters, called “flagged” voters, are usually first-time voters that did not provide a copy of their ID with their registration.

All voters at the polls must show photo ID. However, non-first time voters may use photo ID that has been expired for up to four years. “Flagged” voters must show current photo ID, or expired ID and additional ID (such as a utility bill or bank statement) ((see [Questions #19](#) and [#51](#) for more information on ID) or vote provisionally. Non-first time voters that provide photo ID that has been expired for four years or more must show additional ID, or vote provisionally.⁷⁷

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.

Voters who cast provisional ballots due to lack of proper ID must return with the required ID to their County Clerk by 12:00 noon on the Monday following the election. The provisional ballot will then be counted if the County Board of Election Commissioners determines that the voter was authorized to cast the ballot.

A voter may be able to cure any deficiency that required them to vote a provisional ballot by attending a hearing. The date, time, and address of this hearing 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. The voter should bring evidence showing why the ballot should be counted (depending on the reason they were asked to vote provisionally).⁷⁸

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 proof of identity and address to the clerk or the county board to verify their voter registration before Monday at noon following the election.⁷⁹

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

76. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Yes, if a voter experiences problems or questions about a machine, they should summon a poll worker for help. Voters are also allowed to bring one person of their choosing to assist them with completing their ballot.⁸⁰ Note that no person other than a poll worker, the County Clerk during early voting, or a Deputy County Clerk during early voting is allowed to assist more than six (6) voters in marking and casting a ballot at an election.⁸¹ However, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas

⁷⁷ Ark. Code Ann. §§ 7-5-308, 7-5-304(c); State of Arkansas Training Guide and Checklist for Poll Workers, 2024 Edition, https://static.ark.org/eeuploads/elections/2024_Poll_Worker_Guide_FINAL_11-3.pdf at pg. 26.

⁷⁸ Ark. Code Ann. §§ 7-5-308; State of Arkansas Training Guide and Checklist for Poll Workers, 2024 Edition, https://static.ark.org/eeuploads/elections/2024_Poll_Worker_Guide_FINAL_11-3.pdf at pg. 47.

⁷⁹ Ark. Code Ann. §§ 7-5-308; State of Arkansas Training Guide and Checklist for Poll Workers, 2024 Edition, https://static.ark.org/eeuploads/elections/2024_Poll_Worker_Guide_FINAL_11-3.pdf at pg. 40.

⁸⁰ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b)(2)(B).

⁸¹ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b)(4)(C).

ruled in 2022 that this provision of Arkansas law is preempted by federal law, and the state is permanently enjoined from enforcing the six voter assistance limit.⁸²

⁸² *Ark. United v. Thurston*, 626 F. Supp. 3d 1064 (W.D. Ark. 2022). The decision is currently on appeal at the 8th Circuit, Docket No. 22-2918. The District Court specifically found that § 7-5-310(b)(4)(B) is preempted by § 208 of the Voting Rights Act, which reads “Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter’s choice, other than the voter’s employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter’s union.”

77. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

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. Voters can also call Disability Rights of Arkansas 800-482-1174 to get more information about accessible voting. Additional information and tutorials for accessible voting machines are available at [Accessible Voting - Arkansas](#).

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 wait at the polling site.⁸³

Voters are also allowed one person of their choosing to assist them with completing their ballot.⁸⁴ Voters 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.⁸⁵

Note that no person other than a poll worker, the County Clerk during early voting, or a Deputy County Clerk during early voting is allowed to assist more than six (6) voters in marking and casting a ballot at an election.⁸⁶ However, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas ruled in 2022 that this provision of Arkansas law is preempted by federal law, and the state is permanently enjoined from enforcing the six voter assistance limit.⁸⁷

⁸³ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(c).

⁸⁴ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b)(3).

⁸⁵ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b)(4).

⁸⁶ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b)(4)(B).

⁸⁷ *Ark. United v. Thurston*, 626 F. Supp. 3d 1064 (W.D. Ark. 2022). The decision is currently on appeal at the 8th Circuit, Docket No. 22-2918. The District Court specifically found that § 7-5-310(b)(4)(B) is preempted by § 208 of the Voting Rights Act, which reads “Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter’s choice, other than the voter’s employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter’s union.”

People with disabilities can also vote by absentee ballot. See [Questions #49–64](#) for more information.

78. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. Every person has the right to receive help voting from a person of their choice.⁸⁸ 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.⁸⁹

Note that no person other than a poll worker, the County Clerk during early voting, or a Deputy County Clerk during early voting is allowed to assist more than six (6) voters in marking and casting a ballot at an election.⁹⁰ However, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas ruled in 2022 that this provision of Arkansas law is preempted by federal law, and the state is permanently enjoined from enforcing the six voter assistance limit.⁹¹

⁸⁸ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b).

⁸⁹ Ark. Code Ann. §§ 7-5-310(b)(3), (b)(4)(A)(i).

⁹⁰ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b)(4)(B).

⁹¹ *Ark. United v. Thurston*, 626 F. Supp. 3d 1064 (W.D. Ark. 2022). The decision is currently on appeal at the 8th Circuit, Docket No. 22-2918. The District Court specifically found that § 7-5-310(b)(4)(B) is preempted by § 208 of the Voting Rights Act, which reads “Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter’s choice, other than the voter’s employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter’s union.”

79. LANGUAGE ACCESS: I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Any voter, regardless of whether they are able to read, write, or speak English, has the right to receive help voting from a person of their choice. Anyone assisting the voter must do so according to the wishes of the voter without comment or interpretation.⁹² Interpretation in this case does not mean “translation,” the right to bring a translator is protected under federal law.⁹³

Under Arkansas law, no person other than a poll worker, the County Clerk during early voting, or a Deputy County Clerk during early voting is allowed to assist more than six (6) voters in marking and casting a ballot at an election.⁹⁴ However, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas ruled in 2022 that this provision of Arkansas law is preempted by federal law, and the state is permanently enjoined from enforcing the six voter assistance limit.⁹⁵

⁹² Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b).

⁹³ See, e.g., <https://www.justice.gov/crt/cases-raising-claims-under-section-208-voting-rights-act>.

⁹⁴ Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310(b)(4)(B).

⁹⁵ *Ark. United v. Thurston*, 626 F. Supp. 3d 1064 (W.D. Ark. 2022). The decision is currently on appeal at the 8th Circuit, Docket No. 22-2918. The District Court specifically found that § 7-5-310(b)(4)(B) is preempted by § 208 of the Voting Rights Act, which reads “Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter’s choice, other than the voter’s employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter’s union.”

80. CURBSIDE VOTING: Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

Arkansas does not offer curbside voting and has not announced any plans to implement such a program ahead of Election Day.

81. VOTER GUIDE: Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

Yes, voters may bring a voting guide or reference notes into the voting booth to be used as a voting aid, as long as the reference guides are not displayed or distributed.⁹⁶ Voters should not share these materials with anyone else in the polling place (as this would violate electioneering laws).

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. QUESTIONS: Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

Voters should contact their local County Clerk's office, the Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners, or the Arkansas Secretary of State's office.

Contact information or local County Clerks can be found at [Association of Arkansas Counties](#) or [AR County Clerks](#)

Contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division by calling 501-682-5070 or toll free at 1-800-482-1127 or by e-mail at electionsemail@sos.arkansas.gov.

⁹⁶ "Know Your Rights," ACLU (https://www.acluarkansas.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/arkansas_voting_rights_guide.pdf). The statutes, regulations and official manuals do not prohibit voters from bringing sample ballots, guides or notes into the voting booth. Electioneering laws only prohibit dissemination of materials, so as long as the voter does not share information with others in the polling place, simply bringing materials into the booth does not fall within the electioneering prohibition. Oral advice from SBEC on July 26, 2022, confirms that voters may bring materials into the voting booth.