

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS PROCEDURES MANUAL



Prepared and Provided by the:
State Board of Election Commissioners
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(2024 Edition)

STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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Dear County Election Commissioners,

The State Board of Election Commissioners is pleased to provide you with this copy of our eleventh edition **County Board of Election Commissioners Procedures Manual** reflecting changes in election law enacted during the 2023 legislative session of the Arkansas General Assembly.

Because voting is at the core of our constitutional republic form of government, and knowledge is essential to the success of our elections, the State Board works diligently to provide resources to county election administrators to assist in implementing procedures that will ensure both fair and orderly elections for the citizens of our great state.

We recognize and appreciate the tremendous amount of time and effort expended by county election administrators to ensure successful elections. It is our hope that this manual will be of valuable assistance to both veteran Commissioners, who have conscientiously conducted elections throughout the years, and new Commissioners in fulfilling their legal responsibilities.

We are committed to supporting you throughout the upcoming election cycle and look forward to assisting you in any way possible. Please feel free to call upon us at any time.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Shults".

Daniel Shults
Director

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2024 ELECTION DATES

March 5, 2024	Preferential Primary Election & Nonpartisan General Election
April 2, 2024	General Primary (Runoff) Election
March 5, 2024 or November 5, 2024	Annual School Election
April 2, 2024 or December 3, 2024	School Runoff Election
November 5, 2024	General Election & Nonpartisan General Runoff Election
December 3, 2024	General Runoff Election

For a complete calendar of election-related dates and deadlines, you may contact the Elections Division of the Secretary of State’s Office at www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections.

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STATE CONTACTS

Contact the State Board of Election Commissioners for questions regarding election procedures generally, election complaints, election monitors, reimbursement of expenses for state-funded elections, and procedural training for county election commissioners and poll workers.

Contact the Office of the Secretary of State for questions regarding voter registration, candidate filing, petitions, tabulating election results, reporting and certification of election results, voting equipment, voting equipment training, and interpretation of election laws.

Please see below for helpful contact information.

State Board of Election Commissioners
 501 Woodlane, Suite 122 South
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 Office: (501) 682-1834 or (800) 411-6996
 Fax: (501) 682-1782
www.arkansas.gov/sbec
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 State Capitol, Room 026
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 Office: (501) 682-5070 or (800) 482-1127
 Fax: (501) 682-3408 or (501) 682-3548
www.sos.arkansas.gov
electionsemail@sos.arkansas.gov

Democratic Party of Arkansas
 1300 West Capitol Avenue
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 Office: (501) 374-2361
 Fax: (501) 376-8409
www.arkdems.org

Arkansas Ethics Commission
 501 Woodlane, Suite 301N
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 Office: (501) 324-9600 or (800) 422-7773
 Fax: (501) 324-9606
www.arkansasethics.com

U.S. Attorney - Eastern District of AR
 United States Attorney's Office
 425 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 500
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 Office: (501) 340-2600
 Fax: (501) 340-2725
www.justice.gov/usao

Republican Party of Arkansas
 1201 West Sixth Street
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 Office: (501) 372-7301
 Fax: (501) 372-1656
www.arkansasgop.org

Libertarian Party of Arkansas
 PO Box 46730
 Little Rock, AR 72214
 Office: (501) 396-9804
www.lpar.org

Attorney General's Office
 323 Center Street, Suite 200
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 Office: (501) 682-2007
 Fax: (501) 682-8084
www.arkansasag.gov

U.S. Attorney - Western District of AR
 United States Attorney's Office
 414 Parker Avenue
 Fort Smith, AR 72901
 Office: (479) 783-5125
 Fax: (479) 785-2442
www.justice.gov/usao

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Act - any act having general application throughout the state, whether originating in the General Assembly or proposed by the people. *[A.C.A. § 7-9-101(1)]*

Affidavit of eligibility - an affidavit signed by a candidate for elective office stating that the candidate is eligible to serve in the office he or she seeks. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101]*

Amendment - any proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution, whether proposed by the General Assembly under Article 19, § 22 or by the people under the provisions of Article 5, § 1 or Article 19, § 22. *[A.C.A. § 7-9-101(2)]*

Audit log - an electronically stored record of events and ballot images from which election officials may produce a permanent paper record with a manual audit capacity for a voting system using voting machines. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(3)]*

Ballot question - a question in the form of a statewide, county, municipal, or school district initiative or referendum which is submitted or intended to be submitted to a popular vote at an election, whether or not it qualifies for the ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-9-402(1)]*

Candidate - for the purpose of compliance with contribution and expenditure filing requirements, any individual who has knowingly and willingly taken affirmative action, including solicitation of funds, to seek nomination for or election to any public office. *[A.C.A. § 7-6-201(2)]*

Canvassing - examining and counting the returns of votes cast at a public election to determine authenticity. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(5)]*

Certificate of choice - a certificate, signed by an executive officer of a political group that submits a petition to place its candidates for President and Vice-President on the ballot, designating the names of its candidates to appear on the ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101]*

Constitutional officers of this state - the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, and Commissioner of State Lands. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101]*

Counting location - a location selected by the county board of election commissioners with respect to all elections for the automatic processing and/or counting of votes. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(8)]*

Election - the process in which qualified electors nominate or elect a candidate to public office for regular terms, or decide any measure or question submitted to a vote of the people. A preferential primary election, a general primary election, a general election, a general runoff election, a school election, school runoff election, and a special election each constitute a separate election. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-204; 7-6-201(7); 7-9-101(4); 7-9-117(c)(1); 14-42-119(b)(3)]*

Election Media - any device used in an election definition or to record votes cast with a direct record electronic machine or voting machine including, memory stick devices, and/or personal computer cards. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101(10)]*

Election official or election officer – a member of the county board of election commissioners, a person who performs election coordinator duties, a person who is a poll worker designated by a county board of election commissioners to be an election clerk, election judge, or election sheriff, or a deputy county clerk or a person assigned by a county clerk to conduct early voting. Election official also includes an election clerk designated by the county board to process, count, and canvass absentee ballots and a person designated to count ballots at a central counting location. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101(11); 7-5-414(a); 7-5-615]*

Electronic poll book – hardware or software or a combination of hardware and software that allows election officials to view voter registration records and voting information during an election at an early voting location or at a polling site on election day. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(12)]*

Electronic vote tabulating device – a device used to electronically scan a marked paper ballot for tabulation. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(13)]*

Fail-safe voting – the mechanism established under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 that allows a voter who has moved within the same county to vote at his or her new precinct without having updated his or her voter registration records. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(14); Amendment 51 § 13 of the Arkansas Constitution]*

First-time voter – any registered voter who has not previously voted in a federal election in the state. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(15)]*

General election – the regular biennial elections for election of United States, state, district, county, township, and municipal officials and to submit proposed amendments to the Arkansas Constitution or other measures or questions to a vote of the people. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101(16); 7-5-102; 7-5-204]*

HAVA – the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 that established the Election Assistance Commission to assist in the administration of federal elections and allocate federal funds to states for election administration improvements, including replacing punch card and lever voting machines, improving accessibility for disabled voters, implementing a statewide voter registration system, voter and election official training, and other improvements.

Initiative – the process by which voters can submit through petition signatures a Constitutional Amendment, law, or ordinance for a vote by the people at the biennial regular general election. *[Article 5, § 1 of the Arkansas Constitution; A.C.A. § 7-9-104(a); Black's Law Dictionary]*

Legislative question – a question in the form of a measure referred by the General Assembly, a quorum court, a municipality, or a school district to a popular vote at an election. *[A.C.A. § 7-9-402(7)]*

Majority party – the political party in the State of Arkansas whose candidates were elected to a majority of the seven statewide constitutional offices of the state in the last preceding general election. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(18)]*

Marking device – any approved device operated by a voter to record the voter’s choices through marking or creating a paper ballot with ink or other substance that will enable the votes to be tabulated by means of an electronic vote tabulating device. Paper ballots counted by hand should be marked using permanent ink. If an electronic vote tabulating device is used to count paper ballots, a marking instrument recommended by the manufacturer of the optical scanner for proper marking shall be used. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101(19); 7-5-211(a)(2)(H); 7-5-602(c)]*

Measure – an amendment, act, ordinance, referendum, issue, question, plebiscite, or proposal not involving the election of candidates that appears on a ballot. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-9-101(6); 7-9-125(a)(5)]*

Member of the merchant marine – an individual employed as an officer or crew member of a vessel documented under the laws of the United States, a vessel owned by the United States, or a vessel of foreign-flag registry under charter or control of the United States; an individual enrolled with the United States for employment or training for employment or maintained by the United States for emergency relief service as an officer or crew member of any such vessel; or as defined in the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act if different from the definition stated above. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(20)]*

Minority party – the political party whose candidates were elected to less than a majority of the seven statewide constitutional offices of this state in the last preceding general election or the political party that polled the second greatest number of votes for the office of Governor in the last preceding general election, if all of the elected constitutional officers of this state are from a single political party. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(21)]*

Nonpartisan general election – the regular biennial election, held on the same date and at the same time and places as the preferential primary election, for election of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, district judge and prosecuting attorney. *[A.C.A. § 7-10-101(1)]*

Party certificate – a written statement or receipt signed by the secretary or chair of the county committee or of the state committee, as the case may be, of the political party evidencing the name and title proposed to be used by the candidate on the ballot, the position the candidate seeks, payment of the fees, and filing of the party pledge, if any, required by the political party. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(26)]*

Party filing period – the period of time established by law for the candidate for a political party’s nomination to file his or her party certificate with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as the case may be. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(26)]*

Political party – any group of voters that at the last preceding general election polled for its candidate for Governor in the state or nominees for presidential electors at least three percent (3%) of the entire vote cast for the office. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(27)]*

Polling site – a location selected by the county board of election commissioners where votes are cast. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(28)]*

Precinct – a geographical area the boundaries of which are determined by the county board of election commissioners in order to facilitate voting by the registered voters from that geographical area. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(29)]*

Primary election – any election held to select the nominees of a political party for certification as candidates for election at any general or special election in this state. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(30)]*

Provisional ballot – a ballot cast by special procedures to record a vote when there is some question concerning a voter’s eligibility and counted contingent upon the verification of the voter’s eligibility. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(32)]*

Qualification of a ballot question – any action or process through which a ballot question obtains certification to be on the ballot at an election. *[A.C.A. § 7-9-402(10)]*

Qualified elector – a person who holds the qualifications of an elector under Arkansas Constitution Article 3, §1 and is registered under Amendment 51:

- 1) Must be a U.S. citizen;
- 2) Must be an Arkansas resident;
- 3) Must be a minimum of 18 years of age;
- 4) Must be lawfully registered to vote in the election;
- 5) Must not presently be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction;
- 6) Must not have been convicted of a felony without the sentence having been discharged or pardoned; and
- 7) Must not claim the right to vote in another county or state. *[Article 3, §§ 1 & 2 of the Arkansas Constitution, as amended by Const. Amend. 85; Amendment 8; Amendment 51, § 6; A.C.A. § 7-1-101(33)]*

Referendum – the process by which voters can petition to have a law previously passed by the Arkansas General Assembly, a county’s quorum court or a municipality’s city council or board of directors placed on the ballot at a special election for approval or rejection by the voters. Also, the process by which a governing body may pass a law contingent on approval by the voters in an election. *[Article 5, § 1; Amendment 7; A.C.A. §§ 7-9-105(a), 14-14-905(f); 14-55-301; 14-14-917(f) and 14-55-303]*

Sample ballot – a ballot for distribution to the public or the press marked with the word “SAMPLE” to prevent the production of counterfeit ballots. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(34)]*

Special election – any specially scheduled election to fill vacancies or to approve any measure. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-11-101; 7-11-201]*

Uniformed services – the United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Space Force, and United States Coast Guard, the commissioned corps of the United States Public Health Service, and the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or as defined in the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act if different from the definition stated herein. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(35)]*

Vacancy in election - the vacancy in an elective office created by death, resignation, or other good and legal cause, arising before election to the office at a general or special election, but arising after the certification of the ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(36)]*

Vacancy in nomination - the circumstances in which the person who received the majority of votes at the preferential primary election or general primary election cannot accept the nomination due to death or notifies the party that he or she will not accept the nomination due to serious illness, moving out of the area from which the person was elected as the party's nominee, or filing for another office before the final date for certification of nominations. A vacancy in nomination is also created if a tie vote for the same office occurs at the general primary election. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(37)]*

Vacancy in office – the vacancy in an elective office created by death, resignation, or other good and legal cause arising after election to the office at a general or special election or arising after taking office and before the expiration of the term of office in those circumstances where the vacancy must be filled by a special election rather than by appointment. “Vacancy in office” does not apply to the election of a person at a general election to fill an unexpired portion of a term of office. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(38)]*

Verification of Voter Registration – the process by which an individual seeking to vote presents a photo identification to an election official for the purpose of confirming that the individual physically present at the poll is the same individual to whose voter registration the vote cast will be credited. *[Arkansas Constitution, as amended by Const. Amend. 51; 7-1-101(39)]*

Vote center – upon enactment of an ordinance by the Quorum Court, an election day location designated by the county board of election commissioners at which a qualified elector from any precinct in the county holding the election may vote. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(40)]*

Voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) - a contemporaneous paper record of a ballot printed for the voter to confirm his or her votes before the voter casts his or her ballot that allows the voter to verify the voter-verified paper audit trail before the casting of the voter's ballot; is not retained by the voter; does not contain individual voter information; is produced on paper that is sturdy, clean, and resistant to degradation; and is readable in a manner that makes the voter's ballot choices obvious to the voter without the use of computer or electronic code. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101(41); 7-5-532(a)(2)]*

Voting machine - either a direct-recording electronic voting machine, or one or more electronic devices that operate independently or as a combination of a ballot marking device and an electronic vote tabulating device. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101(42)]*

Voting system - the total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic equipment, including the software, firmware, and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment that is used to define ballots, to cast and count votes, to report or display election results, and to maintain and produce any audit trail information. “Voting system” also includes the practices and documentation used to identify system components and versions of components; test the system during its development and maintenance; maintain records of system errors and defects; determine specific system changes to be made to a system after the initial qualification of the system; and make available any materials to the voter, including, without limitation notices, instructions, forms, or paper ballots. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101(43)]*

LEGAL ASSISTANCE & ELECTION LAWS

Legal Assistance to the County Board

The county board of election commissioners may call upon the county's prosecuting attorney or his or her deputy for legal assistance. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-106(a)]*

The county attorney or prosecuting attorney shall defend the county board in any civil lawsuit brought against the county board, or any of its members, if sued in regard to any acts or omissions made during the course of carrying out the official duties of the county board.
[A.C.A. § 7-4-106(b)]

The county board is deemed to consist of county officials, and its members are immune from tort liability according to Ark. Code Ann. § 21-9-301. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-4-102(d); 7-4-115]*

Researching Election Laws

The Arkansas Code (statutes) is a compilation of the laws of the State of Arkansas. The Arkansas Code is revised by the legislature by way of legislative acts or by the people by means of initiative and referendum petition. Changes to the Arkansas Code are codified or incorporated into the existing code by the Code Revision Commission.

Following each regular legislative session, the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office issues a spiral-bound Election Laws of Arkansas booklet containing election laws, the original twenty (20) Articles of the 1874 Constitution and the subsequent amendments to the Arkansas Constitution. State statutes may also be accessed on the Internet at the Arkansas State Legislature's website at www.arkleg.state.ar.us.

Copies of the Arkansas Code books can be found at your county courthouse, in many libraries, in the Secretary of State Elections library, as well as in the State Board of Election Commission offices, in the set of red, bound volumes entitled Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated. Title 7 is the main volume addressing elections and can be found in Volume 6 of the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated.

When researching statutes, check for updates in the supplement (often referred to as "pocket part") in the back of the bound volume to ensure that you are referencing the most recent version of the statutes. If you are searching for information on a particular topic such as a primary election, special election, school election, or municipal election, for example, be sure to reference the appropriate title and section of the code for the applicable law. Keep in mind that there are instances where case law (rulings by a court) has over-ruled or interpreted statute. If you have questions or are unsure, contact your county attorney, the Secretary of State's Legal Division, or our office for assistance.

In viewing a citation such as A.C.A. § 7-1-101, the “7” represents the Title, the “1” represents the chapter and the “101” is the section. A.C.A. stands for Arkansas Code Annotated, meaning “with annotations” or background notes. The notes following each citation are useful in tracing the history of the statute, including when the original act was passed by the legislature.

The Secretary of State has designated staff members who are knowledgeable of election laws and are available to aid candidates and their agents in filing for election. In addition, the State Board of Election Commissioners considers its duty to train election commissioners and poll workers to extend beyond the formal sessions it provides and stands ready at any time to answer questions regarding the procedures found in this book. [A.C.A. §§ 7-1-106; 7-4-106; 7-4-101(f)(2)]

SELECTION AND TERMS

Composition

Each of the seventy-five (75) counties in the State of Arkansas has a three-member county board of election commissioners responsible for conducting all elections within its respective county.

The membership of the county board is as follows:

- Two (2) members elected by the County Committee of the majority party; and
- One (1) member elected by the County Committee of the minority party.

Currently, the Republican Party is the majority party, and the Democratic Party is the minority party. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-102(a)]*

Term of Office

Members of the commission are elected by their respective county committees in January of each odd-numbered year following the election of county committee officers. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-102(a)]*

Each member of the county board of election commissioners serves at the pleasure of his or her respective county committee for a term of two (2) years. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-102(e)]*

The county committee shall elect a new member within forty-five (45) days of a vacancy. If the committee fails to elect a new member the state chair of the appropriate party shall appoint a new member to the county board. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-102(2)(A), (B)]*

A political party's county committee may remove a commissioner by majority vote of the county committee. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-102(e)]*

Chair of County Board

The county board of election commissioners meets in an organizational meeting by February 28 in odd-numbered years to elect one (1) member to serve as chair. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-105(a)]*

Any of the three (3) members of the county board may be elected to serve in the capacity of chair.

The chair serves until a board is elected by the respective county committees in January of odd-numbered years and an organizational meeting is held. The chair may serve successive terms. *[Attorney General's Opinion #2013-023]*

Vacancy

A vacancy on the county board is filled by election of a new member by the appropriate county committee within forty-five (45) days of the vacancy. The county chairman of the county party can make a temporary appointment to fill a vacancy, this appointment will remain in effect until the vacancy is filled under the existing procedures by the county or state party. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-102(f) as amended by Act 138 of 2023]*

If the vacancy is not filled by the forty-five (45) day deadline, the state chair of the appropriate party must appoint a new member to the commission. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-102(f)]*

Qualifications

To serve on the county board of election commissioners, a commissioner **must**:

- Be a qualified elector of the state (see the definition on page 8); *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(a)(1)]*
- Be able to read and write the English language; *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(a)(1)]*
- Be a resident of the county that he or she serves at the time of his or her election or appointment by the state party chairmen; *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(b)]*;
- Attend election training conducted by the State Board of Election Commissioners prior to a regularly scheduled preferential primary election; and *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(e)(1)]*
- Attend additional interim training, if deemed necessary and appropriate by the State Board. *[Rules for County Election Commissioners Training §703]*

Disqualifications

Generally:

To serve on the county board of election commissioners, a commissioner **MUST NOT**:

- Be the Chair or Secretary of a county political committee; *[Act 966 of 2019]*
- Have been found or pled guilty or nolo contendere to the violation of an election law of this state; *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(a)(1)]*
- Be a paid employee of a political party; *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(c)(1)]*
- Be a paid employee of a candidate for office on the county's ballot; *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(c)(1)]*
- Be married to or related within the second degree of consanguinity to a candidate running for office in the election if a written objection is made within ten (10) days after the list of officials is posted. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(d)]*
- Be married to a chairman of a county political party or another county election commissioner if a written objection is made within seven (7) days after the list of officials is posted, and *[A.C.A. § 7-5-202(a)(2)]*
- Be a candidate for an office to be filled at an election while serving on the county board. A member of the county board is not disqualified from serving on the county board by merely appearing on the ballot as a candidate for a position in his or her political party (i.e., a county committeeman). *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(a)(2)(3)]*

Participation in Campaigns:

A person serving on the county board **MUST NOT** participate in the campaign of any candidate listed on a ballot seeking election in that county that falls under the county board member's jurisdiction or authority. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(c)(2)(A)]*

Specifically, a member of the county board **MUST NOT**:

- Manage a campaign;
- Perform labor for a campaign;
- Solicit on behalf of a candidate or campaign;
- Pass out or place handbills, signs, or other literature concerning a candidate's campaign;

- Assist a candidate's campaign at a rally or parade;
- Display candidate placards or signs on an automobile; or
[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(c)(2)(B)(i), and Attorney General's Opinion No. 2015-126]
- Serve as a poll worker or poll watcher on behalf of an individual candidate, political party, or ballot initiative. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-904]*

A member of the county board **may**:

- Be a paid employee of a School District
- Make a financial contribution to a candidate;
- Attend a political party's state, district, or county meeting where a candidate or issue advocate speaks as a member of the audience; or
- Participate in a political party convention.
[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(c)(2)(B)(ii)]

Conflicting Employment:

To be eligible for consideration for election by a county committee to a position on the county board of election commissioners, the candidate cannot be employed with a company having any business dealings, contracts, or pending contracts with the county board to which he or she is seeking election. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(c)(3)]*

REQUIRED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Disclosure by Member of a County Board of Election Commissioners

Every member of the election commission must report to the Secretary of State by January 31 of each calendar year any goods or services sold during the previous calendar year by the commissioner, the commissioner's spouse, or any business in which the commissioner or the commissioner's spouse owns more than ten percent (10%) of stock having a total annual value of more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to the state, county, municipality, or school district. A reporting form has been created by the Secretary of State. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-119 and the Arkansas Secretary of State's Rules for Financial Disclosure by Members of County Boards of Election Commissioners]*

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County Election Commission/County Committee Chairman

_____ County

Please check one (1) of the following:

- ___ Democrat member of the County Board of Election Commissioners **(OATH IS REQUIRED)**
- ___ Republican member of the County Board of Election Commissioners **(OATH IS REQUIRED)**
- ___ Third Member of the County Board of Election Commission **(OATH IS REQUIRED)**
(selected by the county committee of the majority party.)(ACA 7-4-102)

Please check if you are the:

___ Chairman, County Board of Election Commissioners (this position is elected by a quorum of County board of election commissioners ACA 7-4-105) **NO ADDITIONAL OATH NECESSARY**

OATH

State of Arkansas

County of _____

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I support the
(PLEASE PRINT)

Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the aforechecked, upon which I am now about to enter for the term beginning _____ and ending _____.

Signature

Mailing Address

City State Zip Code

Home phone Work phone

Fax E-Mail address

Subscribed and sworn to before me, County Clerk in and for the County of _____
on this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Signature of County Clerk

COUNTY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Please list the name, address, and phone number of the individual that is:

___ **Republican** ___ **Democrat**
Name _____ **Phone number** _____
Address _____

Please file the original document oath with your County Clerk and a duplicate with the Secretary of State at following Address: Arkansas Secretary of State, Election Division, Room 026 State Capitol, --- Little Rock, AR 72201

Oaths

The oath is filed with the county clerk and a duplicate must be forwarded to the Secretary of State.

[A.C.A. § 7-4-102(b)]

A courtesy copy of the oath may also be provided to the State Board of Election Commissioners. Reference materials will be sent to the new commissioner upon receipt of the oath by the State Board of Election Commissioners.

CONDUCTING CBEC MEETINGS

Notification

The chair of the county board of election commissioners must notify each member of the county board of all meetings. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-105(b)]*

Quorum

Two (2) members of the county board of election commissioners shall constitute a quorum. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-105(a)]*

Voting

Each member of the county board of election commissioners has one (1) vote, and two (2) concurring votes shall decide any questions before the county board unless a unanimous vote is otherwise required by law. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-105(a)]*

Public Meetings/Freedom of Information Act

When official business is conducted in any meeting of two (2) or more members of the county board of election commissioners, the meeting must be public and held pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act of 1967 according to Ark. Code Ann. § 25-19-101 et seq. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-105(b)]*

The County Board of Election Commissioners must provide at least two (2) hours' notice of a public meeting to the representatives of the newspapers, radio stations, and television stations in the county and any news media from outside the county which request notice in advance. The SBEC also recommends providing notice to any other interested persons or organizations who request to be notified of your meetings.

Public meetings under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act includes any meeting in which official actions are taken or matters are discussed on which it is foreseeable that action will be taken by CBEC in the future. In short, if two members are going to discuss matters related to an election, it must be in a public meeting. Public meetings include without limitation:

- Drawing of ballot position;
- Certification of ballots;
- Selection or alteration of location or boundaries of precincts or polling sites;
- Designation of election officials;
- Election day;
- Correction of errors or omissions of ballots;
- Canvassing and certification of election results;
- Canvassing and certification of a recount; and
- Public testing of voting systems

All public meetings must be recorded. Recordings can be sound only, or they can be a video recording with sound. These recordings must be retained for at least (1) year and must be in a format that may be reproduced.

Minutes

The county board of election commissioners must keep minutes of all meetings when official business is conducted. Minutes must be voted on, approved, and filed with the county clerk no later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the meeting or within ten (10) days of the next meeting, whichever date is sooner. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-105(b)]*

The county board must maintain a public record of all expenditures made and funds received by the county board. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-113]*

Compensation

Each member of the county board of election commissioners receives for services not less than one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125) per public meeting up to ten (10) meetings and twenty-five dollars (\$25) per meeting thereafter when official business is conducted. The county board shall not receive compensation for election duties after the election until election results have been certified and delivered to the Secretary of State. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-4-111(b) as amended by Act 356 of 2023; 7-5-701(c)(3)]*

The county may pay county election commissioners additional hourly wages for work conducted outside of a meeting. AG Opinion 2016-040. If the county board of election commissioners and an elected county official with constitutional authority to hire a county employee cannot agree on an employee to act as a county election coordinator, the individual commissioners are entitled to be compensated for up to 40 hours per election at a minimum rate of fifteen dollars (\$15) an hour. The commissioner is required to file a claim documenting the task completed and the time necessary to complete the task. The task must also be completed not more than one hundred days prior to the relevant election and not less than forty days after the election. *[Act 356 of 2023.]*

CYBER HYGIENE INFORMATION

As election officials, understanding the basic do's and don'ts of cybersecurity is an ever-increasing component of ensuring the integrity of the election process. No matter the role you play, knowing the best practices to follow when dealing with sensitive information can improve both internal and external confidence in the election process. Below is a list of best practices to follow and bad practices to watch out for.

DO'S:

1. Educating on Best Practices

- Teaching employees and election official about basic cybersecurity goes a long way in preventing possible exploitation of the system. There are many free training resources available such as <https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity-training-exercises> that would be beneficial to any employees that have a hand in the election process.

2. Better Passwords

- Anniversary? Birthday? Mother's Maiden Name? Family Pet? It may be easier to guess your password than you might think. These days there are many programs available containing complex programming that allow people to decode your password in mere minutes. Most cybersecurity firms suggest using a long password of at least 8 characters with a mix of numbers, symbols, capital, and lower-case letters.

3. Secure Wi-Fi Networks

- Although it may seem obvious that a local business would have a secured and encrypted Wi-Fi network, With the introduction of more and more jobs offering work from home options, it is now more important than ever to make sure that these employees have secured and encrypted Wi-Fi networks to connect to at home.

4. Computer Virus Prevention

- Never underestimate the value of having good anti-virus and anti-malware installed. It is always helpful to have an extra layer of protection even for the most careful employees.

5. Physical Devices

- Cybersecurity isn't solely contained to the internet. Securing your physical devices is just as important as what you do when you're on them. Simple ways such as locking office doors and having any written password information stored in locked drawers can prevent a plethora of problems.

6. When in Doubt, Err on the Side of Caution

- Does an email look suspicious to you? Don't click on it. Is there an ad on a site that looks too good to be true? Don't click on it. If you are ever weary of whether something is a scam or not, simply do not engage with it.

DON'TS:

1. Sharing Login Credentials

- This seems like an obvious piece of information, but many people don't seem to understand the importance of keeping your password information private. Do you reuse your password, even with slight variations? Well, giving out your password to something that seems nonconsequential now gives someone the possibility of gaining access to more sensitive information.

2. Obsolete Software

- Would you be surprised to learn that many cybersecurity breaches happen due to outdated software? Knowing how to check and keep your software up to date is an important step in keeping your information secure.

3. Email Inattentiveness

- Some phishing scams can mirror actual companies you interact with quite well. Always check the email the information is coming from to make sure that is a reputable company. Often times there is only a slight variation from the phishing email to the actual company email. Staying alert and being hesitant about what you click on can help prevent successful phishing campaigns.

4. Oversharing Online

- Have you ever played a game online through a social media site like Facebook? Most of the time to play these games, the application will request access to your profile information. As innocent as it seems, this can be a target for hackers to gain access to your account. This can happen even if the social media site itself takes good security measures.

5. Cross Network Connections

- You may have a secured and encrypted network at the office and, if you work from home, then you may have one at your house as well but are these the only places that you connect to? Using the laptop you use to work from home while connected to an unsecure network like at a local coffee shop can allow hackers access to your information. Never connect to an unsecured network and, in most cases, it is best to keep Wi-Fi connections turned completely off when not in use.

6. No Plan of Action

- One of the main goals of those trying to breach cybersecurity measures is to cause disruption. Is the only copy of that file you have on one computer? Not knowing what you will do in the event that your information is stolen can contribute to the disarray. Having an offline file, a paper file, and multiple people in the organization having copies of the online file can reduce the amount of panic that this situation can cause.

COMMON MISTAKES IN INCIDENT HANDLING

Over the years we have seen mistakes that could have easily been avoided – check out our list and the impact those mistakes can have while handling an incident.

- Mitigating the affected systems before responders can protect and recover data
 - Can cause the loss of volatile data such as memory and other host-based artifacts.
 - Adversary will notice and change tactics.
- Preemptively blocking adversary infrastructure
 - Network infrastructure is fairly inexpensive. Adversary can easily change to new command and control infrastructure so you will lose visibility of their activity.
- Preemptive Password Resets
 - Adversary likely has multiple credentials, or worse, and has access to your entire active directory.
 - Adversary will use other credentials, create new credentials, or forge tickets.
- Failure to preserve or collect log data that could be critical to identifying access to the compromised systems
 - Collect and retain these logs for as long as possible.

TYPES OF ELECTIONS

Primary Election

A primary election is an election held to narrow the field of candidates for election at any general or special election in this state. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101; 7-7-202(a)]*

The **preferential primary** election in 2024, commonly known as the primary election, is held in March on the first Tuesday. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-203(b); 7-8-101]*

The **general primary** election in 2024, commonly known as the primary **runoff** election, is held on the Tuesday four (4) weeks after the preferential primary election if no candidate received a majority of the votes cast for the office at the preferential primary election. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-203(a); 7-8-101]*

General Election

The general election is the regularly scheduled biennial election for election of United States, state, district, county, township, and municipal officials and to submit proposed amendments to the Arkansas Constitution or other measures or questions to a vote of the people.

[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101; 7-5-102; 7-5-204]

The general election is held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in every even-numbered year. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-102; 14-42-201]*

General Runoff Election

County Offices:

A general runoff election for a county contest is held four weeks after the general election if no candidate received a majority of the votes cast for the county elected office at the general election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(a)]*

Municipal Offices:

A general runoff election for a municipal contest is held four weeks after the general election if no candidate received either a majority of votes cast or both a plurality of 40% of the votes cast for the office at the general election and 20% more votes than the second-place candidate. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(a)]*

Tie Votes:

A general runoff election (“special runoff”) is held four weeks after the general election if there is a tie vote for any office except for constable, Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, or Attorney General. Tie votes for the state constitutional offices are decided by the General Assembly. Tie votes for constable result in the incumbent holding over in the office or, if there is no incumbent, a continued vacancy in the office that can be filled by the Governor.

[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-703(c); 7-5-704(b); 7-5-705(b); 14-14-1310(b); Article 6, Section 3 of the Arkansas Constitution; and Article 19 Section 5 of the Arkansas Constitution;]

Nonpartisan General Election

The nonpartisan general election is the regularly scheduled biennial election for election of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, district judge and prosecuting attorney. *[A.C.A. § 7-10-101]*

The nonpartisan general election is held on the same dates, times, and places as the preferential primary election held in March. *[A.C.A. § 7-10-102(b)(1)]*

Nonpartisan General Runoff Election

The nonpartisan general runoff election is held on the same date and at the same times and places as the November General Election if no candidate received a majority of the votes cast for the office at the nonpartisan general election. *[A.C.A. § 7-10-102(c)(2)]*

Annual School Election

The school election is the regularly scheduled election held annually for the election of school board positions and to submit an annual proposed rate of tax for the maintenance and operation of schools and the retirement of indebtedness to a vote of the people. *[Article 14, § 3 of the Arkansas Constitution, as amended by Amendments 1, 11, and 40; Attorney General's Opinion No. 96-380]*

The annual school election in 2024 will be held on the same date as either the preferential primary or the general election. In 2025 the annual school election will be held on the second Tuesday in May or the second Tuesday in November. The school's decision between which election date to use must be made at least 100 days before the first day of the respective filing period for the preferential primary. Otherwise, the election will be the same as the prior year. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-102(a)(1)]*

School Runoff Election

If no candidate received a majority of the votes cast for the office or if a tie vote exists, a runoff election is held in the district four (4) weeks after the date of the annual school election. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-121(a)]*

Special Election

A special election is any specially scheduled election to fill vacancies or to approve any measure. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-101]*

For the various dates on which special elections may be held, see the SPECIAL ELECTIONS section of this manual beginning on page 119.

VOTING SYSTEMS

Types

A county's voting system must consist of voting equipment selected for use by the Secretary of State, examined and approved by the State Board of Election Commissioners, and chosen by resolution of the county's quorum court. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-301, 7-5-503, 7-5-606]*

A county's voting system may consist of:

- Voting machines with at least one (1) voting machine per poll accessible to voters with disabilities;
- Paper ballots with an electronic vote tabulating device at each poll and at least one (1) voting machine per poll accessible to voters with disabilities;
- Paper ballots with an electronic vote tabulating device at a central counting location and at least one (1) voting machine per poll accessible to voters with disabilities; and
- Paper ballots counted by hand and at least one (1) voting machine per poll accessible to voters with disabilities.

Voting Machines

A combination of an electronic marking device (usually a touchscreen that displays an electronic ballot) and an electronic vote tabulating device either at the precinct or at a central counting location) is considered to be a voting machine. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-101(40)(B)]*

Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail:

All voting machines in use must include a paper ballot or a voter-verified paper audit trail. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-301(b); 7-5-532(c)(1)]*

Overvotes:

An overvote occurs when a voter casts votes for more than the maximum allowable number of candidates in a contest or casts votes both for and against a measure to be decided by election.

A voting machine that would permit a voter to overvote his or her ballot must notify a voter of the overvote and allow the voter to change the ballot before the ballot is cast. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-504(9)]*

Paper Ballot

Overvote Warning:

All paper ballots must contain a warning beneath the heading about the consequences of overvoting and instructions on how to correct errors in marking the ballot before it is cast and counted. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-601(e)]*

Electronic Vote Tabulating Devices:

If a county uses a paper ballot voting system that includes an electronic vote tabulating device at each poll, the device must be programmed to reject overvoted ballots so that the voter has the opportunity to correct the ballot before the ballot is cast. [A.C.A. § 7-5-604(a)(5)(A), (6)(A)]

Central Count/Count by Hand:

If a paper ballot voting system provides for votes to be counted at a central counting location or by hand at the polling sites, the county board of election commissioners must provide a voter education program to inform voters about the consequences of overvoting and how to correct the ballot before it is cast. [A.C.A. § 7-5-604(a)(6)(C)]

The following only applies to your county IF your quorum court has voted to require your county to conduct a hand marked and hand counted election. [Act 350 & 743 of 2023]

GENERAL PROVISIONS: In a county electing to hand count ballots, the ballots used must be compatible with the DS 200 and DS 450 tabulators. These pre-printed paper ballots in hand count counties must contain a watermark. The county will be responsible for the cost of the pre-printed ballots, any additional equipment necessary for the hand count voting process, and the labor costs associated with conducting a hand count. Ballot marking devices must be available to voters in order to comply with the requirements of state and federal law regarding voters with disabilities.

PROCEDURES FOR HAND-COUNTS: Ballots to be hand counted must first be counted using an electronic vote tabulation device, except in certain minor elections involving fewer than 5,000 registered voters. This exception does not include Primary or General elections. After being tabulated, the ballots must be secured in a sealed double-locking hard shell ballot box for transportation to the designated hand count location and be sealed and initialed by at least two election officials. Tabulation results shall be posted at each polling site prior to the completion of the hand count.

The hand count must be conducted by precinct in a location designated at least 30 days prior to the election. Each ballot shall be counted by at least two officials verifying the voter's selection. When ballots are not being counted, they must be stored in a secure location. When questions of voter intent arise, it is the CBEC's responsibility to resolve those questions. *(See the State Boards rules on Voter Intent)*. The hand count must be completed within 24 hours of the certification deadline. If the count cannot be completed by that time, the CBEC is required to conduct its certification of the election using the certified election results produced by the tabulators. The CBEC must maintain at least four officials to continue the vote count.

Custody

The county board of election commissioners has complete control and supervision of voting machines and electronic vote tabulating devices at all elections, but the county clerk has supervision of machines and devices used for early voting in the clerk's designated early voting location. [A.C.A. § 7-5-301(k), (l)]

The county board is responsible for the proper preparation, use, maintenance, and care of all voting machines and electronic vote tabulating devices during the period of time required for an election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-301(m)(2)]*

The county board has the care and custody of all voting machines and electronic vote tabulating devices while not in use. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-301(m)(1)]*

TRAINING

Mandatory Statewide

The State Board of Election Commissioners is required to train and test county election commissioners and county election coordinators, and coordinate training for poll workers and county clerks or the county clerk's designee before every preferential primary election. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-109(e)]*

In complying with this statutory requirement, the State Board develops and revises training materials every two (2) years following regular legislative sessions to reflect election law changes. The State Board also develops procedures for conducting training, monitoring attendance, and determining the method and amount of compensation for county election commissioners, for county trainers, and for poll workers. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-4-101(f)(2), (3); 7-4-109(e)]*

STATE BOARD RULES AND GUIDELINES ON TRAINING AND COMPENSATION

The State Board of Election Commissioners' rules for county election commissioners training, rules for poll worker and county clerk training, guidelines addressing training compensation for county election commissioners, and guidelines on training compensation for trainers and poll workers are available on the State Board's website at www.arkansas.gov/sbec.

County Election Commissioners:

The State Board provides each member of the county board of election commissioners with a copy of this comprehensive procedures manual developed and published by the State Board as a valuable resource and reference guide to assist county boards in fulfilling its statutory duties and its responsibility to conduct fair, orderly, and legal elections.

Each county election commissioner is required to attend training provided by the SBEC prior the preferential primary election. Following this training, the commissioner must take a test covering the essential skills and knowledge associated with being a county election commissioner. If the commissioner passes this test the commissioner will be certified and will be eligible to receive a \$300 stipend for having completed the certification program. The commissioner must also serve until the certification of the preferential primary to receive the stipend. A commissioner who does not pass the test will still hold office, however, the commissioner will not receive the \$300 stipend.

COMMISSION CHECKLIST

The State Board of Election Commissioners has provided three (3) separate checklists in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual as tools to assist the county election commissions with monitoring timely completion of its various duties and responsibilities during each election process.

County Election Coordinators:

The law requires that an election coordinator be appointed by the county board to attend election training conducted by the state board prior to the preferential primary election. The SBEC is required to administer a test to the election coordinators after training covering the skills and knowledge associated with the coordinator position. Upon completion of the instructional component of the training conducted the person will be eligible to receive \$500 in compensation for attending the training. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-4-109(e)]*

County Clerks:

The law requires that each county clerk or a person designated by the county clerk, attend election training coordinated by the state board prior to the preferential primary election. The SBEC is required to administer the test to the county clerks or their designee; however, the clerk's ability to train his or her personnel is not contingent on the passage of the test. Also, a deputy county clerk, employee of the county clerk, or other worker who will assist with early voting may be trained by the county clerk or the clerk's designee. If the clerk appoints a designee, the clerk will be notified should the designee fail to pass the test. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-4-109(e)]*

Monitors:

The state board has the authority to appoint election monitors upon proper request to observe election processes. The law requires that each election monitor attend election training coordinated by the state board prior to the preferential primary election for the purpose of being trained, tested, and certified by the State Board. Certified monitors will also receive specific instructions related to their duties prior to serving. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-4-101(f)(6); SBEC Rules for Appointment of Certified Election Monitors § 1004]*

Poll Workers:

The State Board's procedure for training poll workers requires, prior to every preferential primary, that each county board designate two (2) qualified electors of its county to attend training conducted by the State Board for the purpose of being trained, tested, and certified by the State Board to train poll workers locally.

The law requires that for a regularly scheduled preferential primary election **all poll workers** must have attended training conducted by a State Board-certified trainer. All poll workers must have received the required training within twelve (12) months of the election they are working. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-4-107(b)(2); 7-4-109(e)(1)]*

The State Board provides each trainer with a PowerPoint slide presentation and with the equivalent of six (6) poll worker training guides per poll developed and published by the State Board for distribution to the county's poll workers who attend local training conducted by the

county's State Board-certified trainers. Materials related to voting system training may be amended to fit the specific circumstances of a particular county. Training materials containing supplemental procedures not addressed by materials provided by the State Board may also be used. However, if a county wants to use its own materials or make changes to the SBEC training material other than adding local supplemental procedures the county must have prior written approval from the SBEC. [*SBEC Rules for Poll Worker & County Clerk Training § 207*]

The training guides describe poll worker duties and responsibilities on election day and provide sample forms for gathering information on election day for legally required reporting on the conduct of elections.

All poll workers must attend the basic training curriculum. If the poll worker passes an examination of essential skills following the training, the poll worker will be eligible to receive a \$35 stipend. At least 2 poll workers per poll including the poll supervisor must also receive the advanced training curriculum. If the poll worker passes the examination of essential skills following the advanced training, the poll worker will be eligible to receive a \$55 stipend.

CANDIDATES

For more information on candidate qualification, filing dates and filing procedures see the Running for Public Office handbook produced by the State Board of Election Commissioners.

Multiple Candidacies

Allowed:

A person may run for President/Vice President and the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives in the same primary or general election. [*A.C.A. §§ 7-8-303(b)*]

Prohibited:

A person who files as a candidate for nomination by a political party is ineligible to be the nominee of any other political party for the same office during the primary election or the following general or special election and ineligible to be an independent candidate for the same office at the general or special election. [*A.C.A. §§ 7-7-204(a); 14-42-206(b)(6)*]

A person who is certified as an independent candidate is ineligible to be the nominee of any political party for the same office at the same general or special election. [*A.C.A. § 7-7-204(b) as amended by Act 305 of 2023*]

A person filing for municipal office may file for only one (1) municipal office during the municipal filing period. [*A.C.A. § 14-42-206(e)*]

A person may not run for more than one (1) state, county, municipal, district or township office if the elections are to be held on the same date. [*A.C.A. § 7-5-111*]

Political Party Primaries

Dates:

The preferential primary for 2024 will be held on March 5, 2024, and will include the party candidates. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-203(b); 7-8-201]*

Filing Period:

The party filing period is an eight-day period ending at 12:00 noon on November 14, 2023, and beginning at 12:00 noon eight days earlier. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-203(c)(1) as amended by Act 462 of 2023]*

Party Certificate:

Each candidate must obtain a party certificate signed by the secretary or chair of the state or county committee of the political party, depending on the office sought, that evidences the name and title proposed to be used by the candidate on the ballot, the position the candidate seeks, payment of the fee, if any, and filing of the party pledge, if any, required by the political party. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101; 7-7-301(c)]*

Filing with the Party:

The affidavit of eligibility and party pledge, if any, is filed, the filing fee, if any, is paid, and party certificates are issued by the party during regular office hours during the party filing period. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-203(c)(2); 7-7-301(a)]*

Filing with the State or County:

The party certificate and political practices pledge (if required) must be filed with the Secretary of State or the county clerk, depending on the office sought, during regular office hours during the party filing period. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101; 7-6-102(a)(3); 7-7-203(c)(3)]*

Certified List of Party Candidates:

At least ninety-two (92) days before the preferential primary election held in March, the Secretary of State certifies to the various county committees and to all county boards of election commissioners a list of the names of all candidates to be placed on the ballots at the primary who have filed party certificates with the Secretary of State within the time required by law. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-304(a)(1)]*

At least ninety-two (92) days before the preferential primary election held in March, the county clerk certifies to the county committees and county board a list of the names of all candidates to be placed on the ballots at the primary who have filed party certificates with the county clerk within the time required by law. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-304(b)(1)]*

Names of Certified Candidates Placed on Ballot:

The county board of election commissioners places the names of all candidates certified to it by the county clerk and Secretary of State on the preferential primary ballot. The order in which candidate names appear on the ballot is determined by lot at a commission meeting (see p. 55). A candidate who runs unopposed for a position on the county political party committee may be omitted from the primary election ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-3-104(a)]*

Any candidate who fails to sign and file a political practices pledge (if required) may not be placed on the ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-6-102(e)(1)]*

Certification of Results:

No later than ten (10) days after the preferential primary election, the county board of election commissioners must certify the results of the preferential primary election for county, township, and municipal offices to the county clerk and the county's vote for United States, state, and district offices to the Secretary of State. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-203(e), (g); 7-7-401(a)]*

If a candidate receives the majority of the votes cast for that office or position, or if the candidate is unopposed, the candidate shall be declared the party nominee and it shall not be necessary for the candidate's name to appear on the ballot at the general primary election. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-102; 7-7-304(f)(1)]*

General Primary Election (Runoff):

The county board of election commissioners conducts the general primary election only if no candidate receives a majority of the vote, or if there is a tie vote for an office. If a general primary election is necessary, the names of the two (2) candidates of the political party who received the highest number of votes for an office shall be placed on the ballots at the general primary election (runoff). *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-102, 7-7-202, 7-7-304(f)(2)]*

No later than ten (10) days after the preferential primary election, or if one is held, the general primary election, the county board of election commissioners must certify to the county clerk, the state committees of the political parties and the county committees of the political parties a list of all candidates who were nominated at the primary election for county, township, and municipal offices. No earlier than forty-eight (48) hours, but no later than ten (10) days after the general primary election, the county board of election commissioners must certify the county's vote for United States, state, and district offices to the Secretary of State. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-203(e)(1), (g)(1); 7-7-309; 7-7-401(a), (c)]*

City Administrator Form of Government Cities - Nonpartisan Primary

Filing:

Candidates file a statement of candidacy and a petition with the city clerk during a one-week period ending at noon ninety (90) days before the general election. *[A.C.A. §14-48-109(a)(3) as amended by Act 328 of 2023]*

Certification:

The city clerk certifies the names of candidates who properly file for office to the county board of election commissioners at least seventy-five (75) days before the election. *[A.C.A. §14-48-109(a)(6) as amended by Act 328 of 2023]*

The county board of election commissioners places the names of the candidates on the general election ballot. The county board of election commissioners certifies the results to the city clerk. If a candidate receives a majority of the vote, that candidate is elected to the office. If

no candidate receives a majority of the vote, then the top two vote-getters advance to the general runoff election. [A.C.A. §14-48-109(a)(7), (8) as amended by Act 328 of 2023]

New Parties

Parties that file a sufficient Petition for New Political Parties with the Secretary of State by the filing deadline the following additional or altered dates and deadlines apply.

Certificate of Nomination and a Political Practices Pledge for all candidates must be filed with the appropriate County Clerk or the Secretary of State NO LATER THAN NOON on the date of the preferential primary election [A.C.A. § 7-7-205(c)]

Political party nominees chosen by convention as authorized by law are certified by the chair and secretary of the convention. [A.C.A. § 7-7-401(d)(1)]

General Election

Certifying Political Party Nominees:

At least ninety (90) days before the general election, candidates who were nominated at the primary election, or, in the case of recognized party presidential/vice presidential candidates, for United States, state and district offices must submit a certificate of nomination to the Secretary of State. [A.C.A. § 7-7-203(h)(1)(B)(i)]

At least ninety (90) days before the general election, each county political party committee must submit to the county clerk, and the county board of election commissioners, the certified list of its candidates who were nominated at the primary election for county, township, and municipal offices. [A.C.A. § 7-7-203(h)(2)(B)(i)]

Group Presidential Candidates:

Presidential candidates of a political group that is not a recognized political party qualify for the general election ballot by filing a petition with the Secretary of State by the first Monday of August before the general election. [A.C.A. § 7-8-302(5)(B)]

Independent Candidates:

Non-Presidential and Non-Municipal:

An independent candidate for United States Senate, United States House of Representatives, state, county, township, or district office must file, during the party filing period for the year in which the election is to be held, a political practices pledge, an affidavit of eligibility on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State, the petition on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State under this section, and a notice of candidacy stating the name and title the candidate proposes to appear on the ballot and identifying the elective office sought, including the position number, if any. [A.C.A. § 7-7-103(a)]

Certification:

Nomination as an independent candidate for election to office without political party affiliation is certified by petition of electors as authorized by law under Ark. Code Ann. § 7-7-103. [A.C.A. § 7-7-401(e)(2)]

Write-in Votes Not Counted:

Beginning in 2024, Arkansas' election process does not include a write-in component. No person may run as a write-in candidate and the county board of election commissioners shall not include a write-in blank on any ballot. [A.C.A. §§14-43-202, 7-5-205, as amended by Act 305 of 2023]

Municipal Candidates:***Filing – Mayor Council Form Nonpartisan Municipal Offices:***

Candidates file a petition, political practices pledge, and an affidavit of eligibility with the county clerk during a one-week period ending 90 days before the general election by noon, unless the city has passed an ordinance the preferential primary election. For municipalities situated in multiple counties, the candidate files with the county clerk of the county with the highest population of the municipality, and the county clerk certifies the candidate to the other counties. [A.C.A. §§ 14-42-205; 14-42-206(b), (d) as amended by Act 328 of 2023]

Filing – City Manager Form:

Candidates file petition with the city clerk or recorder during a one-week period ending at 12:00 noon 90 days before the general election. [A.C.A. §14-47-110(a)(2) as amended by Act 328 of 2023]

Certification – City Manager Form:

The city clerk certifies the names of candidates who properly file for office to the county board of election commissioners at least 75 days before the election. [A.C.A. §14-47-110(a)(3)(D)]

Filing – City Administrator Form:

Candidates file petition for nomination during a one-week period ending at 12:00 noon 90 days before the general election. [A.C.A. §14-48-109 as amended by Act 328 of 2023]

Certification of Nominees:

At least seventy-five (75) days before each general election, including the nonpartisan general election held in March, the county clerk of each county must certify to his or her county board a full list of all candidates to be voted for in the county at the general election. [A.C.A. § 7-5-203(b)(1)]

At least seventy-five (75) days before each general election, including the nonpartisan general elections held in March, the Secretary of State must certify to all county boards full lists of all candidates for all federal, state and district offices to be voted for in their respective counties at the general election. [A.C.A. § 7-5-203(a)(1)]

Nonpartisan General Election and Runoff**Filing:**

Nomination as a nonpartisan candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, district judge, or prosecuting attorney is considered certified upon the candidate's filing with the Secretary of State a political practices pledge and either paying

a filing fee or upon determination that sufficient signatures were obtained by petition. [A.C.A. §§ 7-6-102(a)(5), (6); 7-7-401(e)(1); 7-10-103(b), (c)]

Certification to the Election Commission:

Candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, district judge, or prosecuting attorney are certified to the county board of election commissioners by the Secretary of State in the same manner and on the same dates as political party candidates for the primary and, if there is a runoff, in the same manner and at the same time as candidates for the general election.

Annual School Election

2024 Candidate Filing:

A candidate for school district board of directors may appear on the ballot by filing a petition during a one-week period ending August 7, 2024, before a school election held in November. The party filing period for the school election held in March is the eight-day period ending on November 14, 2023. [A.C.A. § 6-14-111(e) as amended by Act 462 of 2023]

2025 Candidate Filing:

Candidates filing for the May school election will be a one-week period ending on March 2nd. Candidates filing for the November school election will be a one-week period ending at noon 90 days before the election.

Certification:

The county clerk of the county where the school district is domiciled must certify to all of the affected county boards the names of all candidates who have filed a proper petition for each school district on the day after the filing deadline. [A.C.A. § 6-14-111(i) as amended by Act 305 of 2023]

Special Elections to Fill Vacancies in Office

The entity calling the special election (usually the Governor or a city council) must include in the calling document (usually a proclamation or ordinance) the dates of the special election and any associated special primary, filing periods, and certification deadlines. [A.C.A. § 7-11-102]

Candidate Withdrawal and Death

Notice of Withdrawal:

The notice from a candidate of his or her desire to withdraw must be in writing, signed by the candidate, and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgements. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-203(a)(2), (b)(2); 7-7-304(a)(2), (b)(2)]

Withdrawal Before the Certification Deadline/Not Placed on Ballot:

If a candidate dies or notifies the Secretary of State or county clerk, depending on the election, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the office or position, the candidate shall not be certified and shall not be placed on the ballot. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-203(a)(2), (b)(2); 7-7-304(a)(2), (b)(2)]

Withdrawal After the Certification Deadline/Votes Counted:

Votes received by a candidate whose name appeared on the ballot and who withdrew or died after the certification of the ballot are counted. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-315(b)(1); 7-7-304(c)(1)]*

Withdrawal from Municipal or County Runoff:

If one of the two runoff candidates withdraws before certification of the result of the general election, the remaining runoff candidate is declared elected and there is no runoff.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(d)]

Withdrawal from Annual School Election Runoff:

If one of the two runoff candidates withdraws before certification of the result of the annual school election, the remaining runoff candidate is declared elected and there is no runoff.

[A.C.A. § 6-14-121(c)]

Vacancy in Nomination

If a candidate for a party's nomination withdraws or dies after certification but receives enough votes at the primary election to win the nomination, there is a vacancy in nomination.

[A.C.A. § 7-7-304(c)(2)]

If a candidate for a party's nomination withdraws or dies after certification but receives enough votes to advance to the primary runoff election, the person's name must be placed on the primary runoff election ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-304(c)(3)]*

If the candidate who withdraws or dies receives enough votes to win the primary runoff election, there is a vacancy in nomination. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-304(c)(4)]*

If there is a tie vote in a general primary (runoff) there is a vacancy in nomination and the vacancy will be filled by convention. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-104(b)]*

Filling a Vacancy in Nomination:

Vacancies in nomination may be filled by a political party only if the vacancy resulted from the death or withdrawal due to illness of a candidate who won the preferential primary, a tie vote in the general primary or if a candidate who won the preferential primary withdraws due to moving out of the jurisdiction or filing for another office. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-104(b), (c)]*

If the vacancy in nomination is due to death, illness, moving or filing for another office, the political party may choose to fill the vacancy by convention or special primary called by the Governor. The name of the nominee who is filling a vacancy in nomination shall be immediately certified to the Secretary of State and to the appropriate county board of election commissioners. If the new nominee is not selected in time to file a certificate of nomination with the party at least seventy-six (76) days before the general election, the name of the person who vacated the nomination appears on the ballot and votes for that person count for the replacement nominee **IF** the certificate of nomination is filed at least forty-seven (47) days

before the general election. The county board must post notice at the polls to that effect and provide a copy of the notice for the county clerk to send to an absentee voter along with his or her instructions. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-104(d)(2), (f)]*

Untimely Notification/Vacancy Not Filled:

If the party fails to notify the Governor within ten(10) days of the occurrence as defined above or if the vacancy in nomination occurs for any reason other than death, serious illness, the candidate's moving out of the area from which elected as the party's nominee, filing for another office, or a tie vote following a general primary election, the vacancy in nomination is not filled. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-104(c)(2)]*

Holding a Convention:

When a convention is held to fill a vacancy in nomination, the convention shall occur and be conducted in accordance with respective political party rules after notice is provided by the political party to the Governor. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-104 (b), (e) as amended by Act 648 of 2019]*

Special Primary Election:

If within the time prescribed, the party notifies the Governor of its desire to hold a special primary election to fill a vacancy in nomination, the Governor must issue a proclamation within five (5) days calling for the special election. The special primary election to fill a vacancy in nomination shall occur no earlier than thirty (30) days and no later than sixty (60) days after the filing deadline. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-104(d)(1)]*

Vacancy in Candidacy for Nomination

A vacancy in candidacy for nomination occurs when an unopposed candidate in a preferential primary cannot accept nomination due to death or when an unopposed candidate in a preferential primary refuses nomination due to a serious illness. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-106(a)]*

Filling a Vacancy in Candidacy for Nomination:

A vacancy in candidacy for nomination may be filled at a convention of the political party in accordance with respective political party rules. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-106 (b), (c)]*

If the vacancy in candidacy for nomination is filled at a convention of the political party more than sixty-six (66) days before the preferential primary election, the name of the person chosen at the convention to fill the vacancy is placed on the preferential primary ballot instead of the name of the person who vacated the candidacy. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-106(d)]*

The person chosen at the convention of the political party and subsequently elected at the preferential primary election to fill the vacancy in candidacy is declared the nominee.

If the vacancy in candidacy for nomination is filled at a convention of the political party less than sixty-six (66) days before the preferential primary election, the name of the person who vacated the candidacy is placed on the preferential primary ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-106(e)]*

Best Practice: *The CBEC should post a notice explaining that votes for the person who vacated his or her nomination will count for the new nominee.*

The person chosen at the convention of the political party to fill the vacancy in candidacy is declared the nominee even though the name of the person who vacated the candidacy appears on the preferential primary ballot. [A.C.A. § 7-7-106(e)]

If the vacancy in candidacy for nomination is not filled at a convention of the political party before the date of the preferential primary election, a vacancy in nomination exists on the date of the preferential primary election and is filled according to Ark. Code Ann. § 7-7-104, as described on the previous page. [A.C.A. § 7-7-106(f)]

Vacancy in Election:

If a candidate withdraws or dies after certification but receives enough votes at the general election to win the election, a vacancy in election shall be declared. [A.C.A. § 7-5-315(b)(2)(A)]

If a candidate withdraws or dies after certification but receives enough votes to qualify for a runoff election, the person's name must be placed on the runoff election ballot. [A.C.A. § 7-5-315(b)(2)(B)(i)]

If a candidate withdraws or dies after certification but receives enough votes to win the runoff election, a vacancy in election shall exist. [A.C.A. § 7-5-315(b)(2)(B)(ii)]

Filling a Vacancy in Office:

State, District, Federal, County and Township:

Vacancies in the U.S. Senate (under some circumstances), state constitutional offices, judicial offices, and prosecuting attorney are filled by appointment of the Governor. [Amendment 29 of the Arkansas Constitution; A.C.A. § 7-8-102]

Vacancies for Lieutenant Governor, members of the state General Assembly, and members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and members of the U.S. Senate (under some circumstances) are filled by special election. [A.C.A. §§ 7-7-105, 7-8-102]

Except for constable and quorum court, vacancies in county offices are filled by vote of the quorum court. Constable and quorum court vacancies are filled by appointment by the Governor. [A.C.A. § 14-14-1310]

Mayor/Council Cities of the First Class:

Vacancies in the office of mayor in cities of the first class with the mayor/council form of government are generally filled by special elections. However, if the remainder of the term is less than one year, the city council may appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the remainder

of the term. If the remainder of the term is more than one year, the city council may appoint a person to temporarily hold the position until a special election is held.

[A.C.A. §§ 14-43-304(d), 14-43-401(b), 14-43-412]

Vacancies in the office of council member in cities of the first class with the mayor/council form of government and less than 20,000 in population are filled by the city council for the remainder of the term. The same procedure applies to such vacancies in cities more than 20,000 in population, except when the remainder of the term is more than one year, in which case the city council may appoint a person to fill the vacancy until a special election is held. *[A.C.A. § 14-43-411]*

Vacancies in all other offices in cities of the first class with the mayor/council form of government are filled by the city council until the next general election. *[A.C.A. § 14-43-412]*

Cities of the Second Class:

Vacancies in the office of mayor in cities of the second class are filled by the city council or a special election, at the discretion of the city council. *[A.C.A. § 14-44-106]*

Vacancies in the office of council member, recorder, treasurer or recorder-treasurer, and marshal in cities of the second class are filled by the city council for the remainder of the term. *[A.C.A. § 14-44-104]*

Incorporated Towns:

Vacancies in the office of mayor in incorporated towns are filled by the town council or a special election, at the discretion of the city council. *[A.C.A. § 14-45-103]*

Vacancies in the office of council member and recorder-treasurer in incorporated towns are filled by the town council for the remainder of the term. *[A.C.A. § 14-45-103]*

City Administrator Cities:

Vacancies in offices in city administrator form of government cities are either filled by the board of directors for the remainder of the term or by special election, at the discretion of the board. *[A.C.A. § 14-48-115]*

City Manager Cities:

Vacancies in the office of director in city manager form of government cities are filled by the board of directors for the remainder of the term. *[A.C.A. § 14-47-113]*

School Board:

Vacancies on a school district's board of directors are filled by the board. If the board fails to fill a vacancy after sixty (60) days in the case of a death, or thirty (30) days in all other cases, the vacancy is filled by the quorum court. *[A.C.A. § 6-13-611]*

MEASURES AND QUESTIONS

State

At least seventy-five (75) days before the general election, the Secretary of State shall certify to all county boards of election commissioners, for posting and placement on the ballot, proposed amendments to the Arkansas Constitution and other measures or questions to be submitted to a vote of the people regardless of whether the sufficiency of a petition has been determined or whether challenged in a court of competent jurisdiction. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-204]*

Not less than eighteen (18) days before the general election, the Secretary of State must furnish the county boards a certified copy of the ballot title and popular name of each proposed measure and referred act to be voted upon. *[A.C.A. § 7-9-115]*

Local

At least seventy (70) days before the general election, the county clerk shall certify the sufficiency of all county initiative petitions to the county board in order to be included on the general election ballot. *[A.C.A. § 14-14-915(b)(3)]*

Municipal initiative petitions may be filed as late as sixty (60) days before the election, so the city clerk will certify the sufficiency of those petitions as soon as possible after filing. *[Article 5, Section 1 of the Arkansas Constitution]*

VERIFICATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION

Voters at the polls and voting absentee will be required to present specific kinds of photo identification (ID) to verify their voter registration. Voters at the polls who fail to provide a proper photo ID may cast a provisional ballot that can be counted if the voter returns to the county clerk or election commission by noon Monday after the election with their photo ID. Voters must be lawfully registered in that county and have voted on the correct ballot to be considered valid.

Voters at the polls and voting absentee must present photo identification unless they are residents of a long-term care facility, in which case they may instead present documentation from the administrator attesting to their status in the facility. Uniformed services members and their spouses voting absentee under UOCAVA provisions are not required to provide photo identification. Other civilians voting from outside the United States are required to satisfy the voter identification provisions described below.

The photo identification is a document that shows the name and photograph of the voter; is issued by the United States, the State of Arkansas, the county clerk, or an accredited post educational institution or trade school in the State of Arkansas, and, if it has an expiration date, expired no more than four years before the election. In addition, voters may also use the free “For Voting Purposes Photo ID” which can be provided by the county clerk in each county. For a more detailed

explanation of the voter ID rules and their application, please consult the SBEC Rule §801 et. seq. as well as the 2024 edition of the Training Guide and Checklist for Poll Workers. *[Act 441 of 2023]*

STATE BOARD RULES ON VERIFICATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION

The State Board of Election Commissioners' Rules on the Verification of Voter Registration are available on the State Board's website at www.arkansas.gov/sbec.

IMPORTANT CAVEAT: A first time voter who registered to vote by mail and who is flagged as having not provided sufficient ID when registering is NOT subject to the Voter ID rules addressed above. These "Flagged Voters" have a separate requirement established under federal law which require the voter to provide either a current and valid photo id or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. The failure to include this ID will cause the ballot to be made provisional.

ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTING

County Clerk's Authority

The county clerk has statutory authority over the issuance and receipt of absentee ballot as well as over any early voting conducted by the clerk. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-401(a)]*

The county clerk who conducts early voting must be furnished a suitable room at the county courthouse or other location designated for absentee and early voting. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-401(b)]*

In counties with dual county seats, the county clerk must conduct absentee voting in the courthouse or other room provided by the county and conduct early voting in each county seat if the county clerk conducts early voting under Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-418. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-401(c)]*

The county board of election commissioners is responsible for counting legally cast absentee ballots and votes cast during early voting.

Early Voting

Conduct:

Except as otherwise provided by law, early voting must be conducted in the same manner as voting on election day. Conduct that is prohibited or restricted on election day is prohibited and restricted on the days that early voting is conducted. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-418(f)]*

Candidates as Observers at Early Voting:

A candidate may be present in person at early voting locations only to observe whether or not votes are fairly and accurately cast. A candidate present as an observer may not challenge voters as a poll watcher during early voting and may speak only to a designated poll worker.

A candidate who is present in person at an early voting location to observe may not speak to voters or disrupt the orderly conduct of the election.

A candidate who is a public official and who is present in person at an early voting location to observe shall not wear on his or her person any uniform, badge, or other apparel or equipment that identifies the candidate as a public official.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-413(d); SBEC Rules for Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting]

Off-Site:

The county board of election commissioners is responsible for deciding whether to hold early voting at additional polling sites outside the county clerk's office. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-418(b)(1)(A)]*

If the county board votes to hold off-site early voting at one (1) or more conveniently located polling sites on all the days and times required by law for the county clerk, the county clerk may choose not to hold early voting in his or her office. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-418(b)(3)(B)]*

The county board must notify the county clerk of its decision to hold off-site early voting within ten (10) days of its decision. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-418(b)(3)(A)]*

The county clerk must notify the county board of his or her decision not to conduct early voting in his or her office within ten (10) days of receipt of the county board's notice of holding off-site early voting. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-418(b)(3)(B)]*

The county board determines, by unanimous vote, the location of off-site early voting polls. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-418(b)(1)(B)]*

Voting locations must adequately allow an early voter to execute personally and secretly his or her ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-418(e)] See Advisory Standards 2015-001 and 2015-002.*

Dates and Times of Early Voting:

Preferential Primary and General Elections:

For the preferential primary and nonpartisan general elections held in March and for the general and nonpartisan general runoff elections held in November, early voting begins fifteen (15) days before the election from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before the election. *However, in 2024 early voting will not begin on the fifteenth day before the election due to that day being Presidents Day. [A.C.A. § 7-5-418(a)(1)(A)]*

If off-site early voting is held in addition to early voting conducted by the county clerk's office, off-site voting should take place on the same days and times as the county clerk's office, on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Saturday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. beginning fifteen (15) days before the election and ending no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before the election. If the county board of election commissioners is unable to secure an early voting polling site for the days and times listed above the hours should be as close as possible to the hours of the county clerk's office. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-418(b)(1)(A) as amended by Act 263 of 2023]*

Other Elections:

For general primary (primary runoff) elections held in June, general runoff elections held in December and special elections, early voting begins seven (7) days before the election during regular county clerk office hours and ends on the day before the election at the time the county clerk's office regularly closes. [A.C.A. § 7-5-418(a)(2)]

If off-site early voting is held in addition to early voting conducted by the county clerk's office, off-site voting can take place on any of the days and times during regular county clerk office hours beginning seven (7) days before the election and ending on the day before the election no later than the time the county clerk's office regularly closes. [A.C.A. § 7-5-418(b)(1)(A)]

Holidays:

Early voting shall not be held on state holidays. [A.C.A. § 7-5-418(a)(1)(B) as amended by Act 92 of 2023]

Poll Workers:

The county board appoints poll workers for any off-site early voting polling site in the same manner as poll workers are appointed for election day. [A.C.A. § 7-5-418(b)(2)]

Public Notice:

At least eight (8) days before the beginning of early voting for the preferential primary and nonpartisan general elections held in March and the general and nonpartisan general runoff elections held in November; at least ten (10) days before primary runoff elections held in June, general runoff elections held in December, and any special election; and again at least five (5) days before all elections, the county board must publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the county the places and times for early voting, along with all other public notices required by Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-202. This notice includes, but is not limited to, the location where lists of appointed election officials can be found and when it is available and directions for filing a written objection to the service of the elected official. ** See *Sample Notice of Election under the forms tab at www.arkansas.gov/sbec/forms-checklists* [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(a)(3), (b)(1)]

Voting Machines:

The county board of election commissioners must place at least one (1) voting machine equipped for use by voters with disabilities at the county clerk's designated early voting location and at any off-site polling locations established by the county board. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-413(a)(1); 7-5-418(a)]

Ballots, Machines, and Materials:

At the conclusion of each day of off-site early voting, all voted ballots, un-voted ballots, and election materials must be stored in a secure location in the county courthouse or other secure location determined by the county board. If a county chooses to move ballot tabulators from one early voting location to another, they will need to use containers with the tabulators which allow ballots to fall directly into the container. These containers must be secured and transported without an election official handling the actual ballots. When the poll is moved the ballot containers will need to be immediately secured with a numbered

seal and transported to the central location for ballot storage in the county. If the county is using only ballot markers and is not using a tabulator for early voting, the ballot boxes must be secured with a numbered seal and immediately returned to the central location where ballots are stored at the time the poll is moved. ** See the *Early Vote Ballot Box Pick Up form in the forms section and at www.arkansas.gov/sbec/forms-checklists [A.C.A. § 7-5-418(b)(5) as amended by Act 246 of 2023]*

At the close of each day of early voting and when early voting is concluded, the clerk at the county clerk's designated early voting location and poll workers at any off-site early voting poll must secure the voting machines against further voting. [A.C.A. § 7-5-413(b)]

After completion of the canvass of early votes cast by voting machines, the machines must be secured and remain inaccessible to voting. [A.C.A. § 7-5-413(c)(1)]

Absentee Voting

Rejected Absentee Applications:

The county clerk cannot send an absentee ballot to a voter if the signature on the absentee ballot application is not similar to the voter's signature in the voter registration file. Absentee applications that are rejected by the county clerk for other reasons, and for which the applicant cannot be reached for resolution, will be forwarded to the county board of election commissioners for determination as to whether the applicant is a qualified elector. [A.C.A. § 7-5-409(a)]

Dates:

Absentee voting begins no later than forty-six (46) days before the preferential primary and nonpartisan general elections held in March, the general and nonpartisan general runoff elections held in November, the annual school election held concurrently with either the preferential primary or the general elections, and any special election. [A.C.A. § 7-5-407(a)]

Absentee voting begins no later than ten (10) days before the general primary (preferential primary runoff) election held in April and the general runoff election held in December. [A.C.A. § 7-5-407(b)]

Ballots:

The county board is responsible for providing county clerks with ballots for absentee and early voting as soon as possible but no later than forty-seven (47) days or ten (10) days before an election, as the case may be. In addition, the CBEC must provide the clerk with a report documenting the following: (1) the date of delivery, (2) the method of delivery, (3) the total number of ballots provided by style, and (4) names and signatures of the persons delivering the ballots. The report must be supplemented if additional ballot deliveries to the clerk are made. ** See the *Report of Absentee Ballots Delivered to County Clerk in the forms section and at www.arkansas.gov/sbec/forms-checklists [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-211(c); 7-5-407 as amended by Act 329 of 2023]*

Special Runoff Ballots:

The county board must also prepare a special absentee ballot for qualified electors of this state who are temporarily outside the territorial limits of the United States. This special absentee

ballot must be marked “special runoff ballot” and shall permit the absentee voter to vote in the primary runoff election or general runoff election by indicating his or her order of preference for each candidate for each office. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-406(c)]*

The county clerk sends a special runoff ballot and instructions to eligible voters along with the absentee voter’s absentee ballot for the primary election and for the general election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-406(c)]*

There is no special absentee runoff ballot for the runoff election held in November for judges and prosecutors. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-406(c)]*

Deadlines for Voters to Deliver Absentee Ballots to County Clerk:

Absentee ballots delivered to the county clerk in person by the voter, by a designated bearer, or administrator, must be received by the close of regular business hours on the Friday before the election to be counted. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-411(a)(1)(C)]*

Absentee ballots delivered to the county clerk by an authorized agent must be received by 7:30 p.m. on election day to be counted. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-411(a)(1)(B)]*

Except for absentee ballots of qualified electors outside the United States and of uniformed services personnel serving in active status and their dependents absent from the county due to this service, absentee ballots that are mailed must be received by the county clerk by 7:30 p.m. on election day to be counted. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-411(a)(1)(D)]*

Absentee ballots of qualified electors outside the United States on election day can be counted if the ballot is signed, postmarked, and mailed no later than the day of the election and received by the county clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. ten (10) days after the election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-411(a)(1)(A)(ii)(a) as amended by Act 421 of 2023]*

Absentee ballots of active-duty uniformed services personnel will be counted if executed no later than the date of the election (postmark is not required) and received by the county clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. ten (10) days after election day. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-411(a)(1)(A)(ii)(b)]*

Timely and appropriately documented absentee ballots may be mailed in bulk and counted when mailed by a hospital, or administrator of a long-term care or residential facility licensed in the state. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-411(a)(1)(A)(iii)]*

Appointing Absentee Election Clerks:

The county board appoints absentee clerks to process, count, and canvass absentee ballots in the same manner and at the same time that poll workers are selected for election day. The absentee clerks must possess the same qualifications as the poll workers working election day polls. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-414(b)(2)]*

Public Notice:

The notice must include the time and location of the opening, processing, canvassing, and counting of absentee and early voting ballots along with all other public notices required under

A.C.A. § 7-5-202. For counties that begin opening the “outer envelope” prior to election day, the notice must include the date, time and location of the opening. *[A.C.A. §7-5-416(a)(2)]*

Verification of Voter Registration in Absentee Ballots

Absentee voters are required to verify their voter registration when they return their absentee ballot by including a copy of a photo ID which satisfies the requirement of Amendment 51 of the Arkansas Constitution. Unless otherwise exempted, an absentee ballot which is returned, and which does not include the required copy of the voter’s photo ID shall be considered a provisional ballot. Voters who are active-duty members of the uniform services of the United States, the United States Merchant Marine, or the spouse or dependents of any such service member, who are absent from the county due to this service are not required to verify their voter registration. A voter who is a resident of a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state of Arkansas are not required to verify their voter registration so long as they provide documentation from the administrator of the facility attesting that the person is a resident of the facility.

An absentee ballot that is made provisional because the voter failed to provide valid photo identification with the ballot packet may be counted if the voter verifies their voter registration with the county clerk or the county board of election commissioners before 12:00 noon on the Monday following the election and when no other legal reason exists requiring the ballot be rejected. The ballot must be the correct ballot and cast by a lawfully registered voter.

If a voter’s absentee ballot has been made provisional and that voter does not verify his or her voter registration following the election, that provisional absentee ballot will not be counted.

ELECTION PRECINCTS

Establishing and Altering Precincts by Order

The county election commission establishes precincts and by order may alter the boundaries of existing election precincts and establish new ones. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-101(a)(1)(A), (b)(1); 7-7-303]*

Precincts must contain no more than 3,000 registered voters. Precincts that contain more than 3,000 voters must be redrawn at least one hundred twenty (120) days before the next election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101, (b)(3)]*

Written Description/Map:

The order establishing precincts shall contain a written description and map of the boundaries of the precincts that were altered or established and will not be effective until it has been filed with the county clerk. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(b)(3)]*

Records:

Within thirty (30) days after the boundaries of an election precinct are altered or a new election precinct is established, the county clerk shall submit written, printed, and digital copies of the map and description to the Secretary of State and the Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Office. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(c)(1)]*

Upon receipt of the changes, the Secretary of State immediately forwards a copy to the Office of the Attorney General, Census State Data Center, and Mapping and Graphics Section of the Planning and Research Division of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(c)(2)]*

Preferential Primary Elections

Election precincts in all political party primary elections are the same as established by the county board of election commissioners for general elections. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-303]*

Restrictions

A precinct may not be altered, nor can a new precinct be created by the county board of election commissioners less than sixty (60) days before an election, except in the event of an emergency as determined by unanimous vote of the county board of election commissioners. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(b)(2)]*

POLLING SITES

Designation

The county board of election commissioners must designate a polling site for each precinct. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(a)(1)(B)(i)]*

Combined Precincts:

A polling site may serve two (2) or more precincts or parts of precincts. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(a)(1)(B)(ii)]*

Unanimous Vote of County Board:

Designation of polling sites requires a unanimous vote of the members of the county board that are present at the public meeting, except as provided for school elections in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-14-106. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(a)(2)]*

Joint Primary Elections/Common Polls:

For primary elections, the county board must establish common polling places for the joint conduct of the primaries of all political parties. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-202(d)]*

Location:

The county board must provide voting locations that are accessible to voters with disabilities and must provide reasonable and adequate methods for voters with disabilities to execute their ballots personally and secretly at the polling places. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-311(a)]*

Each county shall provide polling places adequate for the operation of the county's voting system, including without limitation access to a sufficient number of electrical outlets and telephone lines, if necessary. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-301(f)]*

Vote Centers:

Vote centers are election day polling sites where a voter from any precinct in the county may vote. Vote centers may be established by the county board of election commissioners, only if authorized by the quorum court. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-113]*

The Secretary of State has promulgated rules relating to the operation of vote centers. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-113(f)]*

Changes to Polling Site Locations:

With the exception of odd year school elections, the polling sites for each election are the same as the polling sites for the previous general election unless the CBEC unanimously agrees to alter the polling sites. If the CBEC wishes to make a change to the polling sites this must be completed no less than 60 days prior to a preferential primary or general election and 30 days prior to all other elections. Changes after these deadlines may only be made in the event of an emergency. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(d)]*

Notice of Polling Site Change:

NON-VOTE CENTER POLLS: If the CBEC changes the location of a precinct's assigned polling site, the County Clerk must send each registered voter notice of this change no less than 15 days prior to the election unless the election is a school election, the election is a special election, or the emergency arises less than fifteen days prior to the election. In all cases notice must be posted on the polling site which is no longer utilized. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(d)]*

VOTE CENTER POLLS: If the CBEC changes the location of a vote center, notice must be posted in a newspaper of general circulation no less than 15 days prior to the election. In addition, the notice must also be posted on the polling site which is no longer utilized. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(e)]*

VOTE CENTER POLLING LOCATIONS IN RUNOFF ELECTIONS: Vote Center only counties will use the polling sites that were in the territory, district, ward, etc. that requires the runoff. If no poll is located there, the County Board is required to open a poll in the territory or the county seat. *[Act 389 of 2023]*

Appeal of a Polling Site Closure:

A qualified elector may appeal the decision of the CBEC to reduce the total number election day polling sites during a preferential primary or general election. When such an appeal is filed, the SBEC will rule on the appeal no less than thirty (30) days before election day. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(d)(4)]*

ADA Compliance

The county boards are responsible for compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-311 and with Public Law 98-435, Title II of Public Law 101-336, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Help America Vote Act regarding the accessibility of voting locations for voters with

disabilities. The Secretary of State's Office may be able to assist with grant funds to meet ADA requirements. Contact the Elections Division for more information.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-311(d)(1)]

STATE BOARD ASSISTANCE ON ADA COMPLIANCE

The State Board of Election Commissioners assists local election authorities with the implementation of Title II requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and with the Title III requirements of the Help America Vote Act regarding accessibility for voters with disabilities.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-311(b)]

Before each general election, the State Board sends each county detailed and comprehensive written directives relating to and based upon Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act guiding county boards of election commissioners for evaluating the accessibility of the county's polling sites. Based upon information provided by the counties to the State, the State Board compiles a report demonstrating compliance by the county election authorities.

Reduction/No Poll

If there are no opposed races and no other ballot issues to be decided at a primary election, the county board of election commissioners may declare and certify the candidate as elected.

[A.C.A. § 7-7-313]

In a special election to fill a municipal vacancy, (See, "Special Elections" section beginning on page 119) when there is only one candidate and no other issues on the ballot, the election commission may declare and certify the candidate as elected as if the candidate had been voted on. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-107(b)]*

Restrictions

Unless changed by order of the county board of election commissioners, the polling sites for each election are the same as those established for the immediately preceding general election, except as provided in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-14-106 for school elections (same as last school election).

[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(d)(1)]

Neither a vote center nor a polling site can be changed less than sixty (60) days before an election, except in the event of an emergency. Notice of a polling location change must be posted at the former polling location. Vote center counties must publish public notice of the change in a newspaper of general circulation no less than fifteen (15) days before the election. In non-vote center counties, the county clerk must mail notices to each individually affected voter who would vote at the moved polling location. Notice to each voter is not required for school elections, special elections, and emergency changes made within fifteen (15) days of an election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(d)(2), (3)]*

POLL WORKERS, ABSENTEE CLERKS, AND OTHER ELECTION OFFICIALS

Election officials include county election commissioners, poll workers, absentee ballot clerks, persons who perform election coordinator duties, and deputy county clerks or persons assigned by a county clerk to conduct early voting. This section applies to absentee ballot clerks and to those poll workers appointed by a county election commission for election day and early voting when the election commission conducts early voting.

***Best Practice:** If possible, election officials designated for central count tabulation should represent both the majority and minority parties.*

Selection/Appointment

The county board of election commissioners must select and appoint a sufficient number of poll workers for each polling site and appoint absentee clerks at least twenty (20) days before the election. [A.C.A. §§ 7-4-107(b)(1); 7-5-414(b)(1); 7-7-302]

Number of Appointed Poll Workers:

Each polling site must have a minimum of two election clerks, one election judge, and one election sheriff. The election judge shall serve as the poll supervisor. The election judge and sheriff must have attended the advanced training. [A.C.A. § 7-4-107(b)(2)]

Split Shifts:

A poll worker may be permitted by the county board to work half-day or split shifts at a poll on election day, if the required number of poll workers is always present. [A.C.A. § 7-4-107(d)]

Minority Party Representation:

The minority party member of the county board shall have the option to designate one fewer poll workers than the majority of poll workers at each polling site, with a minimum of two per poll. Absentee clerks shall be appointed in the same manner. [A.C.A. §§ 7-4-107(b)(2); 7-5-414(b)]

Failure to Agree on Selection:

If the county party representatives on the county board fail to agree on any poll worker or absentee clerk to fill any election post allotted to that respective party by the deadline for selecting and appointing poll workers and absentee clerks, then the county board appoints the remaining poll workers or absentee clerks. [A.C.A. § 7-4-107(b)(2)]

***EXPLANATORY NOTE:** For polling places where the minority party member of the county board declines to exercise the option to designate poll workers, the workers are selected by majority vote of the board as a whole. When the minority party member exercises the option to designate poll workers at any given poll, the remaining poll workers at that poll are appointed by majority vote of the county board as a whole.*

Qualifications:

To serve as a poll worker or absentee clerk, **he or she must be:**

- A qualified elector of the state (see the definition on page 8); [A.C.A. § 7-4-109(a)(1)]
 - Certain High School and College students shall participate as Election Pages as outlined in A.C.A. 7-4-116 and 7-4-117.
- Able to read and write the English language; and [A.C.A. § 7-4-109(a)(1)]
- A resident of the precinct that he or she will serve at the time of appointment, unless it is impossible to obtain qualified poll workers for any precinct, in which case, the county board can, by unanimous vote and upon certification to the county clerk, designate another qualified citizen of the county to serve in the precinct. [A.C.A. § 7-4-109(b)]

All poll workers and absentee clerks must attend training coordinated by the State Board of Election Commissioners. [A.C.A. § 7-4-109(e)(1)]

Disqualifications:

A poll worker or absentee clerk cannot:

- Have been found or pled guilty or nolo contendere to the violation of an election law of this state; [A.C.A. § 7-4-109(a)(1)]
- Be a paid employee of a political party; [A.C.A. § 7-4-109(c)(1)]
- Be a paid employee of a candidate for office on the county’s ballot; [A.C.A. § 7-4-109(c)(1)]
- Be a candidate for an office to be filled at an election while serving as a poll worker; [A.C.A. § 7-4-109(a)(2)]
- Be married to or related within the second degree of consanguinity to a candidate running for office in the election, if a written objection is made to the county board of election commissioners within ten (10) days after the list of officials is posted; or [A.C.A. § 7-4-109(d)]
- Be the spouse of a member of the county board of election commissioners, or be the county party chairman or their spouse, if a written objection is made to the county board of election commissioners within seven (7) days after the list of officials is posted. [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(a)(2)]

STATE BOARD CHART ON DEGREES OF CONSANGUINITY

The State Board of Election Commissioners has developed a chart to assist the commissions in determining a poll worker or absentee clerk’s degree of relationship to a candidate on the ballot. The chart of Degrees of Consanguinity is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.

Paid Employee of School District:

A person serving as a poll worker or absentee clerk may be a paid employee of a school district holding a school election

College and High School Students - Special Election Day Program

The county board of election commissioners may conduct a special election day program for college and high school students in one (1) or more polling places designated by the county board according to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 7-4-116 and 7-4-117.

High school and college students participating shall serve as volunteer election pages without compensation. If the student has received poll worker training, he or she may serve in all the same roles as a poll worker.

Compensation

Poll workers and absentee clerks receive a minimum of the prevailing state or federal minimum wage for holding an election whichever is greater, or a greater amount as may be appropriated. For elections held in 2024, the state minimum wage will be \$11.00 per hour. An election official may work as a volunteer without pay if they sign an affidavit stating they do not wish to receive compensation or reimbursement. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-112(a)(c)]*

Poll workers and absentee clerks carrying election materials to and from the polling sites can be paid mileage at the rate appropriated, but not more than the rate prescribed for state employees in state travel regulations. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-112(b)]*

The county board of election commissioners must certify to the county court the per diem of election officials and the mileage of the election officials carrying the returns to the county board for allowance. *[A.C.A. § 7-4-107(c)]*

STATE BOARD RULES AND GUIDELINES

For state-funded elections, the State Board of Election Commissioners has promulgated rules under the Administrative Procedure Act and developed guidelines for reimbursing election officials. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-201(a)]*

The State Board of Election Commissioners' rules for reimbursement of state-funded election expenses are available on the State Board's website at www.arkansas.gov/sbec.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Written Notices

Drawing for Ballot Position:

For the preferential primary election held in March, each county board of election commissioners shall hold a public meeting to draw for ballot position at least eighty-nine (89) days before the election. *[A.C.A. §7-7-305(b)]*

For general elections, each county board of election commissioners shall hold a public meeting to draw for ballot position at least seventy-two (72) days before the election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-207(c)(1)]*

For runoff elections, the ballot order for eligible candidates is the same as for the previous election leading to the runoff. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-207(c)(3); 7-7-201(d)]*

The county board must give at least ten (10) days' written notice of the time and place of the meeting to draw for ballot position to the chairs of the county party committees if the chairs are not members of the county board. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-305(b)]*

Mailings:

Except for school, special elections, and emergency poll changes, the county clerk shall mail the notice of a change made in a polling site to each affected registered voter at least fifteen (15) days before the election. Emergency changes to polling places made within the fifteen (15) day window do not require mailing. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(d)(3)]*

Newspaper Publications

Drawing for Ballot Position:

The county board of election commissioners must publish the notice of holding a public meeting to draw for ballot position in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least three (3) days before the meeting. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-207(c)(2); 7-7-305(b)]*

Voting Machine Preparation:

Before voting, machine preparation can begin, the county board must publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county stating the time and place voting machines will be prepared for the election and of a time that the machines may be inspected by one representative of each candidate. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-516]*

Voting Machine Testing:

The county board must publish a notice of the time and place of the public testing of voting machines at least forty-eight (48) hours before the testing by publication one time in one or more daily or weekly newspapers in the town, city, or county using the voting machines. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-515(c)(2)]*

Electronic Vote Tabulating Device Testing:

The county board must publish a notice of the time and place of the public testing of electronic vote tabulating devices at least forty-eight (48) hours before the testing by publication one time in one or more daily or weekly newspapers in the town, city, or county using the devices. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-611(b)(1)]*

Notice of Election:

At least eight (8) days before the beginning of early voting for the preferential primary and nonpartisan general elections held in March and general and nonpartisan general runoff elections held in November; the county board must publish public notice of the election in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-202(a)]*

At least ten (10) days before primary runoff elections held in March, general runoff elections held in December, and any special elections, the county board shall publish public notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-202(a)]*

At least five (5) days before all elections, the public notice of the election must be published a second time in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-202(b)(1)]*

Content of Public Notice of Election:

The public notice of the election shall contain: the date of the election; the hours of voting on election day; the places and times for early voting; polling sites for holding the election in the county; the candidates and offices to be elected; the time and location of opening, processing, canvassing, and counting ballots including absentee and early ballots; the location and date that the list of appointed election officials will be posted and directions for filing a written object to the service of an elected official. ** See example of Notice of Election in the Forms section of the website at www.arkansas.gov/sbec/forms-checklists *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-202(a); 7-5-416(a)(2)]*

Postings**List of Appointed Election Officials:**

At least eight (8) days before the beginning of early voting the county clerk, or county board of election commissioners must post the list of appointed election officials (deputy county clerks or persons assigned by a county clerk to conduct early voting) in a public place in the county clerk's office.

And at least eight (8) days before election day, the county board of election commissioners must post the list of appointed election officials (county election commissioners, poll workers, absentee ballot clerks, persons who perform election coordinator duties) in a public place in its county clerk's office. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-202(b)(2)]*

Nominations/Amendments/Measures/Questions:

At least ten (10) days before the general election, the county board must post a list at the door of the courthouse of all nominations, of all proposed amendments to the Arkansas

Constitution, and of all other measures and questions required by law to be submitted to the electors. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-206]*

Polling Site Changes:

Notice to the electors of a change made in a polling site must be posted at the polling site used in the last election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-101(d)(3)]*

BALLOTS

Unopposed Candidates

Primary Elections:

A candidate who runs unopposed for a position on the county committee is omitted from the primary election ballot and the candidate is selected to serve in that position on the county committee in the same manner as if elected at the primary election. *[A.C.A. § 7-3-104(a)(2)(B)]*

When only one candidate qualifies for a particular office or position, the office or position and the name of the unopposed candidate SHALL be printed on the political party's ballot in all primary elections. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-304(d)]*

Unopposed candidates for mayors, governor, and circuit clerks, are not listed separately on the primary ballot – the separate listing for those offices is only for the general election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-207(B)]*

General Elections:

“Non-Judicial State Elected Officials” are candidates for: U.S. House, U.S. Senate, Constitutional Offices, State House, and State Senate

For general elections, the names of unopposed candidates for the office of mayor, governor, circuit clerk and non-judicial state elected officials are placed on the general election ballot separately and the votes for each contest shall be tabulated as in all contested races. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-207(a)(2)(B) (a)(3)(B); 7-5-315; 14-42-206(c)(2)]*

All unopposed candidates other than for the offices of mayor, governor, circuit clerk and non-judicial state elected officials can be declared and certified elected without being placed on the general election ballot. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-207(a); 14-42-206]*

In an election which there are unopposed candidates, other than for the offices of mayor, governor, circuit clerk, and non-judicial state elected officials, the phrase “unopposed candidates” shall appear on the ballot in a place where a voter may cast a vote for all unopposed candidates. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-207 (a)]*

Ballots – Miscellaneous

Quantity of Paper Ballots:

When a county uses a paper ballot voting system whether counted by hand at the polling site, counted by an electronic vote tabulating device at the polling site, or counted at a central location, the county board must provide a minimum number of ballots for each election precinct equivalent to 1.5 times the number of electors voting **on paper ballots** at the last preceding comparable election, up to a maximum of 105% of the total number of registered voters for the respective precinct. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-602(a)]*

The resulting calculation of 105% of the total number of countywide registered voters represents the **maximum** total number of paper ballots to print for the election for the entire county.

For state-funded elections, the State Board of Election Commissioners has promulgated rules under the Administrative Procedure Act defining election expenses that are eligible for reimbursement and has developed guidelines containing instructions and forms for the counties' use in requesting reimbursement from the State Board.

Among many other items, maximum ballot printing costs for those counties using a voting machine system and maximum allowances for printing special absentee are addressed by State Board rules.

Ballot Errors or Omissions:

If errors or omissions are discovered in the preparation of ballots, the county board must hold a public meeting and determine, by unanimous vote, that the ballot errors or omissions and immediately correct the error or omission or show cause why the correction should not be done. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-209 as amended by Act 308 of 2023]*

However, the county board is required to correct ballots that omit a contest, or omit a candidate, or which omit an issue (other than a no change millage issue). Regardless of whether the error is corrected, the applicable mitigation must be implemented and remain in place until the error is corrected, or the election is concluded.

If there is an error in the candidate's name: A notice must be posted on each ballot marking device or booth which informs the voter that an error exists on the ballot regarding the affected race, and which lists the correct rendering of all candidates in that race in the order in which they appear on the ballot. The notice shall NOT identify the candidate affected by the error. The same notice shall be provided to each absentee voter whose ballot is sent after the error is discovered.

If there is an error in a ballot issue: A notice must be posted on each ballot marking device or booth which informs the voter that an error exists on the ballot regarding the issue in question and renders the correct text of the ballot issue. The same notice shall be provided to each absentee voter whose ballot is sent after the error is discovered.

If there is an omission of a race or issue: If possible, the voters assigned a ballot style omitting an issue or race must be assigned a ballot style which contains all the correct issues and races should one be available. If no alternate ballot style is available, the county board shall provide an error correction ballot which is a separate paper ballot containing the omitted race or issue. The county board must also work with the county clerk to develop a list of voters who are affected by the error and who are eligible to cast the error correction ballot. Voters whose names appear on that list may cast the error correction ballot as a regular ballot to be counted by the county board on election day. Any person not on the list may cast the error correction ballot as a provisional ballot if they believe they are affected by the error. In this circumstance, the county board is required to use all information available in the voter registration system to contact all voters who have already voted before the implemented ballot mitigation. *[Act 308 of 2023]*

Ballot Stubs:

Preprinted paper ballots must be printed with a perforated portion capable of being detached for use as the ballot stub. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-601(b)]*

Ballot stubs must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number 1 so that the number on the last ballot printed shall represent the total number of paper ballots provided for the election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-601(c)]*

Recall Elections:

A question of removal of a person holding an elective office with a four (4) year term in a municipality with a mayor-council form of government must appear on the ballot in substantially the following form: “FOR the removal of (name of officer) from the office of (name of office)”, “AGAINST the removal of (name of officer) from the office of (name of office)”. *[A.C.A. § 14-42-119]*

Combined Primary and Nonpartisan General Elections:

The county boards must furnish separate ballots for each political party containing the names of the candidates seeking the political party’s nomination, the names of all qualified candidates seeking election to nonpartisan offices (judges and prosecutors) and all measures and questions, if any, to be decided by the voters. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-306; 7-10-102(b)(2)]*

In addition to a combined ballot for each political party, a separate ballot containing the names of the candidates seeking election to nonpartisan offices (judges and prosecutors) and all measures and questions, if any, to be decided by the voters must be prepared for voters who do not wish to vote in a primary. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-306; 7-10-102(b)(2)]*

Certified Nominations:

Except as provided by law for unopposed candidates, all election ballots provided by the county board of election commissioners of any county in this state for any election shall contain in the proper place the name of every candidate whose nomination for any office to be filled at that election has been certified to the county board and shall not contain the name of any candidate or person who was not certified. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-207(a)(1)]*

Form of Ballots**Alike:**

Ballots provided by the county board of election commissioners for an election shall be alike and shall be in plain type, however, different colored ballots may be used at primary elections to distinguish between political parties. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-208(a); 7-5-601(a); 7-7-305(a)]

Ballot Heading:

The heading of each ballot shall read: “OFFICIAL BALLOT (description) ELECTION (date), (year) Vote by placing an appropriate mark opposite the person for whom you wish to vote.” [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-208(b)(1); 7-5-601(d)(1)]

If the ballot contains an initiated or referred amendment, act, or other measure, the heading shall also contain these words, “Vote on amendments, acts, and measures by placing an appropriate mark below the amendment (or act or measure) either FOR or AGAINST.”

[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-208(b)(2); 7-5-601(d)(2)]

Ballot Instructions:

Paper ballots must contain printed instructions under the heading that inform the voter of the effect of casting multiple votes for an office or measure and how to correct the ballot before it is cast and counted, including instructions on how to correct an error through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct an error. [A.C.A. § 7-5-601(e)]

***Best Practice:** If instructions about the use of marking devices are included on the ballot, please consult with the county clerk to avoid any confusion for absentee voters.*

Marking Areas:

Ballots must contain a place for marking a vote for a candidate adjacent to and on the same line as the name of each candidate. [A.C.A. § 7-5-208(d)]

Below each act, amendment, or other measure to be voted on (except county and municipal measures referred by petition), the words “FOR” and “AGAINST” must be situated one above the other with a place for marking a vote for each act, amendment, or other measure adjacent to and on the same line of each word. [A.C.A. § 7-5-208(d)]

The words “VOTE FOR _____” are placed opposite the designation of each office with the number of persons required to fill the office placed in the blank space. (This will almost always be “VOTE FOR ONE”.) [A.C.A. § 7-5-208(e)]

Form of Candidate Names and Titles:

The Secretary of State must review either political practices pledges, if timely filed, or party certificates if the political practices pledge is not timely filed and certify the form in which the names and titles of candidates filing for federal, state, and district offices will appear on the ballot. [A.C.A. § 7-7-305(c)(2), (3)(A)]

The Secretary of State must review the political practices pledges for nonpartisan candidates filing for the office of Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, circuit court, district court and prosecuting attorney and certify the form in which the candidates' names and titles will appear on the ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-10-103(f)(2), (3)]*

The county boards must review either political practices pledges, if timely filed, or party certificates if the political practices pledge is not timely filed and certify the form in which the names and titles of candidates filing for county, township, school, and municipal office will appear on the ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-305(c)(2), (3)(A)]*

The name of every candidate shall be placed on the ballot in the form certified by either the Secretary of State or the county board. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-305(c)(3)(A); 7-10-103(f)(3)]*

CANDIDATE REVIEW OF BALLOT CONTENT: For candidates who supply their email address on their political practice pledge, the CBEC is required to provide a proof of the approved ballot or a report from the ballot programming software which shows: (1) the name of each candidate as it appears on the ballot, (2) the ballot contests to which the candidate is assigned, and (3) the precinct or precinct-parts to which the race is assigned. *[Act 308 of 2023]*

If the ballot lacks enough space for the requested title, the county board may substitute an abbreviated title and must immediately notify the affected candidate. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-305(c)(3)(B), (C); 7-10-103(f)(3)(B), (C)]*

A candidate is not permitted to change the form in which his or her name will be placed on the ballot after the deadline for filing the political practices pledge. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-7-305(c)(4); 7-10-103(f)(4)]*

STATE BOARD GUIDELINES FOR BALLOT NAME CERTIFICATION

The State Board of Election Commissioners has developed guidelines to assist the county boards of election commissioners in reviewing local candidate names and titles according to Ark. Code Ann. § 7-7-305(c).

The State Board's Guidelines for Ballot Name Certification offer guidance on use of given names, nicknames, professional or honorary titles, and titles of elective public offices and are available in the Forms & Instructions Section.

The names of federal, state, judicial, prosecutorial, and district candidates that are certified by the Secretary of State shall be printed on the ballot in the exact form as certified by the Secretary of State.

Listing of Candidate Names:

The name of each candidate who has been nominated or has qualified as required by law must be listed on the ballot in a perpendicular column under the name of each office to be filled. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-208(c)(1)]*

Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominees are bracketed together on the same ballot as if they were candidates and are listed on the ballot instead of listing the names of presidential elector candidates.

Order of Names on Ballot:

The county board must hold a public meeting not less than eighty-nine (89) days before the preferential primary and nonpartisan general elections held in March and not less than seventy-two (72) days before the general election held in November and determine by lot the order that the names of candidates will appear on the ballot. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-207(c)(1); 7-7-305(b)]

For runoff elections, the ballot order for eligible candidates shall be the same as for the previous election leading to the runoff. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-207(c)(3); 7-7-305(b)]

***Best Practice:** When determining the order that the names of the candidates will appear on the ballot, ensure that the process is open and transparent by:*

- *publishing the notice of holding a public meeting to draw for ballot position in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least three (3) days before the meeting as required by law;*
- *determining the ballot position by randomized selection; and*
- *announcing the position of each candidate as it is determined.*

Party Designation:

Except for a nonpartisan election or nonpartisan municipal election, beside each candidate's name shall be his or her party designation or the term "INDEPENDENT", as the case may be. [A.C.A. § 7-5-207(d)]

President and Vice President:

The names of the candidates for President and Vice President are placed together on the ballot along with their political party designation so that the voter casts one vote for President/Vice President instead of voting for each office independently. Although the President and Vice President are elected by electors chosen by the winning party or group/independent slate, the names of the candidates for electors do not appear on the ballot. [A.C.A. § 7-8-302(4)]

Proposed Statewide Measures:

The ballot title and popular name of each proposed state measure and each referred act are placed on the ballot as certified to the county board by the Secretary of State. [A.C.A. § 7-9-117(a)]

The title and popular name must be stated plainly and followed by the words, "FOR ISSUE NO...", "AGAINST ISSUE NO...". [A.C.A. § 7-9-117(b)]

Each ballot title must be separate and apart from each other. [A.C.A. §§ 7-9-117(c)(1); 14-14-917(d)] Each statewide measure is designated as an issue by the Secretary of State and numbered consecutively beginning with "Issue 1". [A.C.A. § 7-9-117(c)(2)]

Each issue, if any, shall be placed on the ballot beginning with constitutional amendments proposed by the General Assembly, followed by initiated constitutional amendments, statewide initiated acts, referred acts of the General Assembly, questions referred by the General Assembly, and other measures that may be referred. [A.C.A. § 7-9-117(c)(2)]

Proposed Local Measures:

The ballot titles of measures submitted by municipalities, counties, and other political subdivisions are placed on the ballot separate from statewide measures and numbered consecutively for each political subdivision beginning with initiated local measures, followed by referred local measures, and other measures that may be referred.

[A.C.A. §§ 7-9-117(c)(3); 14-14-917(b)(1), (d)]

Ballot Format for Proposed County Initiative:

The ballot title for county initiative shall be stated plainly and followed by the words, “FOR PROPOSED INITIATIVE ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT OR MEASURE) NO. _____”, “AGAINST PROPOSED INITIATIVE ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT OR MEASURE) NO. _____.” [A.C.A. § 14-14-917(d)]

Ballot Format for Proposed County Measure Referred by Quorum Court:

The ballot title for a measure referred to the voters of a county by the Quorum Court shall be stated plainly and followed by the words, “FOR PROPOSED REFERRED ORDINANCE (OR MEASURE) NO. _____”, “AGAINST PROPOSED REFERRED ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT OR MEASURE) NO. _____”.

[A.C.A. § 14-14-917(d)]

Ballot Format for Proposed County Measure Referred by Petition:

The ballot title for a measure referred to the voters of a county by petition shall be stated plainly and followed by the words FOR REPEAL OF THE REFERRED ORDINANCE (OR MEASURE) NO. _____”, “AGAINST REPEAL OF THE REFERRED ORDINANCE (OR MEASURE) NO. _____”. [A.C.A. § 14-14-917(d)(1)(B)(ii)]

Ballot Format for Proposed Municipal Initiative:

The ballot title for municipal initiative shall be stated plainly and followed by the words, “FOR PROPOSED INITIATIVE NO. _____”, “AGAINST PROPOSED INITIATIVE NO. _____”. [A.C.A. § 14-55-303(a)]

Ballot Format for Proposed Municipal Measure Referred by Governing Body:

The ballot title for a measure referred to the voters of a municipality by its governing body shall be stated plainly and followed by the words, FOR REFERRED MEASURE (OR ORDINANCE OR AMENDMENT) NO. _____”, “AGAINST REFERRED MEASURE (OR ORDINANCE OR MEASURE) NO. _____”. [A.C.A. § 14-55-303(b)]

Ballot Format for Proposed Municipal Measure Referred by Petition:

The ballot title for a measure referred to the voters of a municipality by petition shall be stated plainly and followed by the words FOR REPEAL OF THE ORDINANCE NO. _____”, “AGAINST REPEAL OF THE ORDINANCE NO. _____”.

[A.C.A. § 14-55-303(a)(2)]

VOTING EQUIPMENT

Voting Machines

Demonstration:

The county board of election commissioners must designate times and places where voting machines shall be demonstrated for instructing voters in their use. Demonstration must be conducted in an accessible public building. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-509(a)]*

The county board must publish notice in a local newspaper at least forty-eight (48) hours before the demonstration. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-509(a)(2)]*

A voting machine cannot be used for instruction once prepared and secured for an election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-509(c)]*

Preparation:

The county board is responsible for the preparation, programming oversight, testing, and adjustment of voting machines for the election, including preparation and certification of ballot styles. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-512(a); 7-5-515(a)]*

Voting machines must be programmed to reject overvotes. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-515(c)(4)]*

Testing:

Logic and Accuracy: As soon as election media is prepared, and at least seven (7) days before early voting begins, the county election commission must test all election media to determine that the voting system has been correctly configured and that the voting system will correctly count the votes cast. **See the Logic and Accuracy certification on page 181 of the Forms and Instructions section. [A.C.A. § 7-5-515(c)(1)]*

Public Test: The county election commission must also conduct a public test. The commission must publish notice of the test in a local newspaper at least forty-eight (48) hours before the test. The test shall be open to representatives of the political parties, candidates, media, and the public.

The test shall consist of pre-auditing a group of test ballots to predetermine the number of valid votes cast for each candidate and each measure, voting the test ballots on the voting machines, confirming rejection of overvotes, and comparing the results for any discrepancies. The test should include at least one (1) overvoted ballot for each contest to determine if the voting machine will reject the votes.

The county board must determine the cause of any errors detected, correct the problem, and produce an errorless count before approving the machine for use in an election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-515(c)]*

Once a voting machine has been properly prepared, tested, and examined by candidates or their designated representative, the county board:

- Certifies the accuracy of the voting system by sending a copy of the electronic results to the Secretary of State and filing the test results with the county clerk;
- Seals, retains, and disposes of the ballots and programs used to test the machines as provided by law;
- Makes the voting machine inaccessible to further voting;
- Places any activation device in a sealed package on which is written the serial number and precinct location of the voting machine and the number registered on the protective counter or device, and retains them until turned over for delivery to poll workers; and
- Certifies the number on the protective counter and that all question counters are set at zero (000) for each machine.

[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-515; 7-5-517]

Delivery:

The county board must deliver sufficient voting machines to the poll workers at each polling site and the voting machines must remain inactivated against voting until the polls are formally opened for voting. Posting of “zero tapes” is required to assist in meeting this requirement.

[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-512(c); 7-5-518(a)]

Electronic Vote Tabulating Devices

Preparation:

The county board of election commissioners must have the electronic tabulating devices used for scanning votes properly programmed and tested before delivery to the election precincts.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-611(a)(1)]

Electronic vote tabulating devices used to count votes at the polling sites must be programmed to reject ballots containing overvotes. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-604(a)(5)(B), (6)(B)]*

Testing:

Logic and Accuracy: As soon as election media is prepared, and at least seven (7) days before early voting begins, the county election commission must test all election media from each electronic vote tabulating device to determine that the devices will correctly count the votes cast. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-611(a)]*

Public Test: The county election commission must also conduct a public test. The commission must publish notice of the test in a local newspaper at least forty-eight (48) hours before the test. The test shall be open to representatives of the political parties, candidates, media, and the public.

The public test consists of generating a zero-printout tape, pre-auditing a group of test ballots to predetermine the number of valid votes cast for each candidate and each measure for each precinct, scanning the test ballots on the devices, confirming rejection of overvoted ballots, and comparing the results for any discrepancies.

The public test must include at least one (1) overvoted ballot for each contest to test the devices' ability to reject overvotes.

Upon completion of testing, the county board must clear the devices of any votes cast during testing and certify the accuracy of the voting system by sending a copy of the electronic results to the Secretary of State and filing the test results with the county clerk.
[A.C.A. § 7-5-611]

Delivery:

The county board must have the electronic vote tabulating devices delivered to all election precincts where a device is to be used. [A.C.A. § 7-5-611(a)(1)]

**SECRETARY OF STATE'S
CERTIFICATION OF LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING RESULTS**

To assist the county board of election commissioners in meeting its statutory certification requirement, the Secretary of State has developed a certification form for the county board's use in certifying the accuracy of its voting machines and for filing the results with Secretary of State and the county clerk as required by law.

This Logic and Accuracy Testing Results form is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.

ELECTION MATERIALS

Delivery

Designee:

At least one (1) day before any election, the county board of election commissioners must designate a person or persons to whom the county board will furnish ballots and supplies for delivery to poll workers at each poll. [A.C.A. § 7-5-211(a)]

The designee may not be an elected official, an elected official's deputy, or a candidate for office. [A.C.A. § 7-5-211(a)]

The county board is responsible for the security of the delivered election materials.
[A.C.A. § 7-5-211(b)]

Inspection:

Election materials will vary by county depending upon the type of voting system in use and the type of election being conducted. Election materials should be inspected before opening the polls to ensure that all necessary election materials are available.

Supplies

Supplies may include:

- Voting booths [A.C.A. § 7-5-309(a)(1)]
- Ballots [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-602; 7-7-305(a)]
- Ballot boxes [A.C.A. §§ 7-4-107(a); 7-5-211(a)(2)(A)]
- Stub boxes [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-308(a)(3); 7-5-309(b)(3)]
- Numbered ballot box seals [A.C.A. § 7-5-211(a)(2)(A)]
- Election kits
- Magnifiers
- Pens
- Note Pads
- Thermal printer paper
- Scissors
- One-hundred-foot (100') spool of string (for marking electioneering area)
- Tape (for required postings)
- Abandoned Ballot envelopes
- Provisional Ballot envelopes [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-211(a)(2)(G); 7-5-308(a)(5)]
- Provisional Voter envelopes [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-211(a)(2)(G); 7-5-308(a)(6)]
- Spoiled Ballot envelopes [A.C.A. § 7-5-602(d)]
- Envelopes for equipment keys
- Envelopes to seal voted paper ballots [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-211(a)(2)(E); 7-5-317(a)(4)(A)]
- Envelopes to seal unused paper ballots [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-211(a)(2)(E); 7-5-317(a)(4)(A)]
- Certificate envelopes [A.C.A. § 7-5-211(a)(2)(E)]
- Packages for voting machine activation devices [A.C.A. § 7-5-527(e)(1)]
- Container with numbered seal for enveloped voted/un-voted paper ballots [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-317(a)(4)(A); 7-5-614(1)]
- Election material transport supplies (boxes, envelopes, containers)
- Telephone or cell phone

Forms

The following forms must be made available to the poll workers at each polling site on election day:

- Precinct Voter Registration List [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-107(a); 7-5-211(a)(2)(C)]
- Voter Registration Application forms [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-211(a)(2)(G); 7-5-305]
- List of Voters* [A.C.A. § 7-5-211(a)(2)(B)]
- Notice to Provisional Voters* [A.C.A. § 7-5-308(c), *SBEC Rules on Vote Challenges, Poll Watchers, and Provisional Voting*]
- List of Provisional Voters* [A.C.A. § 7-5-308(a)(8)]

- List of Persons Assisting Voters* [A.C.A. § 7-5-310(b)(5)]
- Change in Polling Site Authorization Form*
- Spoiled Ballot Affidavit* [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-602(d); 7-5-609]
- Voter Complaint Form* [A.C.A. § 7-5-510]
- Abandoned Ballot Log* [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-309; 7-5-522]
- Poll Workers' Certificate* [A.C.A. § 7-5-526]
- Provisional Ballot Transfer Forms* [Act 263 of 2023]
- Tally sheets (paper ballots counted by hand at poll) [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-211(a)(2)(D); 7-5-603(1)]
- Certificates of Election Results (paper ballots counted by hand at the poll, precinct electronic vote tabulating devices) [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-211(a)(2)(F); 7-5-603(4); 7-5-613(2)]

STATE BOARD FORMS

The forms listed that are marked with an asterisk (*) were developed by the State Board of Election Commissioners to assist the county boards of election commissioners with ensuring that its poll workers complete all reporting required by law on election day.

The forms are provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.

Additional reference materials that address commonly misunderstood election day procedures are available in the Training Guide and Checklist for Poll Workers. The State Board recommends that the Poll Workers these handy for reference throughout voting hours.

Required Postings

The following information must be posted in a conspicuous place at each polling site on election day before opening the polls and remain posted continuously until the polls close:

- Public Notice of the Election [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(c)(1)]
- At least two (2) sample ballots marked "SAMPLE" for each ballot style to be used at the poll ** [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(c)(2)]
- Clear, written instructions for voting on a voting machine [A.C.A. § 7-5-512(d)]
- Two (2) copies of the full text of all measures on the ballot [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-202(c)(3); 7-9-114(b)]
- Zero printout tape signed by the poll workers from each voting machine and electronic vote tabulating device at the poll [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-202(c)(8); 7-5-518(c)(1); 7-5-611(b)]
- At least two (2) copies of instructions on how to vote, including instructions for fail-safe and provisional voting [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(c)(4)]
- General information on federal and state voting rights* [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(c)(5)]
- General information on the right of an individual to cast a provisional ballot with instructions on how to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated* [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(c)(5)]
- General information on federal and state laws on prohibitions on acts of fraud and misrepresentation* [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(c)(6)]

- Notice on Electioneering [A.C.A. §§ 7-1-103(a)(9); 7-1-104(a)(7)]
- VOTE HERE signs [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(c)(7)]
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signs [A.C.A. § 7-5-311(d)]
- Poll Watcher Rights and Responsibilities [A.C.A. § 7-5-312(f)]
- List of Registered Voters by Precinct [Amendment 51 Section 14]

** For polling sites with more than 15 ballot styles and with sample ballots posted to an internet website, the polling site may provide two organized bound volumes of sample ballots or one bound volume and one organized electronic device that allows voters access to the sample ballots. [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(c)(1)(B)(ii)]

Posting to Voter View on Secretary of State website

Sample Ballots are required to be submitted to the Secretary of State's office no later than twenty (20) days before a preferential primary election or general election and no less than ten (10) days before all other elections. [A.C.A. § 7-5-202]

POSTINGS

The three (3) posters above that are marked with an asterisk (*) provide general information on federal and state voting rights, general information on the right of an individual to cast a provisional ballot, and general information on federal and state laws on prohibitions on acts of fraud and misrepresentation and are legally required to be posted at each poll and are provided to the county boards of election commissioners by the Secretary of State's office according to Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-202(d).

A Poll Watcher Authorization Form is provided by the State Board in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual. The portion of the Form that describes a poll watcher's rights and responsibilities is required by law to be posted at each polling place.

Although not required by law to be posted, the State Board of Election Commissioners strongly urges posting of a Notice on Electioneering at each poll to enforce electioneering laws and maintain order. A sample Notice on Electioneering that describes actions considered as electioneering, prohibitions on electioneering, and the punishment for violation of electioneering laws was developed by the State Board and is provided in the Forms & Instructions section of this manual.

Also provided is an optional posting for attaching to voting machines that warns the voter against casting the ballot if the voter suspects that he or she may have been issued the wrong ballot as well as an optional posting warning voters and poll workers of the consequences of crossover voting.

POLL WORKER RESOURCES

Poll Workers' Training Guide/Checklist

A Poll Workers' Training Guide/Checklist was developed and published by the State Board of Election Commissioners for the dual purpose of use by poll workers when attending training and as a tool for poll workers on election day. The guide/checklist is designed to assist poll workers in identifying and completing all tasks legally required of them on election day and to aid them in properly addressing and documenting various situations that may occur throughout election day.

The Poll Workers' Training Guide/Checklist covers:

- Tasks to be completed before opening the poll, during voting hours, and upon closing the poll;
- Necessary supplies;
- Forms to be completed, along with a description of each form's use, and a sample;
- Legally required postings;
- Processing voters, various voting scenarios that may occur, and the legal procedures for fail-safe voting;
- Poll watchers and their rights and responsibilities;
- Assisting voters;
- Spoiled ballots;
- Abandoned ballots;
- Electioneering;
- Exit polls;
- Conflict resolution;
- Closing the poll; and
- Departing the poll.

STATE BOARD'S POLL WORKERS' TRAINING GUIDE/CHECKLIST

The State Board of Election Commissioners provides each county with the equivalent of six (6) poll workers' training guides per polling site.

The State Board strongly urges the county boards of election commissioners to ensure that at least one (1) poll workers' training guide/checklist is completed throughout election day by the poll workers at each polling site and returned to the county board, along with the other election materials upon closing the poll.

Opening the Polls

To open the DS200 ballot tabulators simply unlock and raise the DS200 screen, enter the Election Code when prompted, after the configuration report runs select **Open Polls**. Two zero reports will

run automatically. Commissioners should ensure poll workers have the correct Election Code and know to post one signed zero tape to the wall of the poll.

Assistance

All three (3) county election commissioners should be available on election day to assist poll workers with any problems that may be encountered.

POTENTIAL ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS

Timely Opening of Poll

Poll workers must open the polls at precisely 7:30 a.m. and keep the polls open continuously until 7:30 p.m. [A.C.A. § 7-5-304(a)]

Voting Machine Malfunction

If the poll workers at a polling site notify the county board of election commissioners that a voting machine has malfunctioned, the county board must be prepared to immediately deliver to the poll paper ballots, ballot boxes, replacement voting machines, if available, and any other necessary equipment or supplies required by law for voting. [A.C.A. § 7-5-513]

STATE BOARD'S VOTING MACHINE COMPLAINT FORM

The State Board of Election Commissioners developed a Voting Machine Complaint Form for voters to use to file a complaint about the function of a voting machine.

Poll workers are required under Arkansas law to forward all machine complaint forms to their county boards of election commissioners for investigation. A copy of the complaint must also be submitted to the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office.

The State Board's Voting Machine Complaint Form is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.

Electioneering

Defined:

Electioneering is defined as: distributing campaign literature or literature regarding a candidate issue or measures on the ballot; displaying a candidate's name, likeness, or logo; displaying a ballot measure's number, title, subject, or logo; displaying or disseminating buttons, hats, pencils, pens, shirts, signs, or stickers containing electioneering information; disseminating audible electioneering information, soliciting signatures on a petition or contributions. [A.C.A. §§ 7-1-103(a)(8); 7-1-104(a)(7)]

Prohibitions:

Electioneering of any kind whatsoever is prohibited in the building or within one hundred feet (100') of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to the building in which voting is taking place. No person shall enter or remain within one hundred feet (100) of the entrance of a voting location except to enter or leave the location. [A.C.A. § 7-1-103(a)(8)]

Punishment:

Violation of electioneering laws is, at the minimum, a Class A misdemeanor offense punishable by fine or confinement. [A.C.A. §§ 7-1-103(b); 7-1-104(b)(1)]

STATE BOARD'S ELECTIONEERING NOTICE

The State Board of Election Commissioners' electioneering notice for posting at the primary exterior entrances used by the voters to enter the building containing the polling place and for posting within the building, as deemed necessary, to enforce electioneering laws is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.

Ballot Security**Prohibition Against Carrying Ballot Outside:**

A person may not carry a ballot outside of the polling place. [A.C.A. §§ 7-1-103(a)(14); 7-5-309(f)]

Punishment:

Violation is a Class A misdemeanor offense punishable by fine or confinement. [A.C.A. § 7-1-103(b)(1)]

Ballot Secrecy**Privacy:**

Each voter must be provided privacy by the poll workers at each polling site or by the county clerk, if the county clerk conducts early voting, to mark his or her ballot. [A.C.A. §§ 6-14-110; 7-5-309(a)(2); 7-5-310(a); 7-5-418(e)]

Equipment Arrangement:

Voting booths, voting machines, and electronic vote tabulating devices shall be in plain view of the poll workers, but placed so that no person can see or determine how the voter casts his or her vote. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-310(a); 7-5-521; 7-5-607]

No one other than poll workers and those voting is allowed within six feet (6') of the voting booths or the part of the room where voting machines are situated unless authorized by the election judge or otherwise provided by law. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-310(a)(4); 7-5-521(c); 7-5-524(a)]

NOTE: See Advisory Standards 2015-001 and 2015-002 in the Forms & Instructions section.

Voter Assistance:

A voter who informs poll workers at the time that he or she presents himself or herself to vote that he or she is unable to cast the ballot without help must be directed to a voting machine

equipped for use by people with disabilities to vote unassisted, or he or she may request assistance with either a paper ballot or the voting machine, depending on the voting system in use for the election, by either two (2) poll workers, or a person named by the voter. A voter requesting assistance shall be assisted without comment or interpretation. Poll workers must make a list of the names and addresses of all persons who assist voters including themselves. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-310(b)]*

It is illegal for a person who is assisting a voter to misrepresent the content of the ballot, change or mark the ballot except as intended by the voter, or assist in marking and casting a ballot except as provided in Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-310. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-103(a)(15), (a)(20)(c)]*

Violation is a Class A misdemeanor offense punishable by fine or confinement. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-103(b)]*

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. Candidates may only assist up to six (6) individuals who are related within the second degree of consanguinity. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-310(b)]*

***At the time of publication, the limits on non-election officials assisting voters is the subject of pending litigation.*

STATE BOARD'S LIST OF PERSONS ASSISTING VOTERS

The law requires poll workers to make and maintain a list of persons assisting voters during voting hours at the polling site.

The State Board of Election Commissioners developed a form to record the name and address of any person assisting a voter, along with the name of the voter assisted.

The State Board's List of Persons Assisting Voters is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.

Handling Voted Ballots:

It is illegal for a person to unfold a ballot or without the consent of the voter to determine or attempt to determine how any vote is cast on a ballot before it is placed in the ballot box. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-103(a)(16)]*

Violation is a Class A misdemeanor offense punishable by fine or confinement. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-103(b)]*

Poll workers should not open the ballot box during the time the polls are open without first contacting the county election commission or the county coordinator. It is also unlawful for any person, other than those employed or otherwise authorized by the county board of election commissioners, to touch a ballot or otherwise take possession of a ballot during the process of canvassing or counting votes. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-615(b)]*

Crossover Voting

Prohibition:

It is illegal to vote in one (1) political party's preferential primary election and then vote in a different political party's primary runoff election. It is also illegal for an election official to knowingly permit any person to vote any but his or her legal ballot or to fraudulently allow any person to vote illegally. [A.C.A. §§ 7-1-103(a)(19)(B); 7-1-104(a)(13), (14)]

Punishment:

Violation is a Class A misdemeanor offense punishable by fine or confinement. Violation by an election official of the prohibition against allowing a voter to cast an illegal ballot is a Class D felony punishable by fine and confinement. [A.C.A. §§ 7-1-103(b); 7-1-104(a)]

Prevention:

The county board of election commissioners must ensure that for all preferential primary elections, the poll workers mark the Precinct Voter Registration List with a notation of the ballot chosen. [A.C.A. § 7-7-308(b)]

This information will be noted on the Precinct Voter Registration List for any subsequent runoff election and will be used by the poll workers to prevent crossover voting.

***Best Practice:** The county board should also consider posting signs at preferential and general primary elections warning voters and poll workers of the consequences of crossover voting. A sample form is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.*

Poll Watchers

Defined:

Poll watchers include any candidate in person, any authorized representative of a candidate, an authorized representative of a group seeking passage or defeat of a measure on the ballot, and an authorized representative of a political party with a candidate on the ballot or seeking passage or defeat of a measure. [A.C.A. § 7-5-312(a), (e) as amended by Act 444 of 2023]

Presence:

Each candidate, group, or party may have at any given time one (1) authorized representative present at each location within a polling site on election day or during early voting where voters identify themselves to election officials to observe and determine the identity of persons presenting themselves to vote for the purpose of challenging voters. [A.C.A. § 7-5-312(b)(1), (e)]

Each candidate, group, or party may have at any given time one (1) authorized representative present at each location within the absentee ballot processing site where absentee ballots are processed to observe and determine the identity of absentee voters for the purpose of challenging any absentee vote. Poll watchers are allowed to view any part of the election process including, but not limited to, the processing, counting and duplicating of ballots [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-312(b)(2), (e); 7-5-416(a)(4); 7-5-417(a)]

An authorized representative of a candidate or political party may be present at a polling site, central counting location, and absentee ballot counting location to witness the counting of

ballots by election officials to determine whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted. The representative may also witness the duplication of a damaged or defective ballot. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-312(c), (e) as amended by Act 444 of 2023; 7-5-316(a); 7-5-413(d); 7-5-416(a)(4); 7-5-527; 7-5-603(5)(B); 7-5-615(a)]

A candidate may not be present in person at the polls on election day as a poll watcher. [A.C.A. § 7-5-312(a), (1), (e)]

A candidate may be present in person as a poll watcher at an absentee ballot processing site to observe and ascertain the identity of absentee voters for the purpose of challenging any absentee vote. [A.C.A. § 7-5-312(a), (1), (e)]

A candidate may be present in person as a poll watcher at all counting sites to witness the counting of ballots by election officials. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-312(a)(1), (c), (e); 7-5-316(a); 7-5-413(d); 7-5-416(a)(4); 7-5-527(b); 7-5-603(5)(B); 7-5-615(a)]

A candidate may be present in person as an observer at early voting. [A.C.A. § 7-5-413(d)]

Training and Documentation:

Poll watchers must complete an online training course established by the State Board of Election Commissioners. An authorized representative of any candidate, any group or party seeking passage or defeat of a ballot measure, and any political party with a candidate on the ballot shall present a copy of an affidavit file-marked by the county clerk in the form of a “Poll Watcher Authorization Form” to an election official immediately upon entering the polling site, absentee ballot processing site, or counting location. All poll watchers are required to wear a name badge. [A.C.A. § 7-5-312(d), (e) as amended by Act 444 of 2023]

A poll watcher may list multiple sites on one poll watcher authorization form or write the word “all” in lieu of listing each polling site if the poll watcher intends to be a poll watcher at multiple polling sites in the county.

Candidate Identification:

Candidates in person at an early voting location to observe or attend a counting site or absentee ballot processing site as a poll watcher are not required to present a “Poll Watcher Authorization Form” but must present some form of identification to an election official immediately upon entering the site. [A.C.A. § 7-5-312(e)]

Rights and Responsibilities:

A poll watcher may:

- Observe the poll workers;
- Stand close enough to the place where voters check in to vote so as to hear a voter’s name;
- Compile lists of persons voting;
- Challenge ballots upon notification to a poll worker before the voter signs the precinct voter registration list and upon completing the “Challenged Ballot Form” portion of a “Provisional Voter Envelope”;
- Call any perceived election law irregularity or violation to the attention of an election sheriff;

- Discuss the occurrence if the election sheriff invites the discussion;
- Be present at the opening, processing, duplicating, and canvassing of absentee ballots to challenge absentee votes in the manner provided by law for personal voting challenges; and
- Challenge a voter only on the grounds that the voter is not eligible to vote in the precinct or that the voter has previously voted at that election.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-312(e) as amended by Act 444 of 2023]

Poll watchers representing a candidate or political party may:

- Remain at the polling site after the poll closes if ballots are counted at the poll;
- Be present at the counting of votes by hand or by an electronic vote tabulating device at a central location;
- Be present at the counting of absentee ballots to witness the counting of ballots by election officials and to determine whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted; and
- Upon request made to an election official, inspect any or all ballots at the time the ballots are being counted.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-312(e)]

Poll watchers may not:

- Be within six feet (6') of any voting machine or booth used by a voter to cast his or her ballot;
- Speak to any voter or in any way attempt to influence a voter inside the polling site or within one hundred feet (100') of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to the building containing the polling site;
- Disrupt the orderly conduct of the election; or
- Be a member of the State or County Board of Election Commissioners.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-312(e)]

STATE BOARD'S POLL WATCHER AUTHORIZATION FORM

The State Board of Election Commissioners has developed a form that designates and authorizes the presence of a representative of a candidate, a representative of a group seeking the passage or defeat of a measure on the ballot, and a representative of a political party with a candidate on the ballot and outlines poll watcher rights and responsibilities.

The State Board's Poll Watcher Authorization Form was designed in the exact format required by Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-312 and is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.

Election Monitors

Appointment:

Election monitors serve as observers and report to the State Board on the conduct of the election. Election monitors must be certified by the State Board and are appointed only upon

a signed, written request under oath filed with the State Board and a determination by the State Board that appointing a monitor is necessary.

Duties:

Certified election monitors must maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of their duties, carry documentation prescribed by the State Board, base all observations on well documented, factual, and verifiable evidence, and prepare a post-election report for submission to the State Board. Certified election monitors should not interfere with the election process, display or wear any partisan symbols, colors, or banners, or make any comments about observations to the media or any other interested persons. Any remarks made by the monitor should be limited to general information about the nature of the activity as an observer.

**STATE BOARD’S RULES REGARDING
APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFIED ELECTION MONITORS**

The State Board of Election Commissioners has promulgated rules on the appointment of certified election monitors under the Administrative Procedures Act.

These rules address requests for election monitors as well as the certification, appointment, qualifications, duties, and compensation of election monitors.

The State Board’s Rules for Appointment of Certified Election Monitors are available at www.arkansas.gov/sbec.

Provisional Voting

When there is a question concerning a voter’s eligibility, or if a voter fails to verify their voter registration, or as part of fail-safe voting requirements, a provisional ballot is cast by special procedures. If cast as provisional for a reason other than failing to provide identification, the ballot is counted by the county board of election commissioners if it is cast by a voter who is lawfully registered in the county and is cast on the correct ballot, according to the precinct listed on the voter’s eligibility affirmation, for the precinct of the voter’s residence. Ballots cast for failure to verify voter registration will be counted if the voter returns to the county board of election commissioners or the county clerk by 12:00 noon on the Monday following the election and submits a valid photo ID and there is no other basis to preclude the voter from voting. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101; 7-5-308(d) and the Rules on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting]*

When a voter is required by law to cast a provisional ballot, a poll worker must provide the voter with a copy of a notice that 1) explains the provisional voting process, 2) informs the voter that she/he will be notified by first class mail whether the ballot was counted, 3) provides the date for a hearing for the voter if the county board of election commission rejects the provisional ballot. 4) contains the address, telephone number, and regular office hours of the county clerk, and 5) explains how a voter who did not present ID can return to the county official to verify their registration before Monday at noon following the election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-308(a)(7), (c); Rules on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting §906]*

Voters must sign the provisional ballot log and the poll workers must record the names, addresses, and reason for voting provisional of the voters casting a provisional ballot at the poll. **** See the Procedures for Casting a Provisional Ballot checklist in the Forms and Instructions section. [A.C.A. § 7-5-308(a)(8)]**

Prohibition:

It is unlawful for any person to interfere or prevent or attempt to interfere or prevent any qualified elector from voting at any election, except good faith challenges of ballots or voters in the manner provided by law. [A.C.A. § 7-1-104(a)(6)]

Punishment:

Violation is a Class D felony offense punishable by fine or confinement. [A.C.A. § 7-1-104(b)(1)]

**STATE BOARD'S RULES REGARDING PROVISIONAL VOTING AND
LIST OF PROVISIONAL VOTERS**

The State Board of Election Commissioners has promulgated rules on poll watchers, vote challenges, and provisional voting under the Administrative Procedure Act.

The rules address voters with questionable eligibility, poll watcher challenges, court-ordered voting extensions, procedures for voting provisionally, preliminary review of provisional ballots, notice to provisional voters, hearings, counting provisional ballots, and certifying official results.

The State Board's Rules on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting are available at www.arkansas.gov/sbec. Provided on the website is a sample Provisional Voter Envelope containing on one side a Challenged Ballot Form and a voter eligibility affirmation. The other side contains a certification section to be completed by the county clerk and a disposition section for completion by the county board of election commissioners.

The State Board's List of Provisional Voters for recording the names, addresses, type of provisional ballot cast and the voters' signature, as required by law, is also provided in the Forms & Instructions section in this manual along with the Notice to Provisional Voters which contains written information that is required to be provided to provisional voters.

Spoiled Ballots**Procedure:**

If a voter accidentally or mistakenly marks or spoils a paper ballot so that he or she cannot clearly vote the ballot, the voter may return the paper ballot to a poll worker and receive another ballot, not to exceed three (3) ballots in total. [A.C.A. § 7-5-602(d)(1)]

A poll worker must cancel the paper ballot by stamping "CANCELLED" on the face of the ballot, writing, and signing their name, and writing the date and time of cancellation on the ballot. [A.C.A. § 7-5-602(d)(2)]

The poll workers must preserve spoiled ballots separately from other ballots and the Election Judge shall report the total number of ballots for return to the county board of election commissioners. [A.C.A. § 7-5-602(d)(3) as amended by Act 329 of 2023]

STATE BOARD'S SPOILED BALLOT AFFIDAVIT

The State Board of Election Commissioners developed a form explaining the legal procedure for handling a spoiled ballot and for recording the ballot style number of each spoiled ballot, along with the signature of the voter spoiling the ballot.

The State Board's Spoiled Ballot Affidavit is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.

Abandoned Ballots

Not Counted:

If a paper ballot is left in the polling site outside of the ballot box after the voter has departed, a poll worker shall write "Abandoned" on the ballot and place it into an "Abandoned Ballot" envelope with a notation on the outside of the envelope of the circumstances surrounding the abandoned ballot and preserve the ballot separately. The ballot shall not be counted. [A.C.A. § 7-5-309(g)]

Counted:

If an electronic vote tabulating device has rejected a ballot that remains in the receiving part of the device, and the voter has departed the polling site without instructing a poll worker to cancel or replace the ballot, then two poll workers shall override warnings and complete the process of casting the ballot. The poll worker shall document the time they completed the process of casting the ballot, the name of the voter, the names of the poll workers completing the process, and all other circumstances surrounding the abandoned ballot. [A.C.A. § 7-5-309(h)]

If a voter fails to complete the process of casting an electronic ballot on a voting machine and departs the polling site without notifying a poll worker of his or her desire to cancel the ballot prior to departing, two poll workers shall take action to complete the process of casting the ballot. The poll workers must document the time, the name of the voter, if known, the names of the poll workers completing the process of casting the ballot, and all other circumstances surrounding the abandoned ballot. [A.C.A. § 7-5-522(d)]

STATE BOARD'S ABANDONED BALLOT LOG

The State Board of Election Commissioners has developed a log to be used by poll workers to document all circumstances surrounding an abandoned ballot as required by Ark. Code Ann. §§ 7-5-309 and 7-5-522.

The State Board's Abandoned Ballot Log is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.

Disorderly Conduct

Departure:

After voting or declining to vote, the voter must immediately depart from the polling site. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-309(e); 7-5-522(b)]

Any voter who leaves a voting machine shall not be permitted to return to the machine except to complete the voting process. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-522(c)]*

Interference:

It is illegal for any person to interfere in any manner with the officials lawfully conducting the election or the canvass. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-103(a)(20)(G)]*

It is illegal for any person to interfere in any manner with the voters lawfully exercising their right to vote at the election. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-103(a)(20)(G)]*

Citizen's Right to Observe and Record Public Events

A public official or employee (including election officials) may not prohibit a person from recording events in a place that is open to and accessible to the general public.

The act of recording or the location of the recording person cannot unreasonably obstruct or inhibit another person's lawful presence or movement. *[A.C.A. § 21-1-106]*

People Allowed in Polls During Voting Hours:

Only the following people are allowed in the polls during voting hours:

- Election Officials
 - Poll Watchers
 - Voters
 - Persons who are not eligible to vote in the care of voters
 - Persons who are lawfully assisting a voter
 - Law enforcement and other emergency personnel
 - Monitors authorized by State Board of Election Commissioners or federal agency
 - Persons with business in the building (go directly to and from business)
 - Persons assisting the County Board of Election Commissioners
 - Persons authorized by State or County Board of Election Commissioners
- [A.C.A. § 7-5-310(3)]*

Assistance:

Pol workers should be instructed to immediately contact their local election authorities regarding emergencies or to report persons disrupting the election process.

STATE BOARD'S POLL WORKERS' TRAINING GUIDE

The State Board of Election Commissioners' Poll Workers' Training Guide provides an introduction page for recording contact information for poll workers to use on election day to reach their county clerk's office, each member of their county board of election commissioners, their county election coordinator, and local law enforcement should any emergency arise at the poll.

The State Board's Poll Workers' Checklist also provides a section for the poll workers to document any events of the day that were out of the ordinary.

Timely Closing of Poll

Persons in Line:

When the polls close at 7:30 p.m., any person who is already in line at the polling site to vote shall be permitted to cast his or her ballot. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-304; 7-5-524(b)]

Court Ordered Voting Extension:

If the time established for closing the polls is extended as a result of a federal or state court order or any other order, any person who votes during the extension may vote only by casting a provisional ballot. [A.C.A. § 7-5-304(c)(1)]

These provisional ballots must be separated and held apart from other provisional ballots cast by those not affected by the order. [A.C.A. § 7-5-304(c)(2)]

STATE BOARD'S POLL WORKERS' TRAINING GUIDE

The State Board of Election Commissioners' Poll Workers' Training Guide covers in detail the duties and responsibilities of poll workers during voting hours, including paperwork legally required to be completed, processing voters, and legal procedures for handling various voter eligibility issues and voting scenarios.

CLOSING THE POLLS

Closing the Polls

To close the DS200 ballot tabulators, record the Public Count number from the Totals Page on the Poll Workers Certificate found in the Forms and Instruction section. Open the small door in front of the screen and push the Close Polls button, then touch the Close Polls button on the screen. Three results tapes will automatically print. When they have finished printing tap the Finished Turn Off button.

Open to Public

After the polls have closed, any counting of votes at the polls shall be open to the public, including any poll watchers meeting the requirements of Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-312. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-316(a); 7-5-527(b); 7-5-603(5)]

List of Voters Form

Poll workers are legally required to record each voter's name before he or she votes, make and maintain the list during voting hours at the poll, total the number of voters on the list, and certify and attest the list upon closing the poll. [A.C.A. § 7-5-211(a)(2)(B)]

STATE BOARD'S LIST OF VOTERS FORM

The State Board of Election Commissioners developed a form for poll workers to use to record the name of every person who voted a non-provisional ballot at the poll.

The State Board's List of Voters form is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in this manual.

Voting Machines

Securing at Poll:

At the official time for closing the polls and upon termination of voting, the poll workers shall announce the polls closing and secure the voting machines against further voting by removing the activation devices. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-526(a)]*

The poll workers must sign a certificate provided by the county board of election commissioners attesting to the exact time that the machines were made inaccessible to further voting and to the number of votes shown on the public counters. **See the Poll Workers Certificate in the Forms and Instructions section. [A.C.A. § 7-5-526(b)]*

STATE BOARD'S POLL WORKERS' CERTIFICATE

The State Board of Election Commissioners developed a certificate for the county board of election commissioners to provide to its poll workers to certify as required by law that voting machines were made inaccessible to further voting after the polls closed.

The State Board's Poll Workers' Certificate is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in this manual.

Exposing Vote Count:

The poll workers then expose the vote counts, produce and sign at least three (3) result records from each voting machine, and post one (1) copy of each on the wall of the polling room. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-527]*

Delivery of Activation Devices:

The activation device used to collect votes from each voting machine and certified result records must be placed in a sealed package signed by all poll workers at the poll. A poll worker must immediately deliver the sealed package to the county board and obtain a receipt for the sealed package. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-527(e)]*

Electronic Vote Tabulating Devices

Return of Votes:

When an electronic vote tabulating device is used by the voters at the poll, the poll workers must prepare a return of the votes as soon as the polls close. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-613 as amended by Act 305 of 2023]*

Paper Ballots

Counted by Hand at Poll:

When counting paper ballots by hand at the poll, poll workers must count to completion by opening the ballot box and counting each ballot in turn or by counting by offices and issues. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-603]*

The poll workers must witness the counting of the ballots and keep separate tally lists of the votes for each candidate or issue on the ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-603(1)]*

Counted by Hand or Machine at Poll:

After the count is completed, the poll workers must make out certificates of election in triplicate and immediately post one (1) copy outside the polling site. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-603(4)]*

Scanned at Central Counting Location:

When paper ballots are to be tabulated using electronic vote tabulating devices at a central counting location, the poll workers must place all ballots that were cast at the poll in a sealed container and deliver it, along with unused, void, and defective ballots and all other election materials, to the county board of election commissioners. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-614]*

Departing the Poll

Processing and Delivering Election Materials and Returns:

Regardless of the type of election or voting system used, poll workers must process and deliver all ballots, election materials, and returns to the county board of election commissioners immediately after the polls close. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-317]*

For all precinct count polling locations, results must be posted at location before returning materials to the county board of election commissioners.

When an annual school election is held with a preferential primary or general election, election officials are required to file certified election returns with the county clerk of the county in which a school district is domiciled if the school district is domiciled in another county.

The List of Voters forms, precinct voter registration lists, voter registration application forms, and other recordkeeping supplies are delivered to the county clerk along with one copy of the certification of election results and one copy of the tally sheets, if any. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-317(a)]*

Sealed stub boxes (if any) are delivered to the county board of election commissioners for storage in a secure location in the county courthouse or other county storage facility. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-317(a)(5)]*

Voted ballots that have been secured in a container with a numbered seal, unused, provisional, or cancelled ballots that have been preserved separately, one (1) copy of the certificate of election results, one (1) copy of the tally sheets, if any, reports of challenges of voters, if any, and all other election materials and returns are delivered to the county board. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-317]*

Provisional Ballots must be returned to the county board in teams of two election officials and a ballot transfer form must be completed. ***See the Provisional Ballot Count and Transfer Form in the Forms section and at www.arkansas.gov/sbec/forms-checklists.gov. [Act 329 of 2023]*

Failure to Deliver Returns:

If poll workers fail to deliver returns as required by law immediately after the polls close, the county board must dispatch a peace officer to obtain the election returns. *[A.C.A. 7-5-318(b)]*

The county board of any county that is required to file certified school election returns with the county clerk of a county in which that school district is domiciled must ensure that these returns reach the neighboring county clerk. If, for any reason, the additional certified election returns are not produced and filed with the neighboring county clerk, the county board must produce a copy of all results from all precinct's which included that school district's races, certify its veracity of those results, and file that copy with the appropriate county clerk within 48 hours of the election

STATE BOARD'S POLL WORKERS' TRAINING GUIDE

The State Board of Elections Commissioners' Poll Workers' Training Guide covers in detail the duties and responsibilities of poll workers in closing and departing the poll, including legally required paperwork and security procedures.

Processing Absentee Ballots

Processing of Absentee Ballot material may begin up to a week before the election. However, the actual ballots **MUST** remain sealed inside the Ballot **ONLY** envelope until after 8:30 a.m. on election day. *A.C.A 7-5-416 (a)(1)*

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Processing, counting, and canvassing of absentee ballots is conducted under the supervision and direction of the county board of election commissioners in a place designated by the county board. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-414I; 7-5-416(a)(1)]*

The initial canvassing of absentee ballots is conducted by absentee ballot clerks appointed by the county board of election commissioners. Absentee ballot clerks work in teams of two and, if both absentee ballot clerks agree that the ballot is eligible to be counted, no further process is required. The commission may choose to conduct an additional review of ballots approved by the clerks. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-416(b)]*

The processing and counting of absentee and early votes is open to the public, and any candidate or qualified poll watcher may be present during the opening, processing, canvassing, and counting to challenge ballots and to observe the canvass of the results of the election for the purpose of determining whether or not votes are fairly and accurately counted. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-312; 7-5-316(a); 7-5-413(d); 7-5-416(a)(4); 7-5-417(a); 7-5-527(a); 7-5-615(a)]*

The county clerk is required to maintain a count of the number of absentee ballot applications that have been received and the number of actual absentee ballots that have been received. The clerk is also required to report these counts to the commission on a weekly basis or upon request. [See, A.C.A. § 7-5-416(a)(3)-(5)]

DELIVERY OF BALLOTS

The county clerk must deliver absentee ballots and related materials to the absentee ballot clerks at a time and place specified by the county board of election commissioners, up to seven (7) days before election day. The county clerk must also make a report accounting for absentee ballots sent, received and rejected, and deliver that report to the county board of election commissioners. [A.C.A. § 7-5-416 (a)(1)]

PROCESSING OF BALLOTS

Absentee and early voting ballots must be opened, processed, and counted *before* the polls close on election day. Election officials may begin processing the outer envelopes on the Tuesday before the election if approved. Opening of the inner ballot secrecy envelopes cannot happen until election day and results may not be released until the polls close. Absentee and early voting results should be uploaded to the Secretary of State’s election night reporting system as soon as possible after the polls close. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-416(a)(5)(b)(2), (d); 7-1-103(a)(22)]

ADDITIONAL RULES GOVERNING THE CANVASSING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots mailed in bulk by a hospital, or an administrator of a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state must be counted if accompanied by proper paperwork and timely delivered. Absentee ballots mailed in bulk by anyone other than a hospital or an administrator of a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state cannot be counted. “Mailed in bulk” means that more than one absentee ballot and associated materials is returned though the mail in a single envelope. [A.C.A. § 7-5-411(a)(1)(C)]

The ballot of an absentee voter who dies before the polls open on election day can be counted if the ballot is signed, dated, postmarked, and mailed *before* the date of death, or, in the case of a military voter, executed before the date of death. [A.C.A. § 7-5-416(c)]

All absentee voters, except for uniformed service personnel serving on active status (and their dependents who are absent from the county due to this service), must include in the return envelope a qualifying ID the requirements for which are described in the *Rules for the Verification of Voter Registration*. A flagged voter has an alternative requirement and must include a copy of a photo identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. If an absentee voter does not submit this information with his or her ballot, then the ballot is considered as a provisional ballot. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-412; 7-5-416(b)(1)(F)(iii)]

THE PROCESS OF CANVASSING ABSENTEE BALLOTS**Steps in Opening and Processing Absentee Ballots**

The steps in opening and processing absentee ballots include:

1. One by one an election official (Clerk 1), while observed by another election official, opens the return (outer) envelope, and verifies that the voter statement, identification, and the ballot (inner) envelope have been properly placed in the return envelope.
 - If any documentation is missing, the absentee ballot must be set aside until 8:30a.m. on Election Day.
 - On election day, the absentee ballot must be canvassed using the following procedures for “Processing Ballots with Missing Documentation” on page 87.

2. If the voter statement and ID are in the return envelope separate from the inner “Ballot Only” envelope:
 - Clerk 1 reads aloud the voter’s name and precinct (or precinct part) from the voter statement.
 - Clerk 2 lists the name and precinct (or precinct part) of the voter.
 - The election officials compare the name, address, dates of birth and signature on the absentee ballot application against the same information on the voter statement.
 - If the Clerk 1 and Clerk 2 agree the name, address, date of birth, and signature compare, then the ballot moves forward in the process.
 - If one of the Clerks believes that one of these four data points does not compare, then the ballot must be set aside for review by the CBEC.
 - Consult the following SBEC recommended best practices for making this determination.
 - The election officials compare the name on the ID against the name on the voter statement.
 - The election officials compare the name and address of the bearer, agent or administrator written on the absentee ballot return envelope with any information that may be provided on the voter statement.
 - If everything is in order, place the unopened inner “Ballot Only” envelope into the absentee ballot box.

Repeat the process for each absentee voter whose materials are in order

[A.C.A. §7-5-416(b)]

Best Practice for Analyzing Four Absentee Ballot Data Points

VOTER'S NAME: The voter's name should be found comparable if it is sufficiently similar so that any discrepancies such as abbreviations, nicknames, or a change in a name are not so dissimilar that election officials are unable to determine that the two documents reflect different forms of a name belonging to the same individual. To be comparable, two names must have at least one component of the names being compared in common. In the event the voter's statement has no name printed in the designated box but does have a name printed on another location on the document, the absentee ballot clerks should compare the name, regardless of where it appears, to the name printed on the absentee ballot application.

VOTER'S ADDRESS: The voter's address should be found comparable if it is sufficiently similar so that any discrepancies such as abbreviations, variations in form, or other minor incongruities are not so dissimilar that election officials are unable to determine that the two documents reflect the same physical address.

VOTER'S DATE OF BIRTH: The voter's date-of-birth should be found comparable if the same month, date, and year are described in both documents. When comparing dates of birth where one or both dates are expressed using only numerals, the dates should be found comparable if one document expressed the date in a month/day/year form and the other document expressed the same date in the day/month/year form.

VOTER'S SIGNATURE: The voter's signature should be found comparable unless the signature on the voter's statement is sufficiently dissimilar to the signature on the absentee ballot application so that the reviewing officials are left with an abiding conviction that the signatures being compared are written by two different people.

If the reviewing officials rejects an absentee ballot on the basis of dissimilar signatures, then the officials should document in writing the reason the signature was found to not be comparable. The following, non-exhaustive, categories should be considered in this analysis:

- (1) Spacing (Overall Spacing and Internal Spacing of Words and Letters);
- (2) Type or Style of Writing;
- (3) Speed of Writing;
- (4) Size and Proportions of Words and Letters;
- (5) Spelling;
- (6) Slant of Writing;
- (7) Curves, Loops, and Cross-Points;
- (8) Presence or Absence of Pen Lifts; and
- (9) Beginning and Ending Strokes.

Processing Ballots with Missing Documentation (*can only be done after 8:30 a.m. on Election Day*):

Voter Statement in Inner Envelope: If the voter statement and/or ID are **NOT** in the return envelope separate from the inner “Ballot Only” envelope:

1. Clerk 1 removes the inner “Ballot Only” envelope from the outer return envelope and hands it to Clerk 2.
2. Clerk 2 inspects the inner “Ballot Only” envelope while being observed by Clerk 1 and removes the voter statement and identification documents, if found there, from the inner “Ballot Only” envelope and hands them to Clerk 1.
3. Clerk 2 returns the inner “Ballot Only” envelope and any found voter statement and identification documents to Clerk 1 and Clerk 1 places the inner “Ballot Only” envelope back into the outer return envelope.
4. Clerk 1 reads aloud from the voter statement, and regular processing procedures (see above) are followed.

[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-416(b)(1)(C) as amended by Act 736 of 2021; 7-5-416(b)(1)(D)]

No Voter Statement; No Photo ID; Information on Voter Statement Does Not Compare to Application (*can only be done after 8:30 a.m. on Election Day*):

- If a voter statement is not found, the ballot cannot be counted.
- If the election commission finds that the name, date of birth, address or signature on the voter statement do not compare to the corresponding information on the absentee ballot application, the ballot cannot be counted. This determination should not be made by an absentee ballot clerk, but by the election commission.
- If the return envelope does not contain the required photo identification document (and the voter is not exempt from the ID requirement) the ballot must be considered as a provisional ballot.

[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-416(b)(1)(H), 7-5-416(b)(1)(F)(ii) and 7-5-412]

Bearers, Agents, Administrators:

- If the county clerk indicates on the outer envelope that the ballot was returned by a bearer, agent or administrator, absentee ballot election officials must check the voter statement for the bearer/agent/administrator name, address, and signature.
- If the voter has not authorized a bearer/agent/administrator on the voter statement, the election officials **DO NOT** count the ballot; they should repackage the material, note the reason the ballot was not counted and set it aside.
- If the return envelope indicates that the ballot was returned by a bearer/agent administrator, but the information written by the county clerk on the envelope does not match the bearer/agent/administrator information written on the voter statement, the ballot should be treated as a provisional ballot.
- If the voter statement lists a bearer’s name and it **DOES NOT** match the information provided on the application for absentee ballot, the absentee ballot must be made provisional. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-416(b)(1)(J); 7-5-416(b)(1)(G)]*

STORAGE OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The county clerk and deputy county clerks are prohibited from having access to absentee ballots or absentee ballot materials after the ballots have been transferred to the commission and the outer envelopes have been opened. The commission may grant the clerk or clerk's staff access for a specific purpose, but this grant must be given by an affirmative vote of the commission. [A.C.A. § 7-5-416(c)]

IMPORTANT: If the commission chooses to store absentee ballots in the county clerk's office, the commission must vote in a public meeting to grant the clerk and clerk's staff access to the absentee ballot materials for the purpose of securely storing those materials.

In addition, all ballots must be taken to and from the non-public storage area inside a secure container. This container may only be opened in a public area and all ballots must be sealed in a secure container prior to being removed from the public area. [Rules on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting §904(c)(2)]

PROVISIONAL ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

A provisional absentee ballot includes:

- An absentee ballot challenged by a poll watcher;
- An absentee ballot which fails to satisfy the ID requirement;
- An absentee ballot which is delivered by a bearer/agent/administrator for which the name and address of the bearer/agent/administrator written by the county clerk's office on the return envelope does not match the information contained in the voter statement; or
- Finally, under Act 736 of 2021, an absentee ballot for which a bearer's name listed on the absentee voter statement differs from a bearer's name listed on the absentee ballot application.

[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-417; 7-5-416(b)(1)(f)(iii); 7-5-416(b)(1)(G)]

Provisional absentee ballots become provisional during the processing of opening and canvassing the absentee ballot. These ballots can only be processed on Election Day. For an absentee ballot which becomes a provisional ballot, the absentee ballot canvassing official shall place the absentee ballot materials in a provisional voter envelope and should check the "Other" box and write the word "Absentee" next to the box marked "Other" on the form provided on the provisional ballot envelope. The absentee ballot canvassing official should also indicate the reason for making the absentee ballot provisional on the form provided on the provisional ballot envelope:

- When the absentee voter's voter statement is inconsistent with the absentee ballot return envelope with regard to the identity of a bearer or agent, the absentee ballot canvassing official should write "Inconsistent Bearer [or Agent] – Envelope/Statement" after the word "Absentee" next to the "Other" box on the provisional ballot envelope.
- When the absentee voter's voter statement is inconsistent with the absentee ballot application with regard to the identity of a bearer, the absentee ballot canvassing official should write "Inconsistent Bearer – Application/Statement" after the word "Absentee" next to the "Other" box on the provisional ballot envelope.

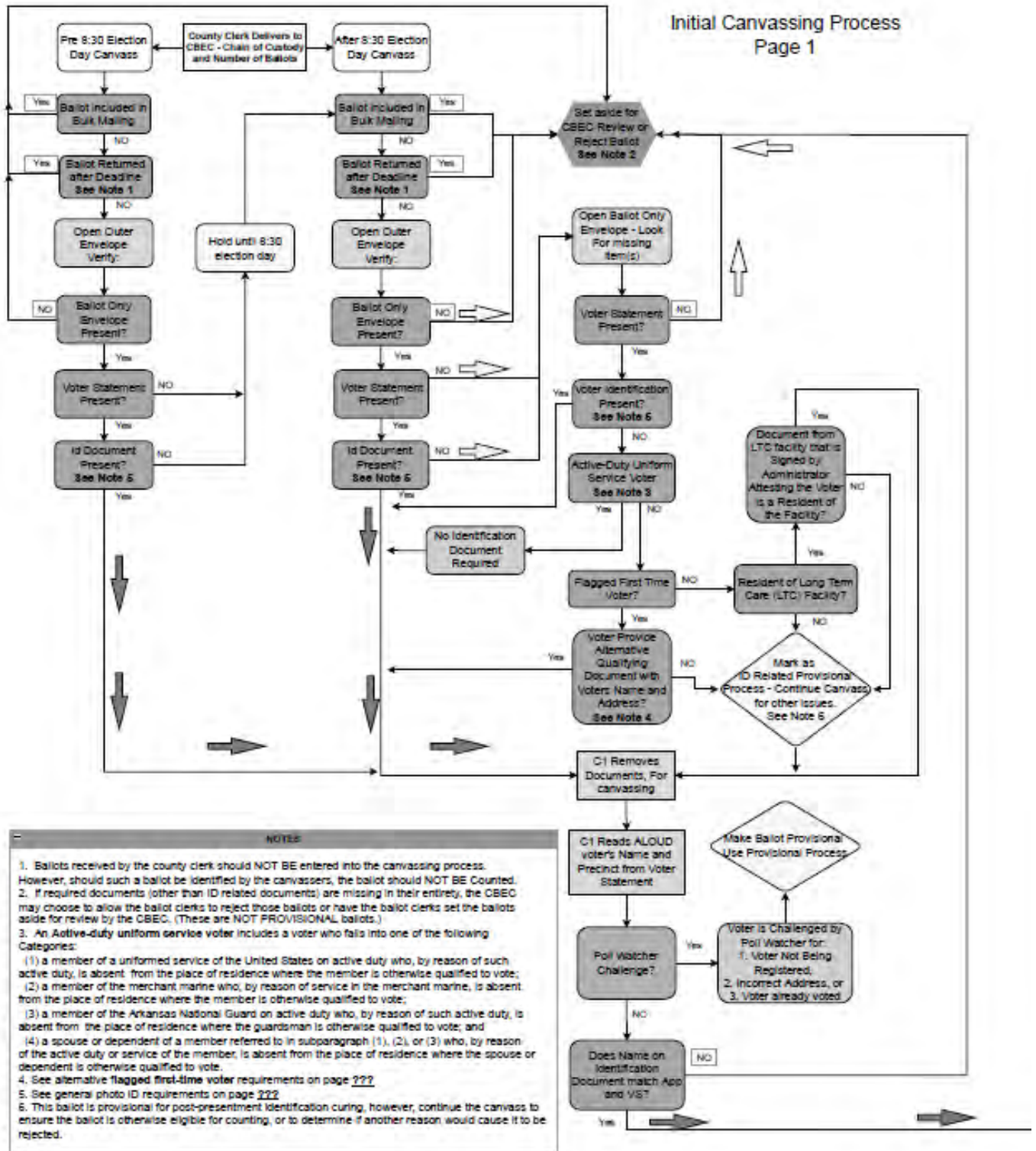
Remember, when the absentee voter's voter statement is inconsistent with the absentee ballot application the voter's ballot is not counted. See the following flowchart regarding how these determinations are made. [*Rules on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting §906(e)*]

Poll Watcher Challenge of an Absentee Ballot: A challenge must be made at the time the voter's name and voting precinct are read aloud by the election official. [*A.C.A. § 7-5-417*]

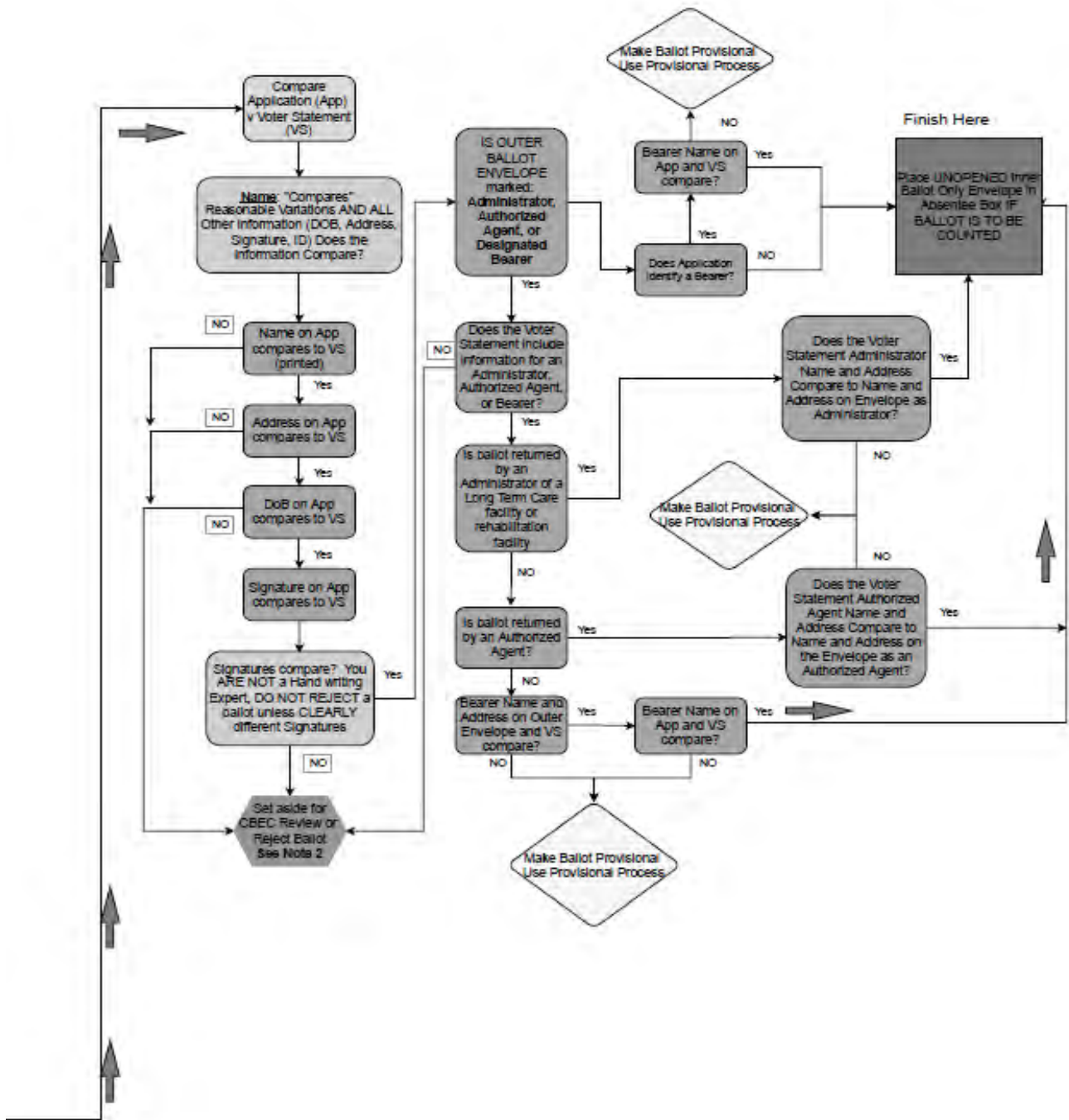
A poll watcher may request to inspect the absentee ballot voter statement and materials following the reading of the voter's name but may not obstruct the canvassing process. For more information regarding the inspection of absentee ballot materials by poll watchers, see the *Rules on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting §904(c)(1)(A)*.

Deadline to Complete Absentee Ballot Canvass

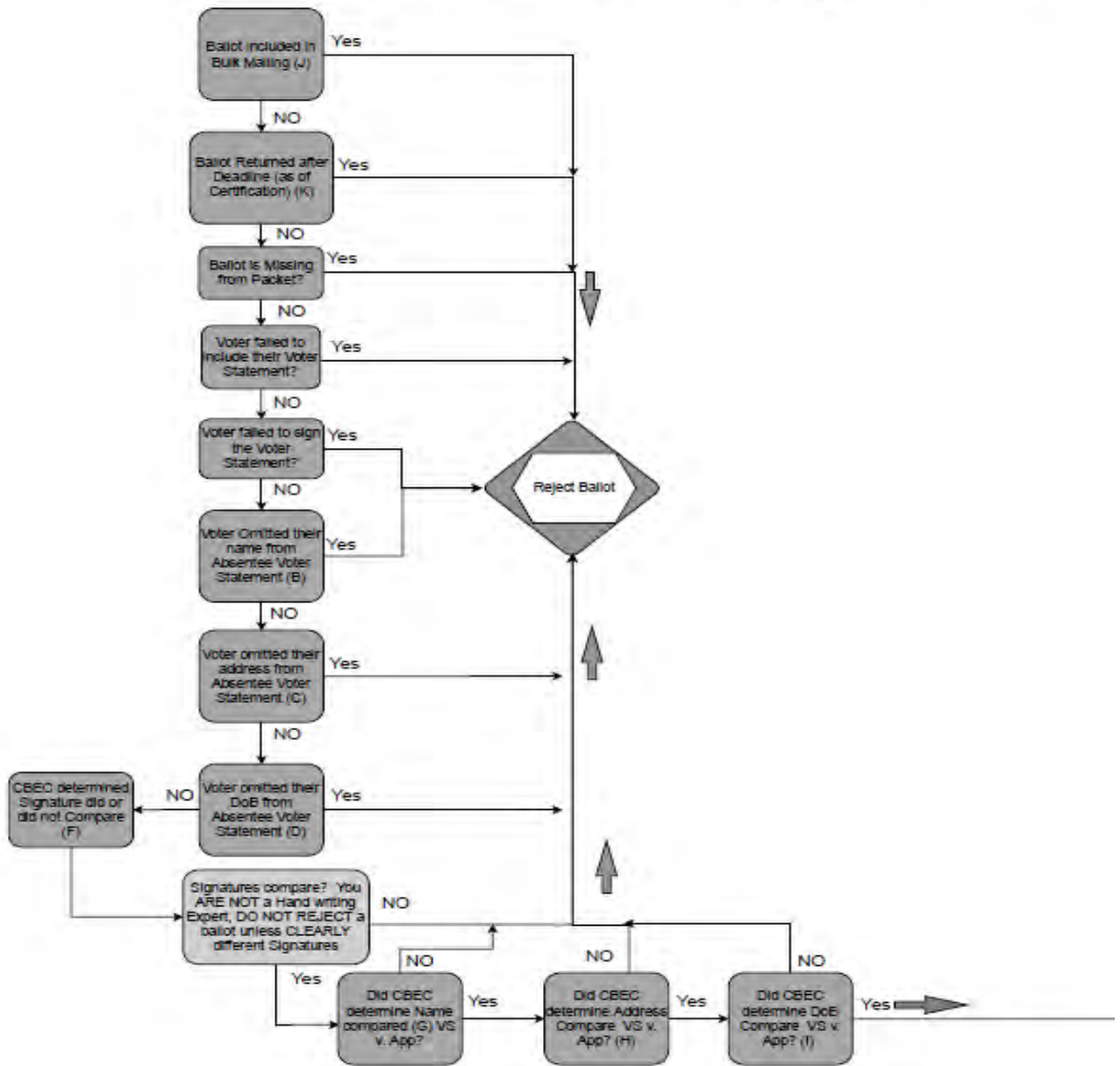
State law requires that absentee ballots be canvassed and counted prior to 7:30 pm on election day. Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-416(a)(7). This has been enforced by the SBEC as a requiring that the county election commission schedule and staff the absentee ballot canvassing process to ensure a plan is in place which allows the CBEC to meet the 7:30pm deadline based on the reasonably anticipated requirements of that county.



Initial Canvassing Process
Page 2

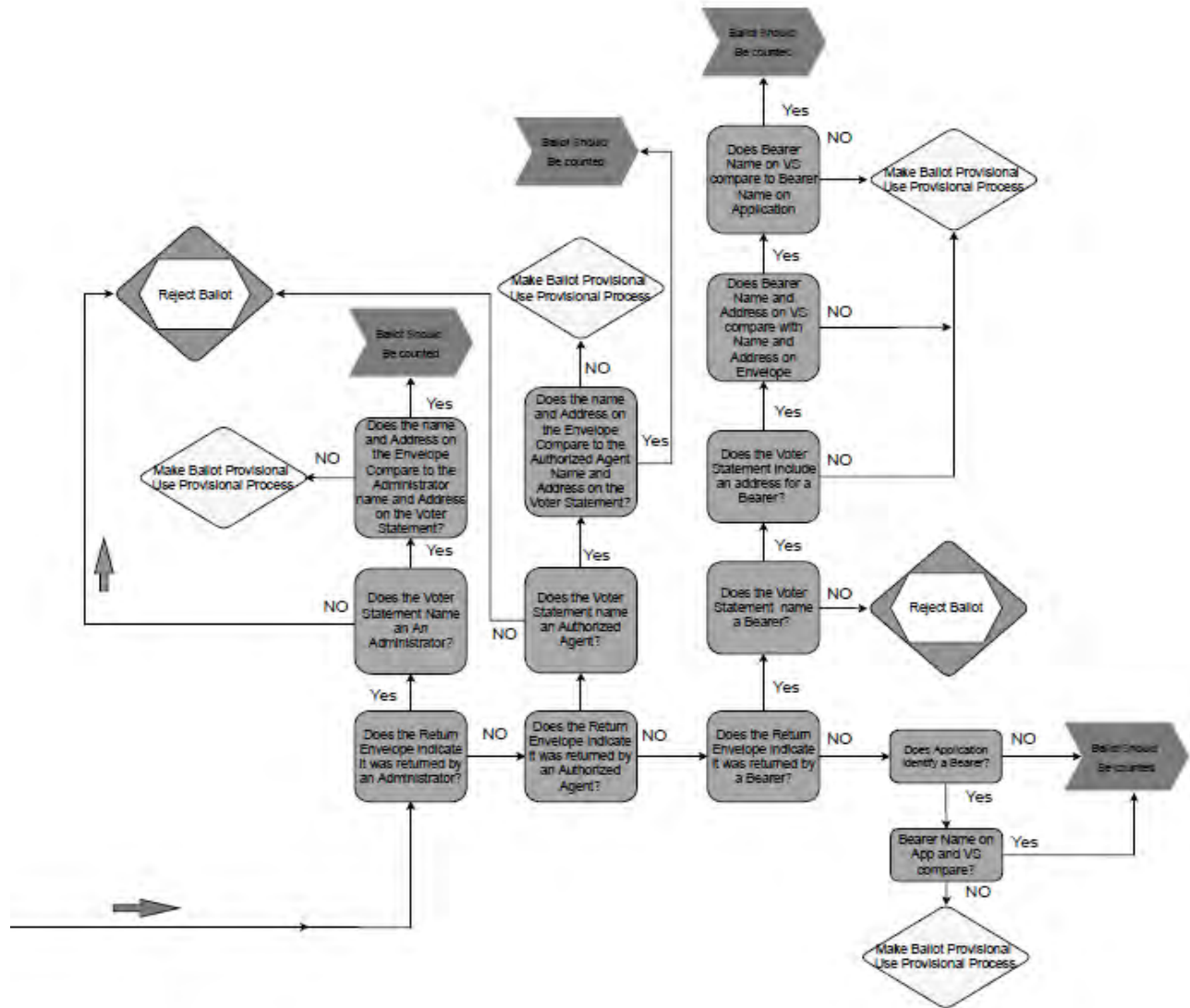


Optional Secondary Review for Ballots Rejected in Initial Canvassing Process
(Does NOT Include ID related issues) Page 1



Optional Secondary Review for Ballots Rejected in Initial Canvassing Process
(Does NOT Include ID related issues) Page 1

Optional Secondary Review for Ballots Rejected in Initial Canvassing Process
(Does NOT Include ID related issues) Page 1



Optional Secondary Review for Ballots Rejected in Initial Canvassing Process
(Does NOT Include ID related issues) Page 2

Absentee Provisional Ballots – Canvassing Process

All absentee ballots which are designated as provisional in the absentee canvassing process must be converted to a provisional ballot by using the following steps:

STEP 1: Place the absentee ballot packet in a provisional ballot envelope.

STEP 2: Mark the reason that the absentee ballot was made provisional on the provisional ballot envelope. The official should remember that a provisional ballot may be provisional for multiple reasons. Each of these reasons must be reflected on the provisional ballot envelope. The provisions are marked using the following notations describing the reason the absentee ballot was made provisional:

- **Did not Provide Required Photo ID:**
 - Check the “other” box and write “absentee”
 - Check the “Failure to show a qualifying Photo ID” box.
- **Did not Provide Required alternative ID for a Flagged First time Voter:**
 - Check the “other” box and write “absentee”
 - Check the “First-time Voter Flagged to Show additional ID” box.
- **Absentee Ballot was Challenged:**
 - Check the “other” box and write “absentee”
 - Check the “Poll Watcher Challenge” box.
- **Absentee Ballot was Challenged:**
 - Check the “other” box and write “absentee”
 - Check the “Poll Watcher Challenge” box.
- **Name and Address of Bearer does not compare between the information on the outer envelope and the absentee ballot statement:**
 - Check the “Other” box and write “Absentee - Inconsistent Bearer – Envelope/Statement”
- **Name and Address of Agent does not compare between the information on the outer envelope and the absentee ballot statement:**
 - Check the “Other” box and write “Absentee - Inconsistent Agent – Envelope/Statement”
- **Name and Address of Administrator does not compare between the information on the outer envelope and the absentee ballot statement:**
 - Check the “Other” box and write “Absentee - Inconsistent Administrator – Envelope/Statement”
- **Name and Address of Bearer does not compare between the information on the absentee ballot application and the absentee ballot statement:**
 - Check the “Other” box and write “Absentee - Inconsistent Bearer – Application/Statement”

STEP 3: The Name, Address, Date of birth, and the precinct-part (ballot style) assigned to the absentee voter should be entered onto the provisional ballot envelope.

STEP 4: Place the Provisional Ballot Envelope containing all Absentee ballot materials associated with the ballot in question into a secured container only used to collect provisional absentee ballots to be returned to the CBEC.

Absentee Provisional Ballots – County Clerk Review Process

All absentee ballots which have been made provisional must be reviewed by the county clerk to determine whether the ballot was cast by a registered voter and whether the ballot was the ballot style on which the voter was qualified to vote. Pursuant to Act 329 of 2023, this review is conducted by providing the clerk a photocopy of the provisional ballot envelope in order to provide the clerk with relevant information.

Absentee Provisional Ballots – CBEC Review Process

An absentee ballot may be made provisional for the failure to include a required photo ID and may be made provisional for one or more “general” provisional ballot reasons. The following steps describe the review process for each type of provisional absentee ballot:

ID RELATED PROVISIONAL ABSENTEE BALLOT

- STEP 1:** After 12:00 noon on the Monday following the election, obtain and compile a list of voters who exercised their ability to present a qualifying photo ID after they voted but before 12:00 noon on the Monday following the election to the County Clerk’s office or to the CBEC.
- STEP 2:** Evaluate all ID Related provisional ballots to determine whether those ballots appear on the list.
- Ballots which DO NOT appear on the list, and which do not qualify for an exception outlined in the forgoing canvassing process SHALL BE REJECTED.
- STEP 3:** Determine whether there is any additional issue(s) under the “general provisional ballot” section which must be resolved.
- If so, each of these additional issues must be analyzed using the process outlined below to determine whether the ballots can be counted.
- STEP 4:** Determine whether the County Clerk’s review indicated the voter was registered to vote and voted on the correct ballot.
- **YES:** The ballot is eligible to be counted so long as there is no independent reason the ballot was made provisional which has not been reviewed.
 - **NO:** The Voter is entitled to appear in the hearing.
- STEP 5:** For the ballots set to be counted, remove the ballot secrecy envelope, and place the envelope into a secure container. Once all ballots are canvassed, mix the ballot secrecy envelopes, remove the ballots, and count the ballots normally.
- STEP 6:** Send notice to the voter whose ballot was made provisional and inform the voter whether the ballot was counted.

GENERAL PROVISIONAL ABSENTEE BALLOT

- STEP 1: Preliminary Determination:** Prior to the Date and Time advertised in the notice of election for voters to appear before the CBEC to present evidence regarding why their provisional ballot should be counted, the CBEC must review the provisional absentee ballots determine whether, using the information available, the ballots can be counted.
- STEP 2: Standards of Review:** This review must apply the following process to the various categories of provisional absentee ballots.

Review of a General Provisional Ballot

Using the information supplied by the County Clerk, and any other information available, the CBEC must determine whether the voter:

- (1) was lawfully registered to vote,
- (2) cast a ballot on which the voter was qualified to vote, and
- (3) has not voted more than one time in this election.

Yes = The Ballot is Counted

No = The ballot is marked as rejected. (If the voter does not appear in the hearing, then the rejection is final.)

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Failure to Satisfy Flagged First Time Voter - Registered by Mail ID Requirement

A provisional ballot in this category may only be rejected if the CBEC's determination that the voter failed to satisfy the requirements of a general provisional ballot was made on an independent basis and was not solely based on the voter's failure to include the Flagged First Time Voter ID documents.

The Name of the Bearer on the Voter Statement and the Absentee Ballot Application did not Compare

A provisional ballot in this category may only be rejected if the CBEC's determination that the voter failed to satisfy the requirements of a general provisional ballot was made on an independent basis and was not solely based on the failure of the bearer's name to compare between the absentee ballot application to the voter statement.

The Name and Address of the Bearer, Agent, or Administrator on the Voter Statement does not compare to the Name and Address on the Outer Envelope

A provisional ballot in this category may only be rejected if the CBEC's determination that the voter failed to satisfy the requirements of a general provisional ballot was made on an independent basis and was not solely based on the failure of the name and address of the Bearer/Admin/Agent to compare between the voter statement and the information on the outer envelope.

- STEP 3:** Ensure the voter has satisfied the id related provisional absentee ballot requirement if no exception applies.
- STEP 4: Provisional Ballot Hearing:** After the ballots have been reviewed and the CBEC has made its Preliminary determination regarding whether the ballots can be counted, the CBEC must allow the voter to appear at the time and place designated in the notice of election to present evidence regarding why their provisional ballot should be counted.
- STEP 5:** For the ballots set to be counted, remove the ballot secrecy envelope, and place the envelope into a secure container. Once all ballots are canvassed, mix the ballot secrecy envelopes, remove the ballots, and count the ballots normally.
- STEP 6:** Send notice to the voter whose ballot was made provisional and inform the voter whether the ballot was counted.

CANVASSING, COUNTING & UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Open to Public

The counting of votes is open to the public. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-312(c); 7-5-316(a); 7-5-413(d); 7-5-416(a)(4); 7-5-527; 7-5-603(5)(B); 7-5-615(a)]*

Candidates in person or an authorized representative of a candidate or political party may be present at all counting locations to witness the counting of ballots to determine whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-312(c); 7-5-316(a); 7-5-413(d); 7-5-416(a)(4); 7-5-527; 7-5-603(5)(B); 7-5-615(a)]*

Central Counting Location

Proceedings:

All proceedings at a central counting location are under the direction of the county board of election commissioners. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-614(2)]*

No person shall interfere with the officials lawfully conducting the election or the canvass. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-103(a)(20)(g)]*

No person except those employed and authorized for that purpose may touch any ballot or return. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-615(b)]*

Oath of Election Officials:

Election officials at the central counting location and all persons operating an electronic vote tabulating device must take the election officials' oath of office before beginning their duties. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-615(c)]*

Defective Ballots:

If a paper ballot cannot properly be counted by an electronic vote tabulating device due to damage or defect, the election officials must make a true duplicate ballot clearly labeled "duplicate" to be counted in the place of the defective ballot. A unique serial number must be placed on both the original and duplicated ballot so that the ballots can be linked to verify duplication. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-615(d) as amend by Act 460 of 2023]*

Countywide Total Comparison:

Before certifying the official election results, the county board must compile electronic countywide totals from the activation device used to collect votes from each voting machine and verify that they match manually compiled countywide totals from the polling locations' certified return records. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-529]*

Audit Log:

The county board shall produce an audit log for each voting machine used in the election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-530(a)]*

Counting Votes

Ballots Provided by County Board:

A paper ballot, other than a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB), cannot be counted in any election unless it is provided by the county board of election commissioners. [A.C.A. § 7-5-602(b)]

Fraudulent Ballots:

When counting paper ballots at the polling site, if two (2) or more paper ballots are folded together, they should be considered fraudulent and cannot be counted. [A.C.A. § 7-5-603(2)(A)]

Candidate Withdrawal or Death After Certification:

Votes for any candidate on the ballot who withdrew or died after the certification of the ballot are to be counted. [A.C.A. § 7-5-315]

Unopposed Candidates – General Election

In the general election, votes for unopposed candidates for mayor, circuit clerk and Governor are tabulated and certified as in all contested races.

Except for the races listed above, votes for unopposed candidates may be tabulated. The word “UNOPPOSED” shall be inserted on the tally sheet to indicate that the candidate(s) received a majority of the votes cast in the election. [A.C.A. § 7-5-315(a)]

Non-Judicial State Elected Officials are candidates for: U.S. House, U.S. Senate, Constitutional Offices, State House, and State Senate

For additional information, refer to **Unopposed Candidates** in the **BALLOTS** section of this manual on page 56. [A.C.A. §§ 7-5-207(a)(2)(B), (a)(3)(B); 7-5-315(a); 14-42-206(c)(2)]

Overvoted Ballots:

If a paper ballot contains marks for more than the maximum allowable number of candidates in any one (1) contest or contains marks both “FOR” and “AGAINST” a single measure, the contest should be considered overvoted, and the voter’s intent must be determined for the overvoted contest. [A.C.A. § 7-5-603(2)(B)]

STATE BOARD RULES FOR VOTER INTENT

The State Board of Election Commissioners has promulgated rules under the Administrative Procedures Act for determining whether a paper ballot has been properly marked and whether a vote should be counted for any contest in question.

The State Board of Election Commissioners’ Rules for Voter Intent are available at www.arkansas.gov/sbec.

Amendments and Measures:

The votes on each measure on the ballot shall be counted, tabulated, and returned at the same time and manner as the votes for candidates. *[A.C.A. § 7-9-119(a)]*

If a petition for any amendment or measure is declared insufficient by the Secretary of State or a court of competent jurisdiction or determined to be invalid for any other reason after having been certified by the Secretary of State to the county board and placed on the ballot, the votes on the amendment or measure are not counted or certified. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-204(c)(2)]*

Early Votes:

Election officials canvass the voting machine vote for early voting in the same manner provided for regular polling sites and return the results of the canvass to the county board to be tabulated and canvassed in the same manner as the other election precinct returns. These votes cannot be counted until 7:30p.m. on election night. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-413(c)]*

Special Runoff Absentee Ballots:

“Special runoff ballots” cast for the primary runoff election that are returned with the absentee voter’s primary ballot are only counted in the primary runoff election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-416(f)(4)]*

“Special runoff ballots” cast for the general runoff election that are returned with the absentee voter’s general election ballot are only counted in the general runoff election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-416(f)(4)]*

The Secretary of State provides the county board with instructions for opening, counting, and canvassing absentee “special runoff ballots.” *[A.C.A. § 7-5-416(f)(5)]*

Preliminary and Unofficial Results**Reporting:**

As results are received and tabulated on election night for all state and federal elections, the county board of election commissioners shall declare preliminary and unofficial results of the election as soon as early voting, absentee, or individual precinct results are tabulated on election night and immediately shall transmit the results by precinct to the Secretary of State through the election night reporting interface. Precinct results must be reported to the Secretary of State as soon as possible, not later than 24 hours after the poll close, and cannot be held for later aggregation. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-701(a)(2)(A) as amended by Act 350 of 2023]*

The county board of election commissioners must report the results of both absentee and early voting by precinct to the Secretary of State as soon as practical after the polls close. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-416(a)(5), (d)]*

The county board of election commissioners may, by agreement with the county clerk, transmit the results to the county clerk who immediately shall transmit the results by precinct to the Secretary of State. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-701(a)(2)(B); 7-5-707(a); 7-9-119]*

The report shall include the number of outstanding ballots of voters who requested ballots under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and the number of provisional ballots. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-701(a)(2)(C)(i)(a)(b)]*

RECOUNTS

Initiating a Recount

Request by Candidate:

Any candidate who is dissatisfied with the returns of the election may submit to the county board of election commissioners a petition requesting a recount of the returns from any precinct. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-319(a)(1)]*

Deadline for Request by Candidate:

If the number of outstanding overseas absentee ballots combined with the number of uncounted provisional ballots cannot change the results of the election, the candidate must present the petition no later than two (2) days after the county board declares preliminary and unofficial results of the election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-319(a)(2)]*

If the number of outstanding overseas absentee ballots, combined with the number of uncanvassed provisional ballots, could potentially change the results of the election, the candidate must present the recount petition to the county board before the final canvassing and certification of the results of the election, or by 12:00 noon on the seventh day following the election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-319(a)(3) as amended by Act 321 of 2023]*

Election Commission Decision:

The election commission may decide to conduct a recount on its own motion, without a request from a candidate. Also, when an advocate for or against a measure requests a recount, the board may, at its discretion conduct the recount. In this instance, the county would bear the cost of the recount because the law requires only candidates for office to pay the cost of recounts. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-319(b)]*

Recount Procedure

Equipment Test Results:

Upon receipt of the recount petition, the county board of election commissioners shall provide the candidate with a copy of the test results from the voting machines and electronic vote tabulating devices. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-319(b)]*

Candidate Notification:

The county board must notify all candidates whose election could be affected by the recount within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the petition for recount. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-319(i)]*

Paper Ballots:

Votes cast on paper ballots must be recounted in the same manner as the initial count. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-319(d)]*

If the county board determines that an electronic vote tabulating device may be malfunctioning, the ballots may be recounted in any manner prescribed by law. [A.C.A. § 7-5-319(d)]

The recount must include all groupings of ballots necessary to count all the ballots cast in the race to be recounted. [A.C.A. § 7-5-319(d)(A)]

The recount must confirm that all duplicated ballots were accurately made by reviewing the original ballot and the duplicated ballot. [A.C.A. § 7-5-319(d)(B)]

Prior to certification of the election, the certified results tapes produced in the recount process must be manually added together to confirm that the electrically derived totals agree with the paper records. [A.C.A. § 7-5-319(d)(D)-(E)]

Limitation

Candidate Petitioned:

Only one (1) recount per candidate per election is permitted. [A.C.A. § 7-5-319(b)]

Certification of Results

The county board of election commissioners shall certify the results of the last recount. [A.C.A. § 7-5-319(b), (e)]

Ballot Preservation

After the recount is certified, ballots must again be sealed and kept as provided by law. [A.C.A. § 7-5-319(f)]

Cost

Determination:

The county board of election commissioners shall determine the actual costs incurred to conduct a recount and charge the candidate petitioning the recount up to a maximum rate of twenty-five cents (25¢) per vote cast in the precincts where the recount is requested or a total of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the entire county, whichever is less.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-319(h)]

Payment:

The county board must collect payment for the recount from the candidate petitioning the recount before conducting the recount. There is no provision in election code for payment of the cost of any recount conducted on the election commission's own motion.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-319(g)(1)]

Refund of Payment:

If the recount changes the outcome of the election, the cost shall be refunded to the candidate.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-319(g)(2)]

ELECTION TO OFFICE

General Election

United States Congress:

A candidate for United States Senate or United States House of Representative who receives the greatest number of legal votes cast for the office at the general election held in November shall be declared elected. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-703(b)]*

If any two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes also receive an equal number of votes, a tie shall exist, and a special runoff election must be held four (4) weeks from the day of the general election with the names of those two (2) candidates placed on a special runoff election ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the congressional district. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-703(c)]*

Constitutional Office:

A candidate for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Auditor of State, Attorney General, or Commissioner of State Lands who receives the greatest number of legal votes cast for the office at the general election held in November shall be declared elected. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-704; 7-5-705]*

If any two (2) candidates for Commissioner of State Lands receive the highest number of votes and an equal number of votes, a tie shall exist, and a special runoff election must be held four (4) weeks from the day of the general election with the names of those two (2) candidates placed on a special runoff election ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the state. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-704]*

For all other constitutional officers, if two (2) or more candidates receive an equal number of votes and the highest number of votes for the same office, a tie shall exist, and one (1) of them shall be chosen by a joint vote of both houses of the General Assembly by a majority vote. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-705(b); Arkansas Constitution, Article 6, § 3; Amendment 6, § 3]*

Legislative Office:

A candidate for State Senate or State House of Representatives who receives the greatest number of legal votes cast for the office at the general election held in November shall be declared elected. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-704]*

If any two (2) candidates receive the highest number of votes and an equal number of votes, a tie shall exist, and a special runoff election must be held four (4) weeks from the day of the general election with the names of those two (2) candidates placed on a special runoff election ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the districts. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-704]*

County Office:

The candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast for the office at the general election held in November shall be declared elected.

If there are more than two (2) candidates for election at the general election and no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the office, a general runoff election must be held four (4) weeks after the general election. The names of the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be placed on a general runoff election ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the county. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(a)]*

If one (1) of the two (2) candidates who received the highest number of votes for an office, but not a majority in the general election, withdraws before certification of the results of the general election, the remaining candidate who received the most votes at the general election shall be declared elected to the office and there shall be no general runoff election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(d)]*

If two (2) candidates receive the highest number of votes and also receive the same number of votes, a tie shall exist. The names of the two (2) candidates shall be placed on the general runoff election ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the county. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(b)]*

If one (1) candidate receives the highest number of votes, but not a majority of the votes, and two (2) other candidates receive the same number of votes for the next highest number of votes, a tie shall exist between the two (2) candidates. The county board of election commissioners must hold a public meeting and in the presence of the two (2) candidates determine the runoff candidate by lot. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(c)]*

The candidate receiving the majority of votes cast for the office at the general runoff election shall be declared elected. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(e)(1)]*

If in the runoff election, the two (2) candidates seeking election receive the same number of votes, a tie shall exist. The county board must hold a public meeting and in the presence of the two (2) candidates determine the winner of the runoff general election by lot. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(e)(2)]*

Municipal Office:

Municipal office includes offices of cities of the first class, cities of the second class, and incorporated towns.

Except in City Manager Form of governments, the candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast for the office at the general election held in November shall be declared elected. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-106(a), 14-48-109(a)(8)]*

In City Manager Form of governments, the candidate who receives a plurality of the votes cast for the office at the general election held in November shall be declared elected. *[A.C.A. §§ 14-47-110(a)(4), 14-61-111(a) (plurality winner for mayor in cities with elected mayor unless the people have voted to require a minimum percentage to avoid a runoff)]*

Mayor Council Form of Governments:

A candidate who receives at least forty percent (40%) of the votes cast for the office shall be declared elected to the office if that candidate also receives at least twenty percent (20%) more votes than the second-place candidate. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106]*

A general runoff election must be held four (4) weeks after the general election if there are more than two candidates and no candidate receives either a majority of votes cast or both forty percent (40%) or more of the votes cast for the office at the general election and at least twenty percent (20%) more votes than the second-place candidate. In that event, the names of the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be placed on a general runoff election ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the municipality.

[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(a), (d); NOTE: A.C.A. §§ 14-42-206(c)(1)(A) and 14-43-304(c)(1) are repealed by implication]

If either of the two (2) candidates, who received the highest number of votes cast for an office in the general election but who did not receive either a majority of the votes cast or both forty percent (40%) or more of the votes cast and at least twenty percent (20%) more than the second-place candidate, withdraws before certification of the results of the election, the remaining candidate who received the most votes at the general election shall be declared elected to the office and there shall be no general runoff election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(d)]*

If two (2) candidates receive the highest number of votes and also receive the same number of votes, a tie shall exist. The names of the two (2) candidates shall be placed on the general runoff election ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the municipality. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(b)]*

If one (1) candidate receives the highest number of votes, but not a majority of the votes, and two (2) other candidates receive the same number of votes for the next highest number of votes, a tie shall exist between the two (2) candidates. The county board of election commissioners must hold a public meeting and in the presence of the two (2) candidates determine the runoff candidate by lot. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(c)]*

The candidate receiving the majority of votes cast for the office at the general runoff election shall be declared elected. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(e)(1)]*

If in the runoff election, the two (2) candidates seeking election receive the same number of votes, a tie shall exist. The county board must hold a public meeting and in the presence of the two (2) candidates determine the winner of the runoff general election by lot. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-106(e)(2)]*

Nonpartisan Judges and Prosecutors:

A candidate for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, district judge, or prosecuting attorney shall not be elected to a nonpartisan office without receiving a majority of the votes cast for the office at the nonpartisan general election held in March. *[A.C.A. § 7-10-102(c)(1)]*

If no person receives a majority of the votes cast, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest and next highest number of votes are certified to a runoff election to be held on the same date at the same times and places as the November general election. *[A.C.A. § 7-10-102(c)(2), (3)]*

FINAL CERTIFICATION

Provisional Ballots

Before final certification of the election, the county board of election commissioners must review and determine the validity of every provisional ballot. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-308(d)(1)]*

Unless directed by a court of competent jurisdiction, a provisional ballot, other than a ballot made provisional due to the voter's failure to verify their voter registration, is counted if it is cast by a voter who is lawfully registered in the county and is cast on the correct ballot (according to the precinct listed on the voter's eligibility affirmation) for the precinct of the voter's residence. Also, a ballot cast for failure to verify voter registration may be counted if the voter returns to the county board of election commissioners or the county clerk by 12:00 noon on the Monday following the election and submits a valid photo ID *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101; 7-5-308(d)(2)(B) and 7-5-418(d); 7-5-417(c)]*

Each provisional voter must be notified by first class mail whether his or her vote was counted, and if not, the reason for rejecting the provisional voters' ballot and of the date, time, and place for a hearing before a final determination is made. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-308(c)(2)]*

The county board must include all provisional ballots found to be valid in the final count and certification. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-1-101; 7-5-417(c); 7-5-418(d)]*

STATE BOARD RULES REGARDING PROVISIONAL VOTING

The State Board of Election Commissioners' Rules on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting provides details on reviewing provisional ballots, notice to provisional voters, hearings, and counting provisional ballots and are available at www.arkansas.gov/sbec.

Overseas Absentee Ballots

All overseas absentee ballots that were properly executed by the day of the election and received by the county clerk by 5:00 p.m. ten (10) days after the election must be counted and included in the final certification of the election regardless of whether the outcome of the election would change. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-411(a)(1)(B)]*

Results

No earlier than forty-eight (48) hours after an election and no later than the tenth day after the primary and nonpartisan general elections held in March and the primary runoff election held in April or no later than the fifteenth day after the general and nonpartisan general runoff elections held in November, the county board of election commissioners shall determine, declare, and certify the result of state and federal elections to the Secretary of State. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-701(a)(1); 7-5-707(a); 7-7-203(e)(1); 7-7-309]*

The county board or the county clerk, by agreement with the county board, must transmit the certified results for each precinct to the Secretary of State via the internet website provided by the Secretary of State, if possible, or by facsimile, if not. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-701(a)(2); 7-9-119]*

Note: The Secretary of State may require the election commissions to submit additional information as determined by the Secretary of State. [A.C.A. § 7-5-707(b)]

For municipal elections in municipalities situated in two (2) or more counties, the county board of election commissioners in the county in which fewer residents of the municipality reside shall certify the election results in municipal offices and issues for that county to the election commission of the county in which the greater number of residents of the municipality reside.

The county board of election commissioners in which the greater population of the municipality resides shall tabulate the votes cast on municipal offices and issues and shall certify the election results to the mayor of the municipality. [A.C.A. §§ 14-42-204; 14-42-205 (c),(d)]

Prior to certification of the election, the certified results tapes produced in that election must be manually added together to confirm that the electrically derived totals agree with the paper records. [A.C.A. § 7-5-529]

Abstract of Returns

Members of Congress, Executive, Legislative, Judicial Officers, and Prosecuting Attorneys:

No earlier than forty-eight hours (48) hours and no later than the fifteenth day after the election, the county board of election commissioners must mail to the Secretary of State certified copies of the abstracts of the returns of the election. [A.C.A. § 7-5-701(c)(1)]

Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Auditor of State, and Attorney General:

No earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the fifteenth day after the election, the county board must mail to the Secretary of State a separate envelope addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives containing a certified copy of the abstract of votes for the constitutional officers of the state listed above. [A.C.A. § 7-5-701(d)(1)]

Measures:

The county board must certify and deliver an abstract of all votes cast on any measure to the Secretary of State no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the election. [A.C.A. § 7-9-119(b)]

Failure to Deliver:

If the county board does not comply with certification deadlines, the Secretary of State shall file a complaint with the State Board of Election Commissioners according to Ark. Code Ann. § 7-4-120. [A.C.A. § 7-5-701(c)(3)]

Certificate of Election**Delivery:**

The county board of election commissioners must deliver a certificate of election to the person having the highest numbers of legal votes for any county office within nineteen (19) days after any general, special, or school election. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-701(a)(3)]*

Filing:

The county board files a certificate detailing the result of the election in the office of the county clerk. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-701(b)]*

ELECTION CONTESTS**Candidate Contests****Circuit Court:**

Within twenty (20) days of the certification that is the subject of the complaint, any candidate can contest the certification of nomination or the certification of vote in any election in the circuit court of the county in which the certification of nomination or certification of vote is made or where otherwise provided by law, and the election contest shall be tried by the circuit judge in open court without a jury. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-801; 7-5-804(a)]*

State Senator:

Any contest to the eligibility, qualification, or election to serve as a member of the Senate of the General Assembly shall be according to the rules and procedures for election contests established by the Senate under its governing rules. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-805(a)]*

State Representative:

Any contest to the eligibility, qualification, or election to serve as a member of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly is initiated by filing a complaint with the Arkansas State Claims Commission within fifteen (15) days after the election returns are certified by the county board of election commissioners in the case of election contests, and at any time after the election in the case of eligibility contests. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-805(b)]*

Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Auditor of State, and Attorney General:

All contested general elections are decided by the joint vote of both houses of the General Assembly with the President of the Senate presiding. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-806(a)]*

Citizen Contests

If ten (10) reputable citizens of any county allege that illegal or fraudulent votes were cast, that fraudulent returns or certifications were made, or that the Political Practices Act was violated and file a complaint with the circuit judge within twenty (20) days after any election, the circuit judge convenes a special or regular term for hearing the case. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-807]*

Any twenty-five (25) qualified electors of the state may contest the returns and certification of the votes cast upon any measure by filing a contest in the Circuit Court of Pulaski County within sixty (60) days after the certification of the vote. *[A.C.A. § 7-9-121]*

PRESERVATION OF ELECTION EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

Voting Machines

Release:

Voting machines must be released to a person designated by the county board of election commissioners for storage in a secure facility designated by the county board. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-528]*

Secured:

All voting machines used in any election must remain secured for at least three (3) days after the election, unless ordered activated sooner by court order. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-531(b)(1)]*

In the event of a recount or an election contest, the county board must secure and store audit logs and voter-verified paper audit trails (VVPATs) in a secure place in the county courthouse under lock and key awaiting further orders of the county board or court. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-530(b), (c)]*

All audit logs, ballot stubs and VVPATs produced by voting machines must be secured for a period of two (2) years and preserved in the same manner and for the same time period as ballots and certificates are preserved under Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-702. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-531(a); 7-5-532(e)]*

Clearing:

After final certification of the election, the county board must clear the voting machines for future elections. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-531(b)(2)]*

Voter Lists and Registration Documents

Return/Retention:

All voter lists, precinct voter registration lists, affidavits, and other voter registration documents are returned to the county clerk and retained according to Ark. Code Ann. § 13-4-306. Precinct voter registration lists that include the voter signatures must be retained either in printed form or saved electronically for a minimum of two (2) years. The voters “cast vote record” from the election must also be retained. Contact your SOS Election Coordinator or the ES&S Help Desk for instructions on preserving these documents. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-317(a)(2)]*

Ballots and Certificates

Custody:

After final certification of the election, the county board of election commissioners, retains custody of and safely keeps in a sealed, appropriately marked container in a secure location in the county courthouse or other county storage facility all ballots, ballot stubs and certificates returned to it from the several precincts for a period of twenty (20) days. During the time that ballots and stubs are retained or stored, no one may open the package containing

them unless directed to do so by a competent tribunal before which an election contest or prosecution is pending in which the ballots are to be used as evidence. [A.C.A. § 7-5-702(a)(c)]

Election Contest:

If the county board is notified in writing within the twenty (20) day period of an election contest or initiation of criminal prosecution for fraud in the election, the county board must preserve the ballots, ballot stubs and certificates as may relate to the contest or prosecution for use as evidence. [A.C.A. § 7-5-702(b)]

Retention:

After the twenty (20) day period following final certification, ballots (marked and unmarked), ballot stubs and certificates must be stored in a secure location in the county courthouse or other county storage facility for a period of two (2) years from the date of the election. [A.C.A. § 7-5-702(a)]

Audits:

Following the General Election, the SBEC will randomly select counties to participate in a post-election audit of the vote counting devices. Ballots must initially be stored in batches so that all the ballots represented on a certified results tape from a tabulator can be counted to confirm the accuracy of the tabulator. If your county is selected to participated in the audit, you will be notified within 60 days of the election. [A.C.A. § 7-4-121]

Ballot Accounting:

Within thirty (30) days after EVERY election the county board of election commissioners shall prepare and transmit a report of provisional and rejected ballots cast. See BALLOT DISPOSITION form in the Forms section of the manual.

Destruction of Election Materials

Marked Ballots/Ballot Stubs:

After a period of two (2) years, the county board of election commissioners may destroy all marked ballots and ballot stubs upon entering an order directing the destruction, upon making and retaining a record of ballots destroyed, and upon filing the order and record with the county clerk. [A.C.A. § 7-5-702(e)]

Election Materials Generally:

It is a felony to destroy the following before legally allowed:

- A ballot that was completed, cast, abandoned or spoiled
- A ballot stub from a ballot that was completed, cast, abandoned or spoiled
- A completed voter statement
- An envelope that contains a ballot
- An affidavit provided to the county clerk
- An absentee ballot list
- An absentee ballot application
- A list of absentee ballot applications prepared under 7-5-408
- Any other ballot related material

“Ballot related material” is material “provided to a person representing himself or herself as the voter or his or her agent by a county clerk, member of a county board of election commissioners, or a poll worker and returned by the person ... or agent for the purpose of voting in an election.” The penalty for violation is at least a one-year jail term and a fine of up to \$10,000. *[A.C.A. §7-1-112]*

Measures

Document Retention:

All petitions with signatures, notices, certificates, or other documents surrounding a measure on the ballot must be filed and preserved with the county clerk for two (2) years. *[A.C.A. §7-9-123]*

ENFORCING ELECTION LAWS

Complaints

Voting Machine Malfunction:

The county board of election commissioners must provide forms at each polling place using a voting machine for voters to use for complaints about the function of a voting machine. The poll workers must forward all filed complaints to the county board for investigation. A copy of the complaint must also be provided to the Elections Division of the Secretary of State. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-510]*

STATE BOARD’S VOTER COMPLAINT FORM FOR VOTING MACHINE MALFUNCTION

The State Board of Election Commissioners developed a Voter Complaint form for voters to use to file a complaint about the function of a voting machine. The State Board’s Voter Complaint Form is provided in the Forms & Instructions section in the back of this manual.

Written Complaints:

Written complaints concerning any election law violation or irregularity received by the county board must be forwarded to the State Board of Election Commissioners. *[A.C.A. § 7-1-109; § 7-4-120]*

STATE BOARD’S PROCEDURES FOR ALL OTHER COMPLAINTS

The State Board has developed rules, procedures, and forms for filing complaints related to HAVA and Non-HAVA violations of election and voter registration laws. All of this information is available on the State Board’s website at <http://www.arkansas.gov/sbec>.

Voter Identification**Failure to Provide:**

After each election, the county board of election commissioners may review the precinct voter registration lists for voters not providing identification at the polls and forward the information to the prosecuting attorney for investigation of possible voter fraud. [A.C.A. § 7-5-305(a)(8)(B)(iii), (iv)]

Provisional Ballots**Referral to Prosecuting Attorney:**

When examining provisional ballots before certification of the results of the election, if the county board of election commissioners suspects that a violation of election laws has occurred, the county board may refer the matter to the prosecuting attorney. [A.C.A. § 7-5-308(e)]

Referral to the SBEC

In the event that the CBEC receives a provisional ballot that was cast due to a voter having been marked as already voted in the precinct voter registration list, the CBEC is required to report this fact to the State Board of Election Commissioners within 30 days of the election. [Rules on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting § 903(c)(2)]

ELECTION EXPENSES**Voting Equipment****Purchases:**

The County Voting System Grant Fund is available to the counties pursuant to A.C.A. § 19-5-1243 to purchase voting machines, electronic vote tabulating devices, and for other voting system equipment and maintenance. The Secretary of State shall establish guidelines and procedures for a grant program to distribute the funds to the counties. [A.C.A. § 7-5-301(d)]

Technical Support:

Each county shall provide or contract for adequate technical support for the installation, set up and operation of the voting system for each election. [A.C.A. § 7-5-301(g)]

Voter Continuing Education:

The Secretary of State is responsible for developing, implementing, and providing a continuing program to educate voters and poll workers in the proper use of the voting system. [A.C.A. § 7-5-301(h)]

State-Funded Elections**Funding:**

The State Board of Election Commissioners funds political party primary elections from funds

appropriated to the State Board for election expenses of the State Board and the county boards of election commissioners for preferential primary and nonpartisan elections conducted in March, primary runoff elections conducted in June, special primary elections, and statewide special elections. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-201(a)]*

Procedure:

The State Board will furnish each individual designated by the county board with comprehensive guidelines, instructions, and worksheets for requesting payment from the State Board for eligible state-funded election expenses. This information is also available on the State Board’s website at <http://www.arkansas.gov/sbec>. This system of funding by the State Board has resulted in uniform and consistent distribution of funds from the State to the counties and provided information used by the State Board to maintain databases of comparative election costs, allowing the State to maintain a high level of fiscal accountability. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-201(b)(2)]*

Private Funded Elections:

County Boards of Election Commissioners are prohibited from accepting private funds or any funding outside of government sources in the state of Arkansas or the United States.

Withholding:

The State Board may withhold funding for otherwise eligible state-funded election expenses from any county that fails to comply with the rules developed by the State Board for the administration of primary elections or for failure to comply with applicable state election laws until all requirements are met to the satisfaction of the State Board. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-201(b)(3)]*

STATE BOARD RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR REIMBURSEMENT

The State Board of Election Commissioners has promulgated rules under the Administrative Procedure Act and developed guidelines establishing eligible state-funded election expenses.

The State Board of Election Commissioners’ Rules for Reimbursement of Expenses for State-Funded Elections and its guidelines for seeking reimbursement from the State Board for a preferential primary election, for a primary runoff election, for a statewide special election, and for a special primary election are available at www.arkansas.gov/sbec.

General Elections

All expenses of general elections for presidential, congressional, state, district, county, township, or municipal offices in this state shall be paid by the counties in which held, and cities or incorporated towns shall reimburse the county boards of election commissioners for the expenses of the elections according to the formula outlined in Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-104. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-301(j)]*

Special Elections**Paid by County:**

Except for statewide special elections and special party primary elections paid by the State Board of Election Commissioners in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 7-7-201, expenses for special elections for congressional, state, district, county, and township offices, including runoff elections as required by law, shall be paid by the counties in which they are held. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-104(b)(1)]*

All expenses of special elections called by any county to refer a question or measure to the voters of the county shall be paid by the county. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-104(b)(3)]*

Paid by City/Incorporated Town:

All expenses of special elections for municipal offices, including any runoff elections as required by law, and for referring a question or measure to the voters of the city or incorporated town shall be paid by the city or incorporated town calling for the elections. *[A.C.A. § 7-5-104(b)(2), (4)]*

Paid by School District:

All expenses of a special school election shall be paid by the school district calling for the election. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-118(2)]*

ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTIONS

The annual school election in 2024 will be held on the preferential primary date in March or with the general election in November, whichever is chosen by the school district. In odd numbered years the annual school election will be held on the second Tuesday in May or the second Tuesday in November, whichever is chosen by the school district. This election is to elect school board positions and submit to a vote of the people an annual proposed rate of tax for the maintenance and operation of schools and the retirement of indebtedness. *[Article 14, § 3 of the Arkansas Constitution, as amended by Amendments 1, 11, and 40; A.C.A. § 6-14-102(a)(1); Attorney General's Opinion No. 96-380]*

Polling Sites

Designation:

If the election is held at the same time as the preferential primary election or general election, the polling sites for the annual school election shall be the same as the polling sites for the primary or general election. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-106(a)(5)]*

If the election is held on a date on which no other elections are held a school district with territory in more than one (1) county, the county board of the domicile county (the county where administrative headquarters is located) must designate one (1) or more polling sites in each county in which the school district has territory containing a city of the second class or larger. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-106(a)(1), (b)]*

Polling sites for school elections are established by a majority vote of the members of the county board present. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-106(a)(3)]*

The polling sites for each school election are the same as those established for the most recent contested school election unless changed by order of the county board. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-106(a)(4)(A)]*

Consultation with School District:

The county board must consult with each school district regarding the number of polling sites to designate for each school district and the location of the polling sites. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-106(a)(2)]*

Unopposed Election with No Change in Ballot Issue:

In in an odd year annual school election if all races are unopposed and the only ballot issues for consideration is the local tax rate which is not being changed or restructured, the board of directors of any school district may requested by resolution for the county board to reduce the number of polling sites, or allow annual school elections to be conducted by early and absentee voting only, or conduct an Election by Candidate. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-102(c)]*

An election by candidate allows the CBEC to open no polls and have the candidate who is unopposed cast a single ballot in which the candidate votes for himself or herself. This ballot must also include a vote for or against the millage issue which contains no changes in the rate or structure of the millage issue in the previous calendar year.

The county board of election commissioners may choose to use only paper ballots counted by hand for an unopposed election with no change in the rate or structure of the millage issue. *[A.C.A. §§ 6-14-102(c)(2)(B)]*

Election Officials

Qualifications:

The qualifications of a poll worker for the annual school election are the same as the qualifications for a primary or general election which is addressed on page 52 of this manual. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-101]*

Number:

In odd year school elections, the county board of election commissioners of the domicile county appoints one (1) election judge and one (1) election sheriff for each polling site and as many additional election clerks at each polling site as are necessary for holding the election. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-106(a)(1), (e)]*

Publications

All publication requirements are the responsibility of the county board of election commissioners. These notices may be included with the notices legally required for primary and general elections.

Public Notice of Election:

The county board of election commissioners shall give notice of all school elections in the same manner as notice of all other elections conducted by the county board of election commissioners. Notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least eight (8) days prior to the school election and published a second time at least five (5) days prior to the school election.

When a school election is only conducted by the county board of election commissioners for the domicile county and the school district includes more territory than the domiciled county, the notice of election shall be published in one (1) or more newspapers of general circulation in each of the counties in which the district has territory. The county board of election commissioners shall publish notice of an issue to be placed on the ballot in the manner provided under § 7-5-206. *[A.C.A. § 6-14-106]*

Content of Public Notice of Election:

The public notice of the election shall contain: the date of the election; the hours of voting on election day; the places and times for early voting; polling sites for holding the election in the county; the candidates and offices to be elected; the time and location of opening, processing, canvassing, and counting ballots including absentee and early ballots; the location and date that the list of appointed election officials will be posted and directions for filing a written object to the service of an elected official. The notice should also contain the text of the district's rate of taxation. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-5-202(a); 7-5-416(a)(2)]*

Ballot Position Draw (odd year):

Notice of the drawing for ballot position must be published three (3) days before the public meeting for ballot draw. [7-5-207(c)(2)]

Ballots

For school elections held in even years it is the responsibility of the county board of election commissioners to produce ballots for all voting precincts within the county. In odd years the county board of election commissioners of the domicile county prepares and furnishes the needed ballots for all voters in the school districts conducting an annual school election. [A.C.A. § 6-14-111(b)]

Exception when a Non-Domicile County Holds a Special Election During the Annual School Election: If, during an odd year annual school election or a special school election for a district which has territory in multiple counties, one of that district's non-domicile counties has a special election in which at least one of the district's voters is eligible to vote an exception to the rule stated above is triggered. This exception requires that the county election commission in each county in which the district has territory conduct the school election for that county's voters. If this exception is triggered, the county clerk in the district's domicile county will notify you and provide you with the ballot language along with any candidates which must be on your county's ballot.

Only issues authorized to be on the ballot by the Arkansas Constitution or by statute may appear on the ballot. Issues to be considered may be printed on the same ballot as the other election held on the same date. [A.C.A. § 6-14-102(a)(2)]

The county board places on the ballots as a candidate for school district director the name of any qualified registered voter whose political practices pledge, affidavit of eligibility, and petition has been filed with and verified by the county clerk of the county in which the school district is domiciled for administrative purposes according to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-14-111.

On the day after the deadline for candidates filing by petition, the county clerk of the county which the school district is domiciled for administrative purposes must certify to the county boards conducting the election the names of those candidates who have qualified for the ballot by petition. If the annual school election is being held with a preferential primary or general election, the county clerk must also certify the names of candidates to all non-domicile counties for districts domiciled in their county.

[A.C.A. § 6-14-111(j)(1)]

The county board must hold a public meeting no later than seventy-two (72) days before the annual school election and determine by lot the order that the names of the candidates will appear on the ballot. [A.C.A. § 6-14-111(j)]

Election Materials*Odd-Year elections:*

The county board of election commissioners of the domicile county prepares and furnishes all necessary election supplies for the annual school election unless notified otherwise by the county clerk. [A.C.A. §§ 6-14-106(a)(1); 6-14-111(b)]

If a school district has territory in more than one (1) county, the county board must assure that the necessary precinct registration files are delivered to each polling site in order that the electors in each county may vote in the school election. [A.C.A. § 6-14-106(c)]

Ballot Secrecy

Each voter must be provided privacy to mark his or her ballot. [A.C.A. § 6-14-110]

Counting Ballots and Certifying Results**Certification of Results:**

When the polls are closed, the election officials must immediately count the results, make a return of the votes, certify the return, and file the certification with the county clerk of the domicile county for delivery to its county board of election commissioners. [A.C.A. §§ 6-14-114; 6-14-115]

The county board must determine, declare, and certify the result of the school election to the county clerk, no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than fifteen (15) days after the election. [A.C.A. § 6-14-115]

The county board must also file a certified copy of the results of any school district not domiciled for administrative purposes in their county with the county clerk of the county in which the school district is domiciled. [A.C.A. § 6-14-115]

The certification must show the number of votes cast for each person for school district director, the number of votes cast for and against the school tax, the number of additional mills for maintenance and operation, the number of mills for dedicated maintenance and operation, the number of mills for debt service, the total millage rate levied for all purposes in excess of the uniform rate of tax, and the number of votes cast for and against any other question submitted at the election. [A.C.A. § 6-14-114]

The county clerk of the county in which the school district is domiciled, for administrative purposes, shall file certified copies of the results and a certification of the outcome of each race or issue with each nondomicile county clerk in which any part of the school district lies. [A.C.A. § 6-14-115]

Runoff Election:

If no candidate for any school district position receives a majority of the votes cast for the office or if a tie vote exists, a runoff election is held in the district four (4) weeks after the date of the election with the names of the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes placed on the runoff ballot. Candidates have the same relative ballot position as in the school election. [A.C.A. §§ 6-14-121(a); 7-5-207(c)]

The person receiving the majority of the votes cast for the position at the runoff election is declared elected. [A.C.A. § 6-14-121(b)]

In the event the two (2) candidates in the runoff election seeking election to the same school district position receive the same number of votes, a tie exists, and the county board determines the winner by lot at an open public meeting and in the presence of the two (2) candidates. [A.C.A. § 6-14-121(d)]

Candidate Withdrawal:

If one (1) of the two (2) candidates who received the highest number of votes for a school district position withdraws before certification of the result of the school election, the remaining candidate who received the most votes is declared elected, and there is no runoff election. [A.C.A. § 6-14-121(c)]

Election Contest

Within twenty (20) days of the date of certification, a candidate may contest the election in the circuit court of the county in which the school district is domiciled according to the procedures provided under Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-801 et seq. [A.C.A. § 6-14-116]

Election Expenses

Even-Numbered Year Election:

If the school election is held in an even-numbered year, the school district shall reimburse each county in which the school election appears the additional costs incurred by the county when holding the school election in conjunction with the primary or general election. [A.C.A. § 6-14-118]

See the State Board *Rules for the Annual School Election in Even-Numbered Years* available at www.arkansas.gov/sbec for procedures for calculation, allocation, and billing of the cost of an even-numbered year school election.

Odd-Numbered Year Election:

The school districts in the county shall reimburse the county for the cost of the election [A.C.A. § 6-14-118]

SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Laws Governing

In the absence of provisions in the laws governing special election procedures, a special election is governed by either primary election laws of the state or general election laws of the state, as the case may be and by provisions in the document calling the election if different from the laws. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-11-102; 7-11-204; 7-11-301]*

Calling

All special elections and other elections to fill a vacancy in an office are called by proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the appropriate constituted authority. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-101]*

All special elections on measures or questions referred to the voters by governmental entities as authorized by law are called by proclamation, ordinance, statute, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the appropriate constituted authority. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-201]*

Calling Document

Vacancies in State, Federal, or District Offices/State Measures or Questions:

The proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the appropriate constituted authority calling a special election to fill a state, federal, or district office or calling a special election on a state measure or question is filed with the Secretary of State, who immediately transmits the document to the county board of election commissioners where the special election is to be held. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-11-103(a); 7-11-202(a)]*

Vacancies in Local Offices/Local Measures or Questions:

The proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the appropriate constituted authority calling a special election to fill a local office or calling a special election on a local measure or question is filed with the county clerk of the county administering the election, who immediately transmits the document to the county board of each county where the special election is to be held. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-11-104(a); 7-11-203(a)]*

Special Election to Fill Vacancy:

The proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document calling for a special election to fill a vacancy in an office must be published in a newspaper of general circulation where the special election is to be held and must set forth the:

- Date of the election;
- Date of the special primary election, if any;
- Date of the special primary runoff election, if any is required;
- Deadline for filing as a party candidate with the county clerk or Secretary of State, as the case may be;
- Deadline for party conventions to select nominees, if applicable;
- Deadline for parties to issue certificates of nomination or certified lists of nominees, as the case may be, if applicable;

- Deadline for candidates to file certificates of nomination, if applicable, with the county clerk or the Secretary of State, as the case may be;
- Deadline for filing as an independent candidate and the period that a petition for independent candidacy may be circulated;
- Deadline for the county election commissioners to draw for ballot position; and
- Date the election shall be certified by the county board in each county where the election takes place and, if applicable, by the Secretary of State.

[A.C.A. §§ 7-11-102; 7-11-103(b)]

Special Election on Measures or Questions:

The proclamation, ordinance, statute, resolution, order, or other authorized document calling the special election must set out:

- The date of the special election;
- The full text of any measure or question for which the election is called;
- The ballot title, if any, for the measure/question for which the election is called; and
- Any other information required by law.

[A.C.A. § 7-11-204]

Publication:

The county board must publish the calling document as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the special election is being held. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-11-103(b); 7-11-202(b)]*

In addition to the publication of the calling document, notice of special elections held under Title 7, Chapter 11 must be published and posted according to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 7-5-202 and 7-5-206. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-303]*

Designated Dates for Special Elections

Dates on which a Special Election Can Be Called:

In every year except the year the office of the President of the United States is being held, a special election may be called in the months of May and November. If a special election is called in the month of the preferential primary or general election, the election will be held on the same date as the election. All other special elections must be held on the second Tuesday of the month. Special Elections to fill vacancies can still be held in February, March (only when the President is on the ballot) or May, August, or November. *[Act 300 of 2023]*

In the year the office of the President of the United States is being held, a special election may be called in the months of March and November. If a special election is called in the month of the preferential primary or general election, the election will be held on the same date as the election. All other special elections must be held on the second Tuesday of the month. *[Act 300 of 2023]*

Exceptions in the Case of an Emergency

When calling a special election related to a ballot issue, the entity calling the election may set the election for a month other than the quarterly election dates or the month, excluding the

months following a preferential primary or general election, if the entity finds by a two-thirds majority that an emergency exists. An emergency means that a substantial change has occurred in the interpretation of the law by a court, or the circumstances due to fire, flood, tornado, or other natural disaster that will render the entity incapable of performing its duties or that the entity requesting the election has determined to be an imminent danger to public health and safety. Lastly, if a delay of the election to the next date established above would constitute an undue hardship to the governing entity. This emergency determination is subject to challenge in circuit court for the 30 days following the filing of the calling document with the county clerk. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-11-205(b)]*

Election Dates that Fall on Legal Holidays:

A special election scheduled to occur in a month where the second Tuesday of the month is a state legal holiday is held on the third Tuesday of the month. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-11-105(b); 7-11-205(a)(1)(B)(i)]*

Limitations on when a Special Election can be called:

A special election to fill a vacancy in office may be held no less than seventy (70) days after the date established in the proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document for drawing for ballot position. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-105(d)(1)]*

A special election on a measure or question may be held no less than seventy (70) days after the proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document is filed with the county clerk. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-11-205(a)(1)(A); 7-11-205(b)(1)]*

Special Primary Election:

A special primary election to fill a vacancy in nomination may be called only if the special primary election can be called, held, conducted, certified, and certificates of nomination filed at least seventy (70) days before the general election. *[A.C.A. § 7-7-104(a)(2)(B)]*

If there is only one (1) candidate after all deadlines for filing as a candidate have passed in a special primary election to fill a vacancy, the county board of election commissioners shall certify the candidate as the nominee of the political party without holding a special primary election for the political party. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-107(a)(2)]*

Vacancies Filled Under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 29:

When a vacancy in office is to be filled under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 29, the Governor issues a proclamation calling an election to fill a vacancy. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-302(1)]*

If the vacancy occurs less than one hundred eighty (180) days before the general election at which the vacancy is to be filled and the position is one that may be filled by partisan election, the political parties shall choose their nominees at a convention. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-302(2)]*

If the vacancy occurs more than one hundred eighty (180) days before the general election and is a position that may be filled by partisan election, the Governor certifies the fact of vacancy in writing to the state committees of the political parties and requests written

determination within ten (10) days as to whether the political parties desire to hold a special primary election or a convention to choose nominees. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-302(3)]*

If no state committee of any political party timely responds to the Governor of its determination to hold a special primary election or convention, the Governor declares by proclamation that all nominees shall be chosen by convention. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-302(5)]*

If the state committee of any political party timely notifies the Governor of its choice to hold a special primary election, all party nominees must be chosen at a special primary election. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-302(4)]*

The Governor issues a proclamation that sets dates for both the special primary election and any primary runoff election if no candidate receives a majority of the vote at the special primary election. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-302(4)]*

Polling Sites

Reduction:

If in a special election to fill a vacancy, there is only one (1) candidate and no other office or issue on the ballot, the county board of election commissioners may reduce the number of polling places for the election to only one (1) polling place. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-107(a)(2)]*

The polling place may be at the courthouse and may be staffed by the county clerk or as many poll workers as the county board deems necessary. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-107(a)(2)]*

No Poll Elections:

If in a special election to fill a vacancy, there is only one (1) candidate and no other office or issue on the ballot, the county board may declare and certify the candidate as elected as if the candidate had been voted on. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-107(a)(1)]*

Ballots

Primary Elections:

When a special primary election is held on the same date as a preferential primary election, the names of the candidates to be voted upon at the special primary election are included on the ballot of each political party and the portion of the ballot on which the special primary election appears is labeled with a heading stating “SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION FOR _____” with the name of the party for which nomination is sought and the office set out in the heading. *[A.C.A. § 7-11-106(a)]*

When a special election is held on the same date as a preferential primary election, the names of the candidates and any issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election are included on the ballot of each political party and that portion of the ballot on which the special election appears is labeled with a heading stating “SPECIAL ELECTION FOR...” with the name of the office set out in the heading or “SPECIAL ELECTION ON...” with a brief description of the measure or question to be decided in the election. *[A.C.A. §§ 7-11-105(d)(2); 7-11-205(a)(2)(A), (B)]*

Separate ballots containing the names of the candidates to be voted on at the special election, any nonpartisan candidates, and any other measures or questions to be voted upon must be provided for those voters who wish to vote in the special election or nonpartisan general election, but do not wish to vote in a party's primary. [A.C.A. §§ 7-7-306(b); 7-10-102(b)(2), (3); 7-11-105(d)(3), (4)(A); 7-11-106(b); 7-11-205(a)(3), (4)]

General Elections:

When a special primary election is held on the same date as a general election, the names of the candidates to be voted upon at the special primary election are included on the general election ballot and that portion of the ballot is labeled "SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION FOR . . ." with the name of the office set out in the heading.

When a special election is held on the same date as a general election, the names of the candidates and the issue or issues to be voted upon at the special election are included on the general election ballot and the portion of the ballot on which the special election appears is labeled with a heading stating "SPECIAL ELECTION FOR . . ." with the name of the office set out in the heading or "SPECIAL ELECTION ON..." with a brief description of the measure or question to be decided in the election. [A.C.A. § 7-11-105(d)(4)(B)(i)]

The county board may provide a separate ballot for any special election held at the general election, if determined necessary to avoid voter confusion. [A.C.A. § 7-11-105(d)(4)(B)(ii)]

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RULES

For a complete list of all State Board's rules please visit <http://www.arkansas.gov/sbec>

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**GUIDELINES FOR STATE-FUNDED COMPENSATION
FOR
COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS TRAINING**
(Effective December 1, 2005; Revised December 15, 2021)



STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS
501 Woodlane, Suite 122 South
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 682-1834
(800) 411-6996
Internet: www.arkansas.gov/sbec
Email: INFO.SBEC@arkansas.gov

County Election Commissioner Compensation for Training Attendance

Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-4-109 requires that each member of the county boards of election commissioners attend election training conducted by the State Board of Election Commissioners before each preferential primary election.

Each county election commissioner attending the training is eligible to receive \$300, plus mileage reimbursement at the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations

Election commissioner training compensation will be paid by the State Board to the County Treasurer upon receipt from the county of the attached reporting form approved and provided by the State Board to the county.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SEE
THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS'
RULES FOR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS TRAINING**

COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS TRAINING MILEAGE REQUEST FORM

Training Conducted by The State Board of Election Commissioners

COUNTY: _____

1. THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE WILL CALCULATE MILEAGE FOR PAYMENT. PLEASE LEAVE THAT AREA BLANK.
2. PLEASE USE ONLY YOUR STREET ADDRESS ON THIS FORM, NOT YOUR MAILING ADDRESS.
3. IF YOU CARPOOLED TO TODAY'S TRAINING PLEASE INDICATE THE PERSON WHO DROVE IN THE BOX PROVIDED.
4. IN ADDITION TO MILEAGE, YOU WILL RECEIVE A \$300.00 COMPENSATION ONCE YOU HAVE PASSED AN EXAMINATION AND SERVED THROUGH THE PRIMARY.
5. ONLY COMMISSIONERS RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR TRAINING. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE, ASK ONE OF THE TRAINERS.

						THIS SECTION FOR OFFICE USE		
						MILEAGE (IF APPLICABLE)		
NAMES OF COMMISSIONERS	STREET ADDRESS (NOT MAILING)	Did you drive to today's training?	Did you carpool? If yes, please indicate the person who drove.	City In Which Training Was Held	Date of Training	# OF MILES ROUNDTRIP	RATE \$0.42	MILEAGE EXPENSES
1		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO					\$0.42	
2		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO					\$0.42	
3		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO					\$0.42	
TOTAL								

Commissioner Signatures:

Commissioner #1: _____

Commissioner #2: _____

Commissioner #3: _____

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**GUIDELINES FOR STATE-FUNDED COMPENSATION
FOR
STATE BOARD-CERTIFIED TRAINERS**
(Effective December 1, 2005; Revised December 15, 2021)



STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS
501 Woodlane, Suite 122 South
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 682-1834
(800) 411-6996
Internet: www.arkansas.gov/sbec
Email: INFO.SBEC@arkansas.gov

State Board-Certified Trainer Compensation

Each county board of election commissioners must designate two (2) qualified electors of the county to attend training conducted by the State Board of Election Commissioners for the purpose of being certified by the State Board as poll worker trainers for the county.

Upon successful completion of training and certification by the State Board, a maximum of two (2) certified trainers per county are eligible to receive \$100 each, plus mileage reimbursement at the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

Compensation for State Board-Certified Trainers Conducting Training in the County

Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-4-109 requires that all poll workers must attend election training conducted locally by State Board-certified trainers and coordinated by the State Board.

The two (2) certified trainers per county are eligible to receive an additional \$50 each per training session up to a maximum of four (4) sessions each for conducting poll worker training locally before the preferential primary election.

Requests for additional certified trainers, or training sessions must be made in writing and must describe the facts and circumstances that make the additional trainers necessary.

Certified trainers' compensation will be paid by the State Board to the County Treasurer upon receipt of the attached reporting forms approved and provided by the State Board to the county.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SEE
THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS'
RULES FOR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS TRAINING**

STATE BOARD-CERTIFIED TRAINERS COMPENSATION REQUEST FORM

COUNTY: _____

1. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR THE TRAINING DOCUMENTED ON THIS FORM, YOU MUST HAVE ATTENDED THE TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS AND PASSED THE EXAMINATION.
2. CERTIFIED TRAINERS MUST BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS.
3. YOU MAY CONDUCT AS MANY POLL WORKER TRAININGS AS NECESSARY, HOWEVER, THE SBECC WILL ONLY COMPENSATE TRAINERS UP TO A MAXIMUM OF FOUR (4) LOCAL TRAINING SESSIONS UNLESS YOUR COUNTY RECEIVED PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL TO CONDUCT MORE THAN FOUR SESSIONS.

NAMES OF STATE BOARD-CERTIFIED TRAINERS	DATE ATTENDED TRAINING BY STATE BOARD	FLAT RATE FOR ATTENDING TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS		DATES CONDUCTED POLL WORKER TRAINING LOCALLY				COMPENSATION FOR CONDUCTING POLL WORKER TRAINING LOCALLY	TOTAL COMPENSATION
		FLAT RATE OF \$100.00		TRAINING DATE #1	TRAINING DATE #2	TRAINING DATE #3	TRAINING DATE #4	RATE OF \$50.00 PER TRAINING SESSION	
1		\$100.00							
2		\$100.00							
TOTAL									

State Board-Certified Trainer Signatures:

Certified Trainer #1 Signature: _____

Certified Trainer #2 Signature: _____

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**GUIDELINES
FOR
BALLOT
NAME CERTIFICATION**

(Effective March 31, 2000; Revised August 20, 2013; Revised August 18, 2019)



STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

501 Woodlane, Suite 122 South

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

(501) 682-1834

(800) 411-6996

Internet: www.arkansas.gov/sbec

Email: INFO.SBEC@arkansas.gov

GUIDELINES FOR BALLOT NAME CERTIFICATION

The following guidelines have been developed by the office of the State Board of Election Commissioners for the purpose of certifying the names and titles proposed to be used by candidates filing for office.

Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-7-305. Printing of ballots - Form.

(c)(1)(A) "A person who shall file for any elective office in this state may use not more than three (3) given names, one (1) of which may be a nickname or any other word used for the purpose of identifying the person to the voters, and may add as a prefix to his or her name the title or an abbreviation of an elective public office the person currently holds.

(B) A person may only use as the prefix the title of a nonpartisan judicial office only if:

(i) The person is currently serving in a nonpartisan judicial office to which the person has been elected in the last election for the office; or

(ii) The person:

(a) Is a candidate for the office of circuit judge or district judge;

(b) Is currently serving in the office of circuit judge or district judge as an appointee; and

(c) Has been serving in that position for at least twelve (12) months.

(2) The person filing for office shall include his or her surname in addition to any given names permitted under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section.

(C) A nickname shall not include a professional or honorary title.

(3) The names and titles as proposed to be used by each candidate on the political practice pledge or, if the political practice pledge is not filed by the filing deadline, then the names and titles that appear on the party certificate shall be reviewed no later than one (1) business day after the filing deadline by the Secretary of State for state and district offices and by the county board of election commissioners for county, township, school, and municipal offices.

(4)(A) The name of every candidate shall be printed on the ballot in the form as certified by either the Secretary of State or the county board of election commissioners.

(B) However, the county board of election commissioners may substitute an abbreviated title if the ballot lacks space for the title requested by a candidate.

(C) The county board of election commissioners shall immediately notify a candidate whose requested title is abbreviated by the county board of election commissioners.

(5) A candidate shall not be permitted to change the form in which his or her name will be printed on the ballot after the deadline for filing the political practices pledge."

Definition of "name" as referenced in Black's Law Dictionary:

"A person's 'name' consists of one or more Christian or given names and one surname or family name. It is the distinctive characterization in words by which one is known and distinguished from others, and description, or abbreviation, is not the equivalent of a 'name'."

A candidate is permitted to use:

- **A maximum of three (3) "given" names**
 - 1) One name may be a nickname, but not a professional or honorary title
 - 2) A "middle" name shall be considered a "given" name
- **Initials**

Initials are not considered "given" names and, therefore, **not** counted in the maximum of three (3) "given" names
- **Surname or Last name**

Surnames or last names are not considered "given" names and, therefore, **not** counted in the maximum of three (3) "given" names
- **A Suffix**

Suffixes (Jr., Sr., I, II, III) are not considered "given" names and, therefore, **not** counted in the maximum of three (3) "given" names
- **A Prefix**

The title or an abbreviation of the title of an elective public office **currently held**, for instance

 - 1) County Judge or Co. Judge

A candidate is not permitted to use:

- **Professional or honorary titles**

Professional or honorary titles (Ph.D., CPA, MD., Doctor, Dr., Reverend, Rev., Chief of Police, General, Lieutenant, Sergeant) are **not** acceptable

The county election commission must review the names and titles proposed to be used by each county, township, school, and municipal candidate for compliance with the statutory requirements of Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-7-305. The election commission must make a final determination on the form in which the candidate's name will appear on the ballot no later than one business day after the filing deadline.

For those candidates whose proposed name and title on the political practices pledge do **not** comply with the statutory requirements, the candidate should be contacted and offered the option to file a revised political practices pledge form.

A candidate is not permitted to change the form in which his or her name will be printed on the ballot after the deadline for filing the political practices pledge.

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STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

501 Woodlane Street – Suite 122 South
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501)682-1834 or (800)411-6996

Secretary of State
John Thurston
Chairman

Sharon Brooks
Jamie Clemmer
Bilenda Harris-Ritter
William Luther
J. Harmon Smith
Johnathan Williams
Commissioners



Daniel J. Shults
Director

Chris Madison
Legal Counsel

Jon Davidson
Educational Services Manager

Charlie Morris
Election Administration Supervisor

Tena Arnold
Business Operations Manager

TO: County Clerks and County Boards of Election Commissioners
FROM: State Board of Election Commissioners
RE: Guidance Regarding the Absentee Ballot Canvassing Process

Bullet Point Summary

1. Document the name, date, time, and reason a storage container is accessed or transferred. *[Required by Act 308 of 2023]*
2. Document and verify number of ballots in a container or within a category is correct before transferring to another person or for continued processing.
3. Limit the number of personnel involved with any specific ballot or the processing of a category of ballots.
4. Make numerically manageable groupings of ballots. Use multiple storage containers for collecting returned absentee ballots to reduce the number of ballots in each container.
5. Consider using set time intervals or set number of ballots per container to change out and use new storage containers.
6. Utilize a stack with a set number of ballots (e.g. 50) when removing them from a storage container for canvassing. Document the disposition of each stack of 50.
7. Document which personnel processed which stack or category of ballots.
8. Maintain running totals of ballots per category including ballots returned, ballots to be processed, ballots accepted, ballots recommended for rejection, ballots on hold for additional information, and ballots on hold for further review. These numbers should balance when reconciled.
9. Ensure that storage containers are secure and sealed when moving from canvassing or processing to storage and back, so that the storage containers are only opened in public, and ballots are canvassed or processed only in public view and any authorized poll watcher.
10. Look for and identify points in your processing where verification steps can be implemented to ensure ballot numbers are correct and to catch any discrepancies early and in small batches.
11. Consider the physical movement of ballots throughout the process to make as much of a production line that moves in a linear progression. Do not allow a ballot to circle back and potentially be commingled with different ballots.
12. Remake ballots as a separate and last step. Verify the number of ballots to be remade before remaking any ballots. Mark original ballots to be remade with a unique serial number and give the duplicate the same number to tie original and copy together. *[Required by Act 308 of 2023]*

I. Chain of Custody – Best Practices - County Clerk

- A. Limit number of personnel directly involved in processing and handling absentee ballots to specifically identified personnel.
 - 1. If numerous personnel are needed to process the volume of returning absentee ballots, consider limiting the number of personnel who finalize the ballot packet for deposit into ballot storage container. For example, only Clerk A and Clerk B have access to Box 1. That way these clerks are responsible for ensuring the packet is complete and properly collected before depositing into the storage container.
 - 2. If numerous ballot packets are being returned during the weeks leading up to an election consider using more than one or two ballot storage containers to reduce the number of ballots in a particular storage container. You may also consider limiting the number of ballot packets stored in a single storage container to reduce the number of ballots that may be contaminated by an error, if one occurs. Similarly, if an error does occur, having a smaller grouping of ballots reduces the workload in identifying the error and sorting that ballot packet from the others.
- B. Have personnel who are depositing ballot packets into a storage container maintain a running total on the number of ballot packets deposited.
 - 1. At set intervals, have the number of ballot packets confirmed against an electronic voter roster that reflects the voters who have been credited with returning their absentee ballot return envelope against the running list of voters and number of ballots in a storage container.
 - 2. Document the personnel who access a storage container by documenting the date, time, and reason for accessing the storage container. Utilize tape seals or other means to secure the storage container.
 - 3. The documentation should reflect when ballot packets are added, how many are added, and should reflect when the running total is verified by counting the ballot packets within the storage container.
- C. Prior to transfer of ballot packets, a storage container count should be verified by at least two clerk personnel who document their names, date, time, and number of ballot packets contained within that storage container. If time and resources permit, providing a roster of voters' names whose ballots are within that storage container would be beneficial.

II. Chain of Custody – Best Practices – Initial Canvass of Absentee Ballots

1. Document the receipt of storage devices containing absentee ballot packets.
2. The clerk's office should have provided a document witnessed by at least two personnel who verify the expected count of absentee ballots contained within a storage container. CBEC or its designees should open the container, noting the names of the personnel involved, the date, and time of the opening. The designees should count the ballot packets to ensure that they confirm the expected number of ballots reported by the clerk and that number matches the number present in the storage container. If a roster is provided, the designees may wish to confirm the roster is correct and each name on the roster for a storage container is confirmed as containing that voter's ballot packet.
3. Utilize uniform stacks of ballots when canvassing so that a known quantity of ballots is available for processing at a time. For example, a container that holds several hundred ballots should be processed in a set numbered stack. Only remove 50 ballots at a time and verify the number of ballot packets, then process that stack.
4. Ensure that the ballots are physically moved in such a way that prevents processed ballots from being near or mingled with unprocessed ballots. A linear progression of unprocessed ballots to containers holding categories of processed ballots aids in maintaining separation of ballot categories.
5. Each stack of ballot packets to be canvassed should be assigned to a particular set of canvassers. It should be documented such that a ballot packet can be identified as to which canvassers processed that ballot packet. The document should reflect how the stack of fifty (50) ballots were resolved so that the number of ballots approved for tabulation, the number of ballots recommended for rejection, and the number of ballots made provisional are identified, documented, and reconciled against the beginning fifty (50) count.
6. Keep like category ballots gathered and maintain a running total of ballots in that category. Verify that number is correct before continuing to process that category of ballots.
7. Utilize the smallest and narrowest category of ballots to keep as small a number of ballots as is feasible to limit the number of ballots in a category and comingling of ballots.
8. Identify key points in the canvassing process that are conducive to making a count of the actual ballot packets that have been processed to ensure in agrees with the expected number of ballots to complete that process before the next step in processing.

III. Chain of Custody – Best Practices – Additional Review of Absentee Ballots

1. Ensure that the number of ballots set aside as rejected or set for additional review by the CBEC and the number of ballots converted to provisional ballots is confirmed by physically counting the ballots in these categories before beginning processing.
2. At the conclusion of the canvassing process (and any additional review of non-provisional ballots by the CBEC), ensure that the total number of counted provisional ballots, rejected provisional ballots, and provisional absentee ballots equal the total number of absentee ballots that were canvassed.
3. Document the name, date, and time that a category of problem ballot packets are accessed and processed.
4. Work in defined stacks of some number of problem ballot packets so that a defined beginning number is physically counted and processed before moving to subsequent stacks of ballots.
5. For problem ballots that are remedied and thus countable, it is advisable to separate the ballot only envelope and deposit that into a secured storage container until all remedied problem ballots are identified and deposited in secure storage containers. If problem ballots are to be separated from their ballot packet material, before any group separation process is begun, the ballots should be counted and verified as the ballot packets approved for counting. After confirming that the physical ballot packets match the list of ballots approved for separation and confirming that the expected number and actual number of ballots match, then separation process may begin. Throughout the separation process, the voter's name should be compared to the list of problem ballots approved for counting so that each ballot packet is confirmed as being approved for separation and counting before the ballot only envelope is separated from its identifying information. This ensures that all problem ballots are verified as being resolved and approved for separation to prevent disproved ballots from being comingled with approved ballots.
6. Ballots needing to be remade because of scanner issues should be processed after every other category of ballot has been resolved. A specific number of ballots that need to be remade should be identified and documented, and when the ballots are remade and counted, the number of counted ballots should match the number of ballots identified as needing remade.
7. Remade ballots should have the original ballot marked as ORIGINAL with a unique serial number as being a ballot for remaking and when the remade ballot is completed it should be marked as DUPLICATE with the same unique serial number and attached or identified with the original remade ballot. Sequentially numbering and placing a type of serial number on the ballot to be remade that can be duplicated on the remade ballot is important so that the copy can be traced to its original if they get separated. This provides two levels of verification. A set number of ballots to be remade 530 to be remade, and a results tape with 530 ballots counted. Secondly, the original problem ballot 001 is identical to its duplicate, identified as Copy 001. *[Required by Act 460 of 2023]*

Advisory Standards 2015-001 and 2015-002

The following advisory standards have been approved by the Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners in an effort to ensure compliance with state laws regarding the secrecy of a voter's ballot.

Findings: Amendment 50 §2 of the Arkansas State Constitution provides that all elections by the people shall be by ballot or voting machines which ensure the secrecy of individual votes. The election code implements this constitutional protection by requiring that:

- Voting booths be provided where paper ballots are used [A.C.A. §7-5-310(a)(2)];
- Voting machines be placed so that no person can see or determine how the voter votes [A.C.A. §7-5-521(b)]; and
- A 6-foot privacy zone around voting booths be observed. [A.C.A. § 7-5-310(a)(2)(C)]

These rules apply equally during early voting and on election day, according to A.C.A. § 7-5-418(e) and (f) and the people of Arkansas have a reasonable expectation that these election laws are followed and strictly construed.

Advisory Standard 2015-001: All voting locations in this state must allow any voter to personally and secretly cast his ballot. If voting by paper ballot, voting booths must be provided. Although a voter may waive his/her right to privately cast a ballot, a sufficient number of voting booths should be made available to accommodate every voter who presents himself to vote. When selecting voting locations, county clerks and county election commissioners must select locations that adequately comply with these requirements.

Advisory Standard 2015-002: If voting by machine, the machines must be arranged to ensure that a voter's ballot remains secret at all times. Therefore, the following standards shall be met:

- Voting machines must be spaced at least 6 feet apart from the next machine.
- Voting machine screens must not face or be visible by other voters within the voting location.
- The arrangement of the voting location must not allow voters to see the ballot portion of a voting machine at any time. This includes lines, other wait areas for voters, and entrances and exits to the voting location itself.
- If a violation of one of these requirements is brought to the attention of an election official, the State Board of Election Commissioners expects the election officials to take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with secret ballot and privacy requirements.

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**COMMISSION CHECKLIST FOR
COMBINED PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY,
NONPARTISAN GENERAL ELECTIONS, AND
ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION***

(*if the School Election is held in conjunction with Preferential Primary)
(Effective May 18, 2004; Revised August 2023)

This checklist is provided by the State Board of Election Commissioners as a tool for capturing and maintaining relevant data pertaining to the Preferential Primary and Nonpartisan General Elections.

1. ___ Conducted a public meeting to determine, by lot, the order in which the names of candidates would appear on the ballots
 - a) ___ by the deadline of **not later than eighty-nine (89) days before the election** [§7-7-305(b)]
 - b) ___ provided **at least ten (10) days** written notice to the chairs of the county committees, if the chairs are not members of the board
 - c) ___ published notice of the meeting **at least three (3) days before the meeting** in some newspaper of general circulation in the county [§7-7-305(b)]
 - d) ___ ensure a list of all candidates and issues from school districts domiciled outside the county have been submitted by the county clerk of the county in which the district is domiciled*

2. ___ **If applicable**, altered the boundaries of existing election precincts and established new ones by order
 - a) ___ **at least sixty (60) days before the election**
 - b) ___ recorded the board's order with the county clerk [§7-5-101(c)(1)] in order for the county clerk to submit written, printed, and digital copies of the changes to the Secretary of State and the Arkansas Geographical Information Systems Office [§7-5-101(c)(1)]

3. ___ Ensured that all polling sites are the same as those established for the preceding general election or, **if applicable**, designated any new polling site(s) **at least sixty (60) days before the election** in a public meeting by unanimous vote of the members present [§7-5-101(d)]
 - a) ___ posted notice of any changes in polling sites at all previous polling sites used in the last election [§7-5-101(d)(3)]
 - b) ___ established common polling sites for the joint conduct of the election [§7-7-202(d)]
 - c) ___ provided polls accessible to voters with disabilities [§7-5-311(a)]
 - d) ___ (does not apply to changes in Vote Centers) Notify the County Clerk in a timely manner to allow for notice to be mailed to affected voters.

4. ___ **If applicable**, conducted early voting at additional polling sites outside the county clerk's office [§7-5-418(b)(1)(A)]
 - a) ___ determined, in a public meeting by unanimous vote, the location(s) of additional off-site early voting polling sites [§7-5-418(b)(1)(B)]
 - b) ___ notified the county clerk of the board's decision **within ten (10) days of its decision** [§7-5-418(b)(3)(A)]

5. _____ Provided regular absentee ballots [§7-5-211(c)] and, where applicable, “special absentee runoff ballots” [§7-5-406(c)]
 - a) _____ delivered the ballots and an absentee ballot delivery report to the county clerk at **least forty-seven (47) days before the election** [§7-5-407(a)(1) as amended by Act 329 of 2023]
6. _____ Prepared paper ballots and voting machine ballot styles as provided by law [§§ 7-3-104, 7-5-207, 7-5-208, 7-5-406, 7-5-601, 7-5-610, 7-7-304, 7-7-305, 7-7-306, 7-8-302, and 7-10-102]
 - a) _____ certified the printed ballots and voting machine ballot styles before delivery to the county clerk prior to the start of absentee voting [§7-5-512(a)]
7. _____ Prepared voting machines upon the proper certification of candidates and questions [§7-5-515(a)]
 - a) _____ published notice of the time and place of the voting machine preparation [§7-5-516]
8. _____ Tested and secured voting systems:
 - a) _____ conducted logic and accuracy (L&A) testing of voting machines and electronic vote tabulating devices as soon as the election media was prepared and **no later than seven (7) days prior to the start of early voting** [§§7-5-515(c)(1); 7-5-611(a)(2)]
 - b) _____ conducted public testing of voting machines and electronic vote tabulating devices in addition to L&A testing [§§ 7-5-611(b)]
 - 1.) _____ gave public notice of the time and place of the public test by publication in a daily or weekly newspaper in the town, city, or county using the voting machines or devices **at least forty-eight (48) hours before testing** [§7-5- 611(b)(1)]
 - c) _____ ensured that paper ballot systems that include electronic vote tabulating device(s) were programmed to reject overvoted ballots [§7-5-604(a)(5)(B), (6)(B)]
 - d) _____ certified the accuracy of the voting system by filing the test results with the county clerk and sending a copy of the electronic results to the Secretary of State [§§ 7-5-515(e); 7-5-611(c)]
 - e) _____ after preparation, testing, and examination, secured the voting machines against further voting [§7-5-517(a)]
 - f) _____ placed voting machine activation devices in a sealed package labeled with the serial number of the voting machine, the precinct location of the voting machine and the number registered on the protective counter [§7-5-517(b)]
 - g) _____ certified by machine serial number, the number registered on the protective counter of each voting machine and that all contest counters registered ZERO in the presence of the candidates or their representative, if in attendance [§7-5-517(c)]
 - h) _____ secured voting machine activation devices until released for delivery to poll workers [§7-5-517(d)]
9. _____ Designated suitable times and places where voting machines will be exhibited for purpose of instruction
 - a) _____ published notice of voting machine demonstration in newspaper at least **forty-eight (48) hours before** first demonstration [§7-5-509]
10. _____ Appoint election officials **at least twenty (20) days before the election** [§7-4-107(b)(1)]
 - a) _____ selected and appointed a sufficient number of poll workers for each polling site (a minimum of two (2) election clerks, one (1) election judge, and one (1) election sheriff) [§§7-4-107(b), (2); 7-7-302]

- b) _____ selected and appointed minority party poll worker(s) for each poll as provided by law [§7-4-107(b)(2)]
 - c) _____ **if applicable**, appointed poll workers to adequately staff additional off-site early voting polling sites under the election commission’s supervision [§7-5-418(b)(2)]
 - d) _____ appointed absentee election clerks to process, count, and canvass absentee ballots [§7-5-414(a)]
 - e) _____ confirmed that all poll workers have attended poll worker training [§7-4-107(b)(2)]
11. _____ Published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county public notice of: the date of the election; the places and times for early voting; hours of voting on election day; polling sites, candidates and offices to be elected; the time and location of opening, processing, canvassing, and counting ballots; the time and location of opening, processing, canvassing, and counting early and absentee ballots; the location and date available of the list of appointed election officials and directions for filing a written objection to the service of an elected official.
- a) _____ by the deadline **at least eight (8) days before early voting** [§§7-5-202(a); 7-5-416]
 - b) _____ published a second publication **at least five (5) days before the election** [§§7-5-202(b); 7-5-416]
12. _____ Delivered at least one (1) voting machine equipped for use by individuals with disabilities to the county clerk’s designated early voting location and all off-site early voting polling locations **prior to the start of early voting** [§§7-5-413(a)(1); 7-5-418(a)(1)(A)]
13. _____ Posted in a public place in the county clerk’s office, the list of appointed election officials, including the names of election commissioners **at least eight (8) days before election day**. County Clerks and County Commissions conducting early voting must post a list of appointed election officials who will conduct early voting **at least eight (8) days before early voting**. [§7-5-202]
14. _____ If using paper ballots to be counted by hand or at a central counting location, developed a voter education program to inform voters about the consequences of overvoting and how to correct the ballot containing an overvote [§7-5-604(a)(5)(C), (6)(C)]
15. _____ **At least one (1) day before the election**, delivered ballots and supplies to persons designated by the commission to deliver to poll workers [§7-5-211(a)]
- a) _____ provided sufficient quantities of ballots, voting booths, and voting machines for each polling site [§§7-5-310; 7-5-512(c); 7-5-602]
 - b) _____ provided all required supplies, forms, and postings [§§7-5-211(a)(2); 7-5-512(b),(d)], including a poll workers’ certificate to use on election day to record the exact time and number of votes shown on the public counters and to attest that voting machines were made inaccessible to voting at the official time for closing the polls and upon terminating of the voting by removing the activation devices [§7-5-526]
16. _____ Began opening, processing, and canvassing absentee ballots no earlier than the Tuesday before the election. And began counting absentee ballots **no earlier than 8:30 a.m.** on election day [§7-5-416]
17. _____ Received all election materials and returns from the poll workers **immediately after the polls closed** including one (1) copy of the certificate of election results and, if any, one (1) copy of tally sheets, and any reports of challenges to votes, if any [§7-5-317(b)]

- a) ___ provided poll workers with a receipt for delivery of the sealed package containing the voting machine activation devices and certified return records [§7-5-527(e)]
 - b) ___ ensure that election returns relating to the Annual School Election of a school district that is not domiciled in your county are filed with the county clerk of the county in which the district is domiciled
18. ___ Reported the initial count of early and absentee votes to the Secretary of State as soon as practical after the polls closed [§ 7-5-416(a)(5)(B)]
19. ___ Declared preliminary and unofficial results of the election (including a statement of the number of outstanding absentee ballots of overseas voters) **immediately after the count of the votes was completed**, but no more than 24 hours after the polls close, on election day and reported the results of all elections in the county to the county clerk for immediate transmission to the Secretary of State via the internet website provided by the Secretary of State [§7-5-701(a) as amended by Act 350 of 2023]
20. ___ Before certification of the results of the election
- a) ___ reviewed and determined the validity of all provisional ballots [§§ 7-5-308(a), (e); 7-5-417(c); 7-7-308(a)]
 - b) ___ mailed first class notice to all provisional voters telling them whether their vote was counted, and, if not counted, the reason not counted [§7-5-308(d)(2), Rule 906 on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting]
 - c) ___ counted all overseas absentee ballots that were properly executed and received by the county clerk by **5:00 p.m. ten (10) calendar days after the election REGARDLESS** of whether they would change the outcome of the election [§7-5-411(a)(1)(B)]
 - d) ___ compiled electronic countywide totals from the encrypted USB device from each voting machine used to collect votes and verified that they matched manually compiled totals from the polling locations' certified return records [§7-5-529]
 - e) ___ produced an audit log for each voting machine used in the election [§7-5-530(a)]
21. ___ Certified the official election results via the internet to the Secretary of State by the deadline of **no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the tenth day after the election** [§§7-5-707(a); 7-7-203(e)(1); 7-7-309]
22. ___ Mailed to the Secretary of State certified copies of the abstract of the returns of the election
- a) ___ by the deadline of **no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the tenth day after the election** [§§7-7-203(e)(1); 7-7-309; 7-5-701(c)(1)]
 - b) ___ filed a certificate detailing the result of the election with the county clerk [§7-5-701(b)]
23. ___ After certification
- a) ___ secured audit logs and voter-verified paper audit trails to remain secure for two (2) years [§7-5-531]
 - b) ___ secured all voting machines (voting machines to remain secured for at least three (3) days following election unless otherwise ordered [§7-5-531]
 - c) ___ cleared the voting machines for future elections [§7-5-531]
 - d) ___ preserved all ballots, certificates, and election materials for 2 years [§§7-5-531; 7-5-702]

24. _____ RECOUNT (if applicable)

- a) _____ conducted a recount upon a motion of the county board of election commissioners [§7-5-319(b)]
- b) _____ received a request for recount from a candidate by the deadline of:
 - 1. _____ **no later than two (2) days after the county board declared preliminary and unofficial results if** the number of outstanding overseas absentee ballots combined with provisional ballots was insufficient to change the results of the election [§7-5-319(a)(2)]
 - 2. _____ **before the county board certified the results of the election,** or by 12:00 noon on the seventh day following the election if the number of outstanding overseas absentee ballots was sufficient to potentially change the results of the election [§7-5-319(a)(3) as amended by Act 350 of 2023]
- c) _____ notified all candidates whose election could be affected by the outcome of the recount **within forty-eight (48) hours after receipt of the petition for recount** [§7-5-319(i)]
- d) _____ provided the candidate requesting the recount a copy of the test results on the voting machines and the electronic vote tabulating device(s) performed under A.C.A. §§ 7-5-515 and 7-5-611 [§7-5-319(b)]
- e) _____ Opened the package containing the paper ballots and recounted the paper ballots
 - 1. _____ in the same manner as the initial count unless the county board determines that the tabulating device may be malfunctioning [§7-5-319(d)]
 - 2. _____ if direct-recording electronic voting machines were used, recounted the ballots using the voter verified paper audit trail as the official ballot [§7-5-319(c)]
 - A. _____ manually added the total votes for each candidate involved in the recount from the voter-verified paper audit trail, OR
 - B. _____ counted by hand the votes for each candidate involved in the recount from the voter-verified paper audit trail, OR
 - C. _____ used the paper record produced by the machine for manual audit due to a damaged voter-verified paper audit trail, OR
 - D. _____ used the paper record produced by the machine for manual audit, as the machine is exempt from the voter-verified paper audit trail requirement
 - 3. _____ after the recount, secured the paper ballots, voting machines, electronic vote tabulating devices, audit logs, VVPATs, election materials and returns for retention and storage as provided by law [§§7-5-319(f); 7-5-531; 7-5-532(e); 7-5-702]
 - 4. _____ certified the results of the last recount [§7-5-319(b)]

**COMMISSION CHECKLIST FOR
NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS AND
ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION***

(*if the School Election is held in conjunction with the General Election)
(Effective May 18, 2004; Revised August 2023)

This checklist is provided by the State Board of Election Commissioners as a tool for capturing and maintaining relevant data pertaining to the General Election.

1. ___ Conducted a public meeting to determine, by lot, the order in which the names of candidates would appear on the ballots
 - a) ___ by the deadline of **not later than seventy-two (72) days before the election**
 - b) ___ published notice of the meeting **at least three (3) days before the meeting** in some newspaper of general circulation in the county [*§7-5-207(c)*]
 - c) ___ ensure a list of all candidates and issues from school districts domiciled outside the county have been submitted by the county clerk of the county in which the district is domiciled*

2. ___ **If applicable**, altered the boundaries of existing election precincts and established new ones by order
 - a) ___ **at least sixty (60) days before the election**
 - b) ___ recorded the board's orders with the county clerk [*§7-5-101*] in order for the county clerk to submit written, printed, and digital copies of the map and boundaries to the Secretary of State and Arkansas Geographical Information Systems Office [*§7-5-101(c)(1)*]

3. ___ Ensured that all polling sites are the same as those established by the preceding general election or, **if applicable**, designated any new polling site(s) **at least sixty (60) days before the election** in a public meeting by unanimous vote of the members present [*§7-5-101(d)*]
 - a) ___ posted notice of any changes in polling sites at all previous polling sites used in the last election [*§7-5-101(d)(3)*]
 - b) ___ provided polls accessible to voters with disabilities [*§7-5-311(a)*]
 - c) ___ (does not apply to changes in Vote Centers) Notify the County Clerk in a timely manner to allow for notice to be mailed to affected voters

4. ___ **If applicable**, conducted early voting at additional polling sites outside the county clerk's office [*§7-5-418(b)(1)(A)*]
 - a) ___ determined, in a public meeting by unanimous vote, the location(s) of additional off-site early voting polling sites [*§7-5-418(b)(1)(B)*]
 - b) ___ notified the county clerk of the board's decision **within ten (10) days of its decision** [*§7-5-418(b)(3)(A)*]

5. ___ Provided regular absentee ballots [*§7-5-211(c)*] and, where applicable, "special absentee runoff ballots" [*§7-5-406(c)*]
 - a) ___ delivered the ballots and an absentee ballot delivery count report to the county clerk **at least forty-seven (47) days before the election** [*§7-5-407(a)(1) as amended by Act 329 of 2023*]

6. ___ Prepared paper ballots and voting machine ballot styles as provided by law. [*§§ 7-3-104, 7-5-207, 7-5-208, 7-5-406, 7-5-601, 7-5-610, 7-8-302, 7-9-117, 7-10-102, 14-14-917*]
 - a) ___ certified the printed ballots and voting machine ballot styles before delivery to the county clerk prior to the start of absentee voting [*§7-5-512(a)*]

7. ____ Prepared voting machines upon the proper certification of candidates and questions [§7-5-515(a)]
 - a) ____ published notice of the time and place of the voting machine preparation [§7-5-516]

8. ____ Tested and secured voting systems:
 - a) ____ conducted logic and accuracy (L&A) testing of voting machines and electronic vote tabulating devices **at least seven (7) days before early voting begins for the election** [§7-5-611(a)(2)]
 - b) ____ conducted public testing of voting machines and electronic vote tabulating devices in addition to L&A testing [§§7-5-515(c)(2)(A); 7-5-611(b)]
 1. ____ gave public notice of the time and place of the public test by publication in a daily or weekly newspaper in the town, city, or county using the voting machines or devices **at least forty-eight (48) hours before testing** [§ 7-5- 611(b)(1)]
 - c) ____ ensured that paper ballot systems that include electronic vote tabulating device(s) were programmed to reject overvoted ballots [§7-5-604(a)(5)(B), (6)(B)]
 - d) ____ certified the accuracy of the voting system by filing the test results with the county clerk and sending a copy of the electronic results to the Secretary of State [§§7-5-515(e); 7-5-611(c)]
 - e) ____ after preparation, testing, and examination, secured the voting machines against further voting [§7-5-517(a)]
 - f) ____ placed voting machine activation devices in a sealed package labeled with the serial number of the voting machine, the precinct location of the voting machine and the number registered on the protective counter [§7-5-517(b)]
 - g) ____ certified, by machine serial number, the number registered on the protective counter of each voting machine and that all contest counters registered ZERO in the presence of the candidates or their representative, if in attendance [§7-5- 517(c)]
 - h) ____ secured voting machine activation devices until released for delivery to poll workers [§7-5-517(d)]

9. ____ Designated suitable times and places where voting machines will be exhibited for purpose of instruction
 - a) ____ published notice of voting machine demonstration in newspaper at least **forty-eight (48) hours** before first date of demonstration [§7-5-509]

10. ____ Appoint election officials **at least twenty (20) days before the election** [§7-4-107(b)(1)]
 - a) ____ selected and appointed a sufficient number of poll workers for each polling site (minimum of two (2) election clerks, one (1) election judge, and one (1) election sheriff) [§§7-4-107(b); 7-7-302]
 - b) ____ selected and appointed minority party poll worker(s) for each poll as provided by law [§7-4-107(b)(2)]
 - c) ____ **if applicable**, appointed poll workers to adequately staff additional off-site early voting polling sites under the election commission’s supervision [§7-5-418(b)(2)]
 - d) ____ appointed absentee election clerks to process, count, and canvass absentee ballots [§7-5-414(a)]
 - e) ____ confirmed that all poll workers have attended poll worker training [§7-4-107(b)(2)]

11. ____ Published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county public notice of: the date of the election; the places and times for early voting; hours of voting on election day; polling sites, candidates and offices to be elected; the time and location of opening, processing, canvassing, and counting ballots; the time and location of opening, processing, canvassing, and counting early and absentee ballots; the location and date available of the

list of appointed election officials and directions for filing a written objection to the service of an elected official.

- a) _____ by the deadline of **at least eight (8) days before early voting**
[§§7-5-202(a); 7-5-416]
 - b) _____ published a second publication **at least five (5) days before the election**
[§§7-5-202(b); 7-5-416]
12. _____ Delivered at least one (1) voting machine equipped for use by individuals with disabilities to the county clerk's designated early voting location and all off-site early voting locations **prior to the start of early voting** [§§7-5-413(a)(1); 7-5-418(a)(1)(A)]
 13. _____ Posted in a public place in the county clerk's office, the list of appointed election officials, including the names of election commissioners **at least eight (8) days before election day**. County Clerks and County Commissions conducting early voting must post a list of appointed election officials who will conduct early voting **at least eight (8) days before early voting**. [§7-5-202(b)(2)].
 14. _____ Posted a list at the door of the courthouse of all nominations, proposed amendments to the constitution, and all questions to be submitted to the electors at the election **at least ten (10) days before the election** [§7-5-206]
 15. _____ If using paper ballots to be counted by hand or at a central counting location, developed a voter education program to inform voters about the consequences of overvoting and how to correct the ballot containing an overvote [§§7-5-604(a)(5)(C), (6)(C)]
 16. _____ **At least one (1) day before the election**, delivered ballots and supplies to persons designated by the commission to deliver to poll workers [§7-5-211(a)]
 - a) _____ provided sufficient quantities of ballots, voting booths, and voting machines for each polling site [§§7-5-310; 7-5-512(c); 7-5-602]
 - b) _____ provided all required supplies, forms, and postings [§§7-5-211(a)(2); 7-5-512(b),(d); 7-9-114(b)], including a poll workers' certificate to use on election day to record the exact time and number of votes shown on the public counters and to attest that voting machines were made inaccessible to voting at the official time for closing the polls and upon terminating of the voting by removing the activation devices [§7-5-526]
 17. _____ Began opening the outer envelope, processing, and canvassing of absentee ballot paperwork no earlier than the Tuesday before the election. Began counting absentee ballots **no earlier than 8:30 a.m.** on election day [§7-5-416]
 18. _____ Received all election materials and returns from the poll workers **immediately after the polls closed** including one (1) copy of the certificate of election results and, if any, one (1) copy of tally sheets, and any reports of challenges to votes, if any [§7-5-317(b)]
 - a) _____ provided poll workers with a receipt for delivery of the sealed package containing the voting machine activation devices and certified return records [§7-5-527(e)]
 - b) _____ ensure that election returns relating to the Annual School Election of a school district that is not domiciled in your county are filed with the county clerk of the county in which the district is domiciled
 19. _____ Reported the initial count of early and absentee votes to the Secretary of State as soon as practical after the polls closed [§7-5-416(a)(5)(B)]

20. ___ Declared preliminary and unofficial results of the election (including a statement of the number of outstanding absentee ballots of overseas voters) **immediately after the count of the votes was completed** on election day, but no more than 24 hours after election day, and reported the results of all elections in the county to the county clerk for immediate transmission to the Secretary of State via the internet website provided by the Secretary of State [§7-5-701(a)(3) as amended by Act 350 of 2023]
21. ___ Before certification of the results of the election
- a) ___ reviewed and determined the validity of all provisional ballots [§§ 7-5-308(a), (e); 7-5-417(c)]
 - b) ___ mailed first class notice to all provisional voters telling them whether their vote was counted, and, if not counted, the reason not counted [§7-5-308(d)(2), Rule 906 on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting]
 - c) ___ counted all overseas absentee ballots that were properly executed and received by the county clerk by **5:00 p.m. ten (10) calendar days after the election REGARDLESS** of whether they would change the outcome of the election [§7-5-411(a)(1)(B)]
 - d) ___ compiled electronic countywide totals from the activation pack or device from each voting machine used to collect votes and verified that they matched manually compiled countywide totals from the polling locations' certified return records [§7-5-529]
 - e) ___ produced an audit log for each voting machine used in the election [§7-5-530(a)]
22. ___ Certified the official election results via the internet to the Secretary of State and by mail to the county clerk by the deadline of **no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the fifteenth day after the election** [§§7-5-701(a)(1); 7-5-707(a)]
23. ___ Mailed to the Secretary of State certified copies of the abstract of the returns of the election for members of Congress, all executive, legislative and officers and of all votes cast on any measure
- a) ___ by the deadline of **no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the fifteenth day after the election** [§§7-5-701(c)(1); 7-9-119(b)]
 - b) ___ filed a certificate detailing the result of the election with the county clerk [§7-5-701(b)]
24. ___ After certification
- a) ___ cleared the voting machines for future elections
 - b) ___ secured, audit logs and voter-verified paper audit trails to **remain secure for two (2) years** [§7-5-531]
 - c) ___ secured all voting machines (voting machines to **remain secured for at least three (3) days** following election unless otherwise ordered) [§7-5-531]
 - d) ___ cleared the voting machines for future elections [§7-5-531]
 - e) ___ preserved all ballots, certificates, and election materials for at least 2 years. [§§7-5-531; 7-5-702]
25. ___ Delivered a certificate of election **within nineteen (19) days after the election** to the person having the highest number of legal votes for any county office [§7-5-701(a)(4)]
26. ___ **RECOUNT (if applicable)**
- a) ___ Conducted a recount upon a motion of the county board of election commissioners [§7-5-319(b)]

- b) ___ Received a request for recount from a candidate by the deadline of:
1. ___ **no later than two (2) days after the county board declared preliminary and unofficial results**, if the number of outstanding overseas absentee ballots combined with provisional ballots were insufficient to change the results of the election *[§7-5-319(a)(2) as amended by Act 321 of 2023]*
 2. ___ **before the county board certified the results of the election, or 12:00 noon on the seventh day after the election**, if the number of outstanding overseas absentee ballots was sufficient to potentially change the results of the election *[§7-5-319(a)(3) as amended by Act 321 of 2023]*
- c) ___ notified all candidates whose election could be affected by the outcome of the recount **within forty-eight (48) hours after receipt of the petition for recount** *[§7-5-319(i)]*
- d) ___ provided the candidate requesting the recount a copy of the test results on the voting machines and the electronic vote tabulating device(s) performed under A.C.A. §§ 7-5-515 and 7-5-611 *[§7-5-319(b)]*
- e) ___ Opened the package containing the paper ballots and recounted the paper ballots
1. ___ in the same manner as the initial count unless the county board determines that the tabulating device may be malfunctioning *[§7-5-319(d)]*
 2. ___ if direct-recording electronic voting machines were used, recounted the ballots using the VVPAT as the official ballot *[§7-5-319(c)]*
 - A. ___ manually added the total votes for each candidate involved in the recount from the voter-verified paper audit trail, OR
 - B. ___ counted by hand the votes for each candidate involved in the recount from the voter-verified paper audit trail, OR
 - C. ___ used the paper record produced by the machine for manual audit due to a damaged voter-verified paper audit trail, OR
 - D. ___ used the paper record produced by the machine for manual audit, as the machine is exempt from the voter-verified paper audit trail requirement
 3. ___ after the recount, secured the paper ballots, voting machines, electronic vote tabulating devices, audit logs, VVPATs, election materials and returns for retention and storage as provided by law *[§§7-5-319(f); 7-5-531; 7-5-532(e); 7-5-702]*
 4. ___ certified the results of the last recount *[§7-5-319(b)]*

COMMISSION CHECKLIST FOR STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTIONS

(Effective May 18, 2004; Revised August 2023)

This checklist is provided by the State Board of Election Commissioners as a tool for capturing and maintaining relevant data pertaining to a statewide special election.

1. ___ Published the proclamation calling for the statewide special election as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation in the county [*§7-11-202(b)*]
2. ___ **If applicable**, altered the boundaries of existing election precincts and established new ones by order
 - a) ___ **at least sixty (60) days before the election**
 - b) ___ recorded the board's order with the county clerk [*§7-5-101*] in order for the county clerk to submit written, printed, and digital copies of the map and boundaries to the Secretary of State and Arkansas Geographical Information Systems Office [*§7-5-101(c)(1)*]
3. ___ Ensured that all polling sites are the same as those established for the preceding general election or, **if applicable**, designated any new polling site(s) **at least thirty (30) days before the election** in a public meeting by unanimous vote [*§7-5-101*]
 - a) ___ posted notice of any changes in polling sites at all previous polling sites used in the last election [*§7-5-101(d)(3)*]
 - b) ___ provided polls accessible to voters with disabilities [*§7-5-311(a)*]
4. ___ **If applicable**, conducted early voting at additional polling sites outside the county clerk's office [*§7-5-418(b)(1)(A)*]
 - a) ___ determined, in a public meeting by unanimous vote, the location(s) of additional off-site early voting polling sites [*§7-5-418(b)(1)(B)*]
 - b) ___ notified the county clerk of the board's decision **within ten (10) days of its decision** [*§7-5-418(b)(3)(A)*]
5. ___ Provided absentee ballots
 - a) ___ delivered the ballots and a ballot count delivery report to the county clerk **at least forty-seven (47) days before the election** [*§§7-5-211(c); 7-5-407(a) as amended by Act 329 of 2023*]
6. ___ Prepared paper ballots and voting machine ballot styles as provided by law [*§§ 7-5-208, 7-5-601, and 7-11-205*]
 - a) ___ certified the printed ballots and voting machine ballot styles before delivery to the county clerk prior to the start of absentee voting [*§7-5-512(a)*]
7. ___ Prepared voting machines upon the proper certification of the questions [*§7-5-515(a)*]
 - a) ___ published notice of the time and place of the voting machine preparation [*§7-5-516*]
8. ___ Tested and secured voting systems:
 - a) ___ conducted logic and accuracy (L&A) testing of voting machines and electronic vote tabulating devices as soon as the election media was prepared and no later than **seven (7) days prior to the start of early voting** [*§§7-5-515(c)(1); 7-5-611(a)(2)*]
 - b) ___ conducted public testing of voting machines and electronic vote tabulating devices in addition to L&A testing [*§ 7-5-611(b)*]

1. _____ gave public notice of the time and place of the test by publication in a daily or weekly newspaper in the town, city, or county using the voting machines or devices **at least forty-eight (48) hours before testing** [§§ 7-5-515(c)(2); 7-5-611(b)(1)]
 - c) _____ ensured that paper ballot systems that include electronic vote tabulating device(s) were programmed to reject overvoted ballots [§7-5-604(a)(5)(B), (6)(B)]
 - d) _____ certified the accuracy of the voting system by filing the test results with the county clerk and sending a copy of the electronic results to the Secretary of State [§§7-5-515(e); 7-5-611(c)]
 - e) _____ after preparation, testing, and examination, secured the voting machines against further voting [§7-5-517(a)]
 - f) _____ placed voting machine activation devices in a sealed package labeled with the serial number of the voting machine, the precinct location of the voting machine and the number registered on the protective counter [§7-5-517(b)]
 - g) _____ certified, by machine serial number, the number registered on the protective counter of each voting machine and that all contest counters registered ZERO in the presence of the candidates or their representative, if in attendance [§7-5-517(c)]
 - h) _____ secured voting machine activation devices until released for delivery to poll workers [§7-5-517(d)]

9. _____ Designated suitable times and places where voting machines will be exhibited for purpose of instruction
 - a) _____ published notice of voting machine demonstration in newspaper at least **forty-eight (48) hours before** first demonstration [§7-5-509]

10. _____ Appoint election officials **at least twenty (20) days before the election** [§7-4-107(b)(1)]
 - a) _____ selected and appointed a sufficient number of poll workers for each polling site (a minimum of two (2) election clerks, one (1) election judge, and one (1) election sheriff) [§7-4-107(b)(2)]
 - b) _____ selected and appointed minority party poll worker(s) for each poll as provided by law [§7-4-107(b)(2)]
 - c) _____ **if applicable**, appointed poll workers to adequately staff additional off-site early voting polling sites under the election commission’s supervision [§7-5-418(b)(2)]
 - d) _____ appointed absentee election clerks to process, count, and canvass absentee ballots [§7-5-414(a)]
 - e) _____ confirmed that all poll workers have attended poll worker training [§7-4-107(b)(2)]

11. _____ Published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county public notice of: the date of the election; the places and times for early voting; hours of voting on election day; polling sites, candidates and offices to be elected; the time and location of opening, processing, canvassing, and counting ballots; the time and location of opening, processing, canvassing, and counting early and absentee ballots; the location and date available of the list of appointed election officials and directions for filing a written objection to the service of an elected official.
 - a) _____ by the deadline of **at least eight (8) days before the election** [§§7-5-202(a); 7-5-416; 7-11-303]
 - b) _____ published a second publication **at least five (5) days before the election** [§§7-5-202(b); 7-5-416; 7-11-303]

12. _____ Delivered at least one (1) voting machine equipped for use by individuals with

disabilities to the county clerk's designated early voting location and all off-site early voting polling locations **prior to the start of early voting** [§§7-5-413(a)(1); 7-5-418(a)(2)]

13. ____ Posted in a public place in the county clerk's office, the list of appointed election officials, including the names of election commissioners **at least eight (8) days before election day**. County Clerks must post a list of appointed election officials who will conduct early voting **at least eight (8) days before early voting**. [§7-5-202(b)(2)].
14. ____ Posted a list at the door of the courthouse of all measures and questions to be submitted to the electors at the election **at least ten (10) days before the election** [§§7-5-206; 7-11-303]
15. ____ If using paper ballots to be counted by hand or at a central counting location, developed a voter education program to inform voters about the consequences of overvoting and how to correct the ballot containing an overvote [§7-5-604(a)(5)(C), (6)(C)]
16. ____ **At least one (1) day before the election**, delivered ballots and supplies to persons designated by the commission to deliver to poll workers [§7-5-211(a)]
 - a) ____ provided sufficient quantities of ballots, voting booths, and voting machines for each polling site [§§7-5-310; 7-5-512(c); 7-5-602]
 - b) ____ provided all required supplies, forms, and postings [§§7-5-211(a)(2); 7-5-512(b),(d); 7-9-114(b)], including a poll workers' certificate to use on election day to record the exact time and number of votes shown on the public counters and to attest that voting machines were made inaccessible to voting at the official time for closing the polls and upon terminating of the voting by removing the activation devices [§7-5-526]
17. ____ Began opening the outer envelope, processing, and canvassing of absentee ballot paper work no earlier than the Tuesday before the election. Began counting absentee ballots **no earlier than 8:30 a.m.** on election day [§7-5-416]
18. ____ Received all election materials and returns from the poll workers **immediately after the polls closed** including one (1) copy of the certificate of election results and, if any, one (1) copy of tally sheets, and any reports of challenges to votes, if any [§7-5-317(b)]
 - a) ____ provided poll workers with a receipt for delivery of the sealed package containing the voting machine activation devices and certified return records [§7-5-527(e)]
19. ____ Reported the initial count of early and absentee votes to the Secretary of State as soon as practical after the polls closed [§ 7-5-416(a)(5)(B)]
20. ____ Declared preliminary and unofficial results of the election (including a statement of the number of outstanding absentee ballots of overseas voters) **immediately after the count of the votes was completed, but no more than 24 hours after** election day and reported the results to the county clerk for immediate transmission to the Secretary of State via the internet website provided by the Secretary of State [§7-5-701(a)(3) as amended by Act 350 of 2023]
21. ____ Before certification of the results of the election
 - a) ____ reviewed and determined the validity of all provisional ballots [§§ 7-5-308(a), (e); 7-5-417(c)]
 - b) ____ mailed first class notice to all provisional voters telling them whether their vote was counted, and, if not counted, the reason not counted [§7-5-308(d)(2), Rule 906]

on Poll Watchers, Vote Challenges, and Provisional Voting]

- c) _____ counted all overseas absentee ballots that were properly executed and received by the county clerk **by 5:00 p.m. ten (10) calendar days after the election REGARDLESS** of whether they would change the outcome of the election
[\$7-5-411(a)(1)(B)]
 - d) _____ compiled electronic countywide totals from the activation pack or device from each voting machine used to collect votes and verified that they matched manually compiled countywide totals from the polling locations' certified return records *[\$7-5-529]*
 - e) _____ produced an audit log for each voting machine used in the election *[\$7-5-530(a)]*
22. _____ Certified the official election results via the internet to the Secretary of State by the deadline of **no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the fifteenth day after the election** *[\$§7-5-701(a)(1); 7-5-707(a)]*
23. _____ Mailed to the Secretary of State certified copies of the abstract of the Election returns.
- a) _____ by the deadline of **no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the fifteenth day after the election** *[\$7-9-119(b)]*
 - b) _____ filed a certificate detailing the result of the election with the county clerk *[\$7-5-701(b)]*
24. _____ After certification
- a) _____ secured audit logs and voter-verified paper audit trails to **remain secure for two (2) years** *[\$7-5-531(a)]*
 - b) _____ secured all voting machines (voting machines to **remain secured for at least three (3) days** following election unless otherwise ordered *[\$7-5-531(b)(1)]*
 - c) _____ cleared the voting machines for future elections *[\$7-5-531(b)(2)]*
 - d) _____ preserved all ballots, certificates, and election materials *[\$§ 7-5-531 and 7-5-702]*
25. _____ **RECOUNT (if applicable)**
- a) _____ Conducted a recount upon a motion of the county board of election commissioners *[\$7-5-319(b)]*
 - b) _____ Opened the package containing the paper ballots and recounted the paper ballots
 - 1. _____ in the same manner as the initial count unless the county board determines that the tabulating device may be malfunctioning *[\$7-5-319(d)]*
 - 3. _____ after the recount, secured the paper ballots, voting machines, electronic vote tabulating devices, audit logs, VVPATs, election materials and returns for retention and storage as provided by law
[\$§7-5-319(f); 7-5-531; 7-5-532(e); 7-5-702]
 - 4. _____ certified the results of the last recount *[\$7-5-319(b)]*

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Procedures for Casting a Provisional Ballot

When there is a question concerning a voter's eligibility or the voter fails to satisfy his or her photo ID requirement, a provisional ballot is cast by special procedures as follows.

If the Poll Worker determines the photo ID provided by the voter does not compare to the voter presenting it, the voter shall be referred to the election judge of the polling site. The election judge shall compare the name of the voter to what is listed in the PVR and verify that the photo depicts the person. The election judge shall resolve any marginal cases of identity in favor of the voter.

- _____ **Step 1:** A poll worker must inform the voter that he or she may cast a provisional ballot.
- _____ **Step 2:** The provisional voter must sign, and the poll worker must record the voter's name, address, and type of provisional ballot cast on the List of Provisional Voters form.
- _____ **Step 3:** The poll worker **must** document the ballot style issued to the voter in the "Ballot Style" blank in the Election Official's Verification box at the top of the Provisional Voter Envelope.
- _____ **Step 4:** The poll worker must mark the reason (or reasons) the voter was required to vote a provisional ballot under the "Reasons for Voting Provisional" section.
- _____ **Step 5:** The poll worker **must** sign, print their name, and date in the Election Official's verification box.
- _____ **Step 6:** The poll worker must enter the relevant information located in the Eligibility Affirmation section of the envelope including the voter's name, address, and date of birth. (If the Name and Address stated by the voter differs with the information in the PVR list, enter the information from the PVR list above "Prior Name" or Prior Address.")
- _____ **Step 7:** The voter **must** review and sign the Eligibility Affirmation located at the bottom of the Provisional Voter Envelope
- _____ **Step 8:** If the voter is voting provisionally for a reason other than the failure to show a photo ID, and this process has not already been completed, the poll worker must require the voter to provide a photo ID.
- _____ **Step 9:** The poll worker must then Verify the Voter's Registration by checking that the name on the ID is consistent with the name on the PVR list and that the photo on the ID depicts the voter.
- **Do Not Compare** the address and/or date of birth.
 - For more detailed instructions see the section on *How to Verify Voter Registration*.
 - If a voter fails to satisfy the photo ID requirement, this will create a second reason that the voter is required to cast a provisional ballot.

- _____ **Step 10:** The poll worker must 1) initial the back of a paper ballot, 2) remove the ballot stub, and 3) place the stub into the stub box, or issue the ballot used on the ballot marking device.
- _____ **Step 11:** The voter may then mark the ballot and must 1) place the provisional ballot in a ballot secrecy envelope that is marked Provisional Ballot and seal the envelope, 2) place the sealed Provisional Ballot envelope into his or her Provisional Voter Envelope, and 3) seal the Provisional Voter Envelope and give it to the poll worker.
- _____ **Step 12:** The poll worker must provide the provisional voter with a copy of a Notice to Provisional Voters that 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 (see the Notice to Provisional Voters).
- _____ **Step 13:** The poll workers must keep all provisional ballots secured and separate from other ballots by placing the Provisional Voter Envelopes in a secure container.
- _____ **Step 14:** TWO poll workers (or TWO other election officials) must transport the secure container and a Provisional Ballot Count and Transfer Form to the county election commission after the poll closes.

Counting Provisional Ballots: It is crucial that the poll workers follow *all* provisional voting procedures so that the county election commission can later determine the validity of each provisional ballot and whether or not the ballot should be counted before certifying the election.

Provisional Ballot Due to Court Orders Extending the Time for Closing the Poll: If a federal, state, or any other court order extends the time for closing the poll, any voter who votes as a result of the extension must cast a *provisional* ballot. These provisional ballots *must* be kept separate from any other provisional ballots cast by voters during regular voting hours.

PROVISIONAL VOTER ENVELOPE

Revised: August 2023

For Election Official's Use Only: **Election Official's Verification**

BALLOT STYLE ISSUED: _____ **County:** _____

POLL NAME / LOCATION: _____

REASON(S) FOR VOTING PROVISIONAL

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to Show a Qualifying Photo ID | <input type="checkbox"/> Previously Sent an Absentee Ballot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poll Watcher Challenge | <input type="checkbox"/> Marked as Having Already Voted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not on Precinct Voter Registration List (poll tablet) | <input type="checkbox"/> Court-ordered Voting Extension |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-time Flagged Voter – Failed to Show Required Document | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Requested an Alternative Ballot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

I, THE UNDERSIGNED ELECTION OFFICIAL, verify that all required information has been provided on this provisional ballot envelope, that I have accurately completed the poll worker's verification, and that the voter has signed the voter eligibility affirmation below.

Signature of Election Official

Printed Name of Election Official

Date

PROVISIONAL VOTER ELIGIBILITY AFFIRMATION

WARNING: THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED OR YOUR BALLOT WILL BE REJECTED.

Name of Voter

Prior Name (If Applicable)

Street Address Stated by the Voter

Prior Address from Poll Tablet (If Applicable)

City State Zip Code

Prior City, State, Zip (If Applicable)

Date of Birth

Phone Number (Optional) E-mail (Optional)

I, THE VOTER NAMED ABOVE, hereby affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the information provided above is true and accurate and that to the best of my knowledge I am a registered voter in this precinct and am eligible to vote in this election. I understand that the county election commission will count my ballot only upon verification of my voter registration status.

SIGNATURE OF PROVISIONAL VOTER

NOTE: Perjury is a Felony and is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

CHALLENGED BALLOT FORM

(Use when a poll watcher challenges a voter)

Name of Poll Watcher

Candidate, Party, or Group Represented by Poll Watcher

I am challenging this voter in good faith on the grounds that the voter:

- Is not eligible to vote in this precinct.
- Has previously voted in this election.

Signature of Poll Watcher

CERTIFICATION

(To be completed by the County Clerk's Office)

County: _____

A. PROVISIONAL VOTER

Match No Match

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Name: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prior Name: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Current Address: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prior Address: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Date of Birth: _____ |

I, _____, hereby certify that a data search was performed
(printed name of County Clerk or Deputy)
on the foregoing information in an effort to verify the voter registration status for the
individual voting this provisional ballot and hereby confirm that the voter is registered in
_____ in _____.
(Name of County) (Precinct-Part / Ballot Style)

Signature of County Clerk or Deputy

I, _____, hereby certify that a data search was performed
(printed name of County Clerk or Deputy)
on the foregoing information in an effort to verify the voter registration status for the
individual voting this provisional ballot, but was unable to confirm the provisional voter's
registration status.

Signature of County Clerk or Deputy

DISPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL BALLOT (To be completed by the County Board of Election Commissioners)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Yes | No | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Provisional Ballot Counted, if not, Reason Not Counted: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Provisional Voter Notified by First Class Mail Date: _____ |

County Election Commissioner County Election Commissioner County Election Commissioner
(At least one Election Commissioner must sign.)

NOTICE TO PROVISIONAL VOTERS

REASON 1: No Verification of Voter Registration Provided

If you cast a Provisional Ballot for **failure to present Verification of Voter Registration and you possess ID**, you may present proof of identity to the **County Clerk** or the County Election Commission by noon of the first Monday following the election for the provisional ballot to be counted.

County Clerk's Address

_____ County Courthouse

Street Address:

Hours:

Phone:

City:

"Verification of Voter Registration" is a document or photo ID card that is issued by the State, the federal government, an accredited postsecondary educational institution, or trade school in Arkansas. The ID must show the name and photograph of the person to whom it was issued, and, if it has an expiration date, must not be expired more than 4 years before Election Day. Examples of acceptable proof of identity include but are not limited to:

- An Arkansas driver's license;
- An Arkansas State ID (for example issued by the Revenue Office)
- A U.S. passport;
- A concealed carry handgun license issued by the State of Arkansas;
- An employee badge or ID document issued by the State of Arkansas or the federal government;
- A U.S. military ID document (Active or Retired);
- A student or employee ID card issued by a postsecondary educational institution located in Arkansas;
- A public assistance ID card issued by the State of Arkansas or federal government;
- A "For Voting Purposes Only" ID card that has a photo provide by the County Clerk.

REASON 2: Provisional Ballots Unrelated to Verification of Registration

If you were required to vote provisionally for any reason unrelated to the verification of your voter registration, the County Election Commission will evaluate your provisional ballot. If the Commission cannot count your ballot based on the information available, an administrative hearing is set at the time and location listed below to determine if your ballot will be counted for this election. You are invited to attend this hearing to bring evidence showing why your ballot should be counted. If you do not attend, you will be notified whether your ballot was counted in this process.

Hearing Date for Provisional Ballots that are rejected will be held:

DATE & TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

For more information, contact: _____ County Election Commission

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

You will be notified by first class mail whether your vote was counted, and if not, the reason why.

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LIST OF PERSONS ASSISTING VOTERS

Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-5-310(b)(5) requires poll workers at the polling sites to make and maintain a list of the names and addresses of all persons assisting voters. Two poll workers must assist a voter. Both poll worker names shall be listed in the first column.

Date of Election: _____ **Poll Name:** _____

County: _____ **Precinct #(s):** _____

No.	Name of Person (or poll workers) Assisting Voter	Address of Person Assisting Voter	Name of Voter Assisted
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

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CHANGE IN POLLING SITE AUTHORIZATION FORM

If the address given by a voter to the poll worker is not the same as the address on the precinct voter registration list, Arkansas Code Annotated §§ 7-5-305 and 7-7-308 requires that the poll worker contact the county clerk's office to determine the voter's proper precinct.

If the county clerk's office confirms that the voter's address is not within the precinct, the poll worker should complete the information below and give the completed form to the voter, instruct the voter to complete a voter registration application form to update county voter registration record files, and instruct the voter to go to the polling site serving that precinct in order for his or her vote to be counted.

**THE VOTER SHOULD PRESENT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE POLL
WORKERS AT THE VOTER'S NEW POLLING SITE.**

Date of Election: _____

Name of Voter: _____

Voter's Registrant ID: _____
(This number will be provided by the County Clerk's office.)

New Polling Site Location: _____
(New polling site location will be provided by the County Clerk's office.)

New Polling Precinct Number: _____
(This number will be provided by the County Clerk's office.)

Ballot Style to be Voted: _____
(This number will be provided by the County Clerk's office.)

Authorized By: _____
(Name of the employee with county clerk's office confirming the voter's registration.)

Referred From: _____
(Name of the poll and the precinct number from which referred.)

Referred by Poll Worker: _____
(Signature of the poll worker referring the voter to a new polling site.)

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SPOILED BALLOT AFFIDAVIT

Date: _____ Poll Name: _____

County: _____ Precinct #(s): _____

Arkansas Code Annotated §§ 7-5-602 and 7-5-609 require that if a voter spoils a ballot, he/she should return the ballot to a poll worker who shall void the spoiled ballot by STAMPING "CANCELLED" on its face. The poll worker shall record the time, date, print and sign their name next to the Cancelled stamp on the ballot. The poll worker shall issue the voter a new ballot, not to exceed three (3) in all. The voter must sign this affidavit before voting the new ballot.

I, the undersigned, do solemnly swear or affirm that I spoiled my ballot(s), that I returned the spoiled ballot(s) to a poll worker who cancelled the ballot(s) in my presence, and that I received a new ballot.

Signature of Voter	Spoiled Ballot Ballot Style Number
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____

This form must be totaled and signed by the Election Judge. [Act 308 of 2023]

Election Judge: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF SPOILED BALLOTS: _____

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VOTING MACHINE COMPLAINT FORM

Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-5-510 requires county election commissions to provide, to every polling place using a voting machine(s), forms for voters to use in filing a complaint about the function of a voting machine.

Poll workers must forward complaint forms to their county election commission for investigation. A copy of the complaint must also be forwarded to the Elections Division of the Arkansas Secretary of State.

Name of Complainant: _____

Address of Complainant: _____

Telephone Number of Complainant: _____

Complaint: _____

Signature of Complainant: _____

Voting Machine Identification #: _____

County: _____

Poll Name: _____ Precinct #: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

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ABANDONED BALLOT LOG

County: _____ **Name of Election:** _____
Date of Election: _____ **Polling Location Name:** _____
Precinct Number(s): _____

PAPER BALLOT REJECTED BY SCANNER AND ABANDONED BY VOTER

According to Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-5-309, if a paper ballot is abandoned in the receiving part of an electronic vote tabulating device by a voter who has left the poll without telling a poll worker to cancel or replace the ballot, two (2) poll workers should override warnings on the scanner, complete the process of casting the ballot, and document the name of the voter, the names of the two (2) poll workers completing the process of casting the ballot, the time, and all circumstances involved. **POLL WORKERS SHOULD NOT CAST PAPER BALLOTS ABANDONED ELSEWHERE IN THE POLL SUCH AS ON THE FLOOR OR IN A VOTING BOOTH. SEPARATE PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR THOSE BALLOTS.**

Name of Voter (if known)	Time	Names of Poll Workers	Circumstances
	1. 2.		
	1. 2.		
	1. 2.		
	1. 2.		
	1. 2.		

ELECTRONIC BALLOT ABANDONED ON A VOTING MACHINE

According to Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-5-522, if an electronic ballot is abandoned on a voting machine by a voter who has left the poll without telling a poll worker to cancel the ballot, two (2) poll workers should complete the process of casting the ballot, and document the name of the voter, if known, the names of the two (2) poll workers completing the process of casting the ballot, the time, and all circumstances involved.

Name of Voter (if known)	Time	Names of Poll Workers	Circumstances
	1. 2.		
	1. 2.		
	1. 2.		
	1. 2.		
	1. 2.		

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Certification of Logic and Accuracy Testing Results – Instructions

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-515 requires each County Board of Election Commissioners (CBEC) to test all election media in order to determine that the voting system will correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

Logic and Accuracy (L&A) testing must be completed at least seven days prior to the beginning of early voting for each election. This includes school and special elections.

At least one vote must be voted for each candidate for every ballot style in the election. It is recommended that the CBEC cast multiple votes for each candidate so the test results will indicate a clear winner in each race.

In addition to the L&A testing, The CBEC must also hold a public testing of the voting equipment. Notice of the public testing must be published at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the public test. The public test must be open to representatives of the political parties, candidates, media, and the public.

If any error in the election media is detected, the cause shall be ascertained and corrected by contacting ES&S **immediately**. Delays in conducting the L&A test and/or notifying ES&S of any errors can result in delays in receiving corrected election media. **Conduct your testing as soon as you receive your election media from ES&S.** An errorless count must be made before the machines can be approved for use by the CBEC.

For state level elections only: As part of the testing, it is required that the CBEC tabulate the test results using their tabulation laptop. They must also export the results and upload the to the Secretary of State Election Night Reporting (ENR) website no later than seven days prior to the beginning of early voting.

Before uploading results to the ENR site, please contact your state election coordinator to ensure the site is set up and ready for this step. You may be asked to upload your test results at a later date, depending on the completion of the website. If this is the case, please retain your test result file until the upload is complete.

After completion of all the testing requirements, along with uploading results to the Secretary of State (if applicable), the CBEC shall certify the accuracy of the voting system – each machine and each item of election media – to the Secretary of State by completing the L&A Form on the next page. CBEC should also file a copy of the L&A Form with the county clerk.

Certification of Logic and Accuracy Testing Results Form

Completion required at least seven days prior to the beginning of early voting

Name of County: _____

Name of Election: _____

Date of Election: _____

Logic & Accuracy Completion Date: _____

Test Results Uploaded to Election Night Reporting site: _____

Date filed with County Clerk: _____

Date filed with Secretary of State (only for state level elections):

I certify that each one of the voting machines for the above named election has been properly tested in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-515 in that:

- A group of test ballots were pre-audited to predetermine the number of valid votes for each candidate and each measure, and each candidate received at least one vote for each ballot style;
- One or more of the pre-audited test ballots were over-voted (meaning they contained votes in excess of the number allowed by law), for each office, and for each ballot style, OR an over-vote was attempted on each machine, for each office, and for each ballot style;
- The pre-audited test ballots were voted on each voting machine and each item of media used for the election;
- The voting system rejected the over-voted ballots or otherwise denied an attempted over-vote;
- The cause of any error was determined and corrected;
- An errorless count was made before approving each voting machine and each item of media;
- The county successfully uploaded the test results to the Secretary of State's ENR website, if applicable.

Under the penalty of perjury, I state that the information contained in this certification is true and correct.

Printed Name of Election Commission Chair: _____

Signature of Election Commission Chair: _____

Printed Name of County Clerk:

Signature of County Clerk: _____



Secretary of State
JOHN THURSTON

Filing for year: _____

**Elections Division
State Capitol, Rm. 026
Little Rock, AR 72201
501/682/5070**

Disclosure by Members of County Board of Election Commissioners

Of certain sales to the State of Arkansas, a County, Municipality or School District
Ark. Code Ann. § 7-4-119

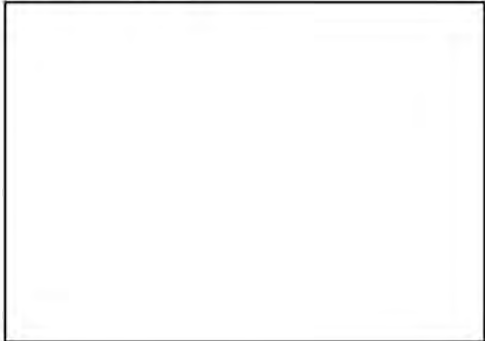
Please file with Secretary of State by January 31 of each year.

CBEC Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

County: _____



A member of a county board of election commissioners shall report to the Secretary of State any goods or services sold during the previous calendar year by himself or herself, his or her spouse, or any business in which the member or his or her spouse is an officer, director, or stockholder owning more than 10% of the stock having a total annual value in excess of \$1,000 to an office, department, commission, council, board, bureau, committee, legislative body, agency or other establishment of the State of Arkansas, a county, a municipality, or a school district.

During the previous calendar year, I have had no sales as referenced in Act 1216 of 2011, codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 7-4-119.

If more space is needed, attach additional sheets to this document.

Goods or Services Sold: _____
Sold to: _____
Sold by: _____
Relationship of seller to CBEc member: _____

I certify under penalty of perjury that the above information is true and correct.

State of Arkansas
County of _____

Signature of CBEc Member

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, this the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public _____

My Commission Expires: _____

Revised 12/11

CBEC Member Name: _____ Filing for Year: _____

Goods or Services Sold: _____
Sold to: _____
Sold by: _____
Relationship of seller to CBEC member: _____

Goods or Services Sold: _____
Sold to: _____
Sold by: _____
Relationship of seller to CBEC member: _____

Goods or Services Sold: _____
Sold to: _____
Sold by: _____
Relationship of seller to CBEC member: _____

Goods or Services Sold: _____
Sold to: _____
Sold by: _____
Relationship of seller to CBEC member: _____

REPORT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS DELIVERED TO COUNTY CLERK

Act 329 of 2023

Election: _____

Date of Delivery: _____

Method of Delivery: _____

Total number of ballots provided by ballot style: _____

Delivered by:

Election Official

Election Official

Received By:

Election Official

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PROVISIONAL BALLOT COUNT AND TRANSFER FORM

Act 329 of 2023

Election: _____

Site: _____

Delivered to: _____

SEAL NUMBER: _____ Replacement Seal # if Needed: _____

PROVISIONAL BALLOT ENVELOPE COUNT _____

DELIVERED BY:

Signature/ Date & Time

Signature/ Date & Time

RECEIVED BY:

Signature/ Date & Time

RECEIVED BY/ SEAL VERIFICATION/COUNTY VERIFICATION:

Signature/ Date & Time

PROVISIONAL BALLOT ENVELOPE COUNT _____

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Early Vote Ballot Box Pick Up

Election: _____

Site: _____

Date & Time Ballot Box Picked Up: _____

DS200 Public Count: _____

Seal Number: _____

Poll Supervisor/Poll Worker Signature

Transport:

Election Official Signature

Election Official Signature

Election Official Reviewing/Receiving

**ELECTION OFFICIAL REVIEWING CONFIRMS SEAL NUMBER MATCHES BALLOT BOX WHEN RETURNED TO CENTRAL COUNT*

**Form used if moving ballots from an Early Voting polling/Vote Center polling site back to the central count location during the Early Voting period.*

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POLL WATCHER AUTHORIZATION FORM

[A.C.A. § 7-5-312]

Representative of a Candidate

I, _____, state that I am a candidate for the office of _____ in the _____ election. I further state that I have designated _____ as my authorized representative at the election at polling sites _____ and absentee ballot processing sites _____ in _____

County, Arkansas, to observe and ascertain the identity of persons presenting themselves to vote in person or by absentee for the purpose of challenging any voter in accordance with Arkansas Code §§7-5-312, 7-5-416, and 7-5-417. I further state that I have designated and authorized my representative named above to be present at the ballot counting locations at _____ in _____ County, Arkansas, for the purpose of witnessing the counting of ballots by election officials and determining whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted in accordance with Arkansas Code §§7-5-312, 7-5-316, 7-5-413, 7-5-416, 7-5-527, and 7-5-615. I further state that _____ as my designated and authorized representative meets all the requirements under Arkansas Code 7-5-312.

Representative of a Group

I, _____, state that I represent the _____ group which is seeking passage/defeat (*circle one*) of the ballot measure entitled _____ on the ballot in the _____ election at polling sites _____ and absentee ballot processing sites _____ in _____ County,

Arkansas, to observe and ascertain the identity of persons presenting themselves to vote in person or by absentee for the purpose of challenging any voter in accordance with Arkansas Code §§7-5-312, 7-5-416 and 7-5-417. I further state that I meet all the requirements under Arkansas Code 7-5-312.

Representative of a Party

I, _____, state that I am the chairman or secretary of the state/county (*circle one*) committee for the _____ party with candidates on the ballot in the _____ election. I further state that I have designated _____ as an authorized party representative at the election at polling sites _____ and absentee ballot processing sites _____ in _____

County, Arkansas, to observe and ascertain the identity of persons presenting themselves to vote in person or by absentee for the purpose of challenging any voter in accordance with Arkansas Code §§7-5-312, 7-5-416, and 7-5-417. I further state that I have designated and authorized my representative named above to be present at the ballot counting locations at _____ in _____ County, Arkansas, for the purpose of witnessing the counting of ballots by election officials and determining whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted in accordance with Arkansas Code §§7-5-312, 7-5-316, 7-5-413, 7-5-416, 7-5-527, and 7-5-615. I further state that _____ as a designated and authorized representative meets all the requirements under Arkansas Code 7-5-312.

Signature of Candidate, Group Representative, or Chair/Sec. of the St./Cnty Committee

Acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Notary Public: _____ My Commission Expires: _____

I do hereby state that I am familiar with the rights and responsibilities of a poll watcher as outlined on the back of the poll watcher authorization form, the requirements under A.C.A. §7-5-312 and will in good faith comply with the provisions of same.

Signature of Poll Watcher Acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Notary Public: _____ My Commission Expires: _____

I do hereby acknowledge filing this poll watcher authorization form with the county clerk's office.

Signature of County Clerk

POLL WATCHER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A poll watcher may be:

- 1) A candidate in person, but only during the counting and tabulation of ballots and the processing of absentee ballots;
- 2) An authorized representative of a candidate;
- 3) An authorized representative of a group seeking the passage or defeat of a measure on the ballot; or
- 4) An authorized representative of a party with a candidate on the ballot or seeking defeat or a measure on the ballot.

Official recognition of poll watchers:

- 1) Only one (1) authorized poll watcher per candidate, group, or party at any one (1) given time may be officially recognized as a poll watcher at each location or area within a polling site, early voting site, vote center, or alternative site where voters identify themselves to election officials;
- 2) Only one (1) authorized poll watcher per candidate, group, or party at any one (1) given time may be officially recognized as a poll watcher at each location or area within the absentee ballot processing site where absentee ballots are processed; and
- 3) Only one (1) authorized poll watcher per candidate or party at any one (1) given time may be officially recognized as a poll watcher at the counting of the ballots.

Poll watcher credentials:

- 1) Except for candidates in person, poll watchers must present a valid affidavit in the form of a "Poll Watcher Authorization Form" to an election official immediately upon entering the polling or counting location.
- 2) Candidates in person are not required to present a "Poll Watcher Authorization Form" but must present some form of identification to an election official immediately upon entering the polling or counting location for the purpose of confirming the poll watcher as a candidate on the ballot.

Poll watchers may:

- 1) Observe the election officials or designees.
- 2) Stand close enough to the precinct voter registration lists so as to hear the voter's name and observe the voter's signature;
- 3) Compile lists of persons voting;
- 4) Challenge ballots upon notification to an election official before the voter signs the precinct voter registration list and upon completing a "Challenged Ballot Form".
- 5) Call to the attention of the election sheriff any occurrence believed to be an irregularity or violation of election law. The poll watcher may not discuss the occurrence unless the election sheriff invites the discussion; and
- 6) Be present at the opening, processing, duplication, and canvassing of absentee ballots for the purpose of challenging absentee votes in the manner provided by law for personal voting challenges.

Poll watchers representing a candidate or political party may:

- 1) Remain at the polling site after the poll closes if ballots are counted at the poll;
- 2) Be present at the counting of votes by hand or by an electronic vote tabulating device at a central location;
- 3) Be present at the counting of absentee ballots for the purpose of witnessing the counting of ballots by election officials and determining whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted; and
- 4) Upon request made to an election official, inspect any or all ballots at the time the ballots are being counted.

Poll watchers may not:

- 1) Be within six feet (6') of any voting machine or booth used by voters to cast their ballot;
- 2) Speak to any voter or in any way attempt to influence a voter inside the polling site or within one hundred feet (100') of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to the building containing the polling site; or
- 3) Disrupt the orderly conduct of the election

Rev: 8/23

Attention



**Please Notify a Poll Worker if
you believe that:**

- **You have been given the wrong ballot**
- **Your ballot does not contain all the candidate names it should**
- or**
- **If your “Printed Ballot” does not reflect your choices**

Once you have placed your ballot in the slot of the scanner / ballot box it's too late - you have voted!

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CROSSOVER VOTING IS A CRIME

VOTERS:

It is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year incarceration and a fine of up to \$2,500, for a person to vote in the preferential primary of one political party and the general primary (runoff) of another.

[A.C.A. §7-1-103(a)(18)(B), (b)]

POLL WORKERS:

It is a felony, punishable by up to six years incarceration and a fine of up to \$10,000 for a poll worker to knowingly permit a person to vote other than his or her legal ballot or fraudulently permit a person to vote illegally.

[A.C.A. §7-1-104(a)(13), (14), (b)]

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NOTICE ON ELECTIONEERING

ELECTIONEERING means the display of, or audible dissemination of, information that advocates for or against any candidate, issue, or measure on a ballot

ELECTIONEERING includes:

- **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 any petition;**
- **Soliciting contributions;**
- **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.**

PROHIBITION

Arkansas Code 7-1-103 and 7-1-104 prohibit electioneering in the building or within 100 feet of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to a building in which voting is taking place, or with persons standing in line to vote. Also, a person shall not enter or remain in the area except for a person entering or leaving a building where voting is taking place.

PUNISHMENT

Violation of electioneering laws is, at the minimum, a Class A misdemeanor offense punishable by fine or confinement.

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OFFICE OF THE
ARKANSAS ATTORNEY GENERAL

ARKANSASAG.GOV

Election Integrity Division

**Your Voice.
Your Vote.
Our Security.**

If you see something, say something.

(833) 995-VOTE

323 Center Street, Suite 200
Little Rock, AR 72201

This notice is posted in accordance with Act 974 of 2021 which requires the Attorney General to establish a hotline to receive complaints concerning violations of election law.

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Ballot Disposition Report

Election Type

Date of Election

Cnty. Conducting Election

If applicable, list the Cnty, Cty(s), or School(s) for which a School Election or Special Election was held

Provisional Ballots

- 1) Total Number of Provisional Ballots
- 2) _____ Number of Provisional Ballots Cast - Early Voting
- 3) _____ Number of Provisional Ballots Cast - Election Day Voting
- 4) * Total Number of In-Person Provisional Ballots Cast

Reasons for Casting In-Person Provisional Ballots

- A) _____ Failure to Satisfy General ID Requirement
 - B) _____ Failure to Satisfy First Time / Flagged ID Requirement
 - C) _____ Voter Information Not Found on the PVR List (Poll Book)
 - D) _____ Voters Marked as Having Been Sent an Absentee Ballot
 - E) _____ Voter Marked as Having Already Voted
 - F) _____ Voter Requests to Vote an Alternative Ballot
 - G) _____ Ballot Cast during Court Ordered Extended Voting
 - H) _____ Poll Watcher Challenge
 - I) _____ Ballot was Improprly Cast as Provisional and was Counted
- 5) _____ * Total Number of Absentee Ballots Made Provisional

Reasons Absentee Ballot was made Provisional

- A) _____ Failure to Satisfy General ID Requirement
 - B) _____ Failure to Satisfy First Time / Flagged ID Requirement
 - C) _____ Bearer, Agent, or Admin. Name Differed (envelope to voter statement)
 - D) _____ Bearer's Name Differed (application to voter statement)
 - E) _____ Poll Watcher Challenge
- 6) _____ Number of Provisional Ballots Not Counted - Early Voting
 - 7) _____ Number of Provisional Ballots Not Counted - Election Day Voting
 - 8) † Total Number of Rejected Provisional Ballots - In-Person Voting

Reasons for In-Person Provisional Ballot's Rejection

- A) _____ Not Registered to Vote
- B) _____ Failed to satisfy Post-Election ID Presentment Requirement
- C) _____ Determined to have Already Voted
- D) _____ Did not Sign the Provisional Ballot Envelope
- E) _____ Omitted Name from the Provisional Ballot Envelope
- F) _____ Omitted Address from the Provisional Ballot Envelope
- G) _____ Omitted DOB from the Provisional Ballot Envelope
- H) _____ Voted on the Wrong Ballot
- I) _____ Court Ordered Extended Voting Invalidated

9) 0 † **Number of Rejected Provisional Ballots - Absentee Ballots**

Reasons for Absentee Provisional Ballot's Rejection

- A) _____ Failed to satisfy Post-Election ID Presentment Requirement
- B) _____ Voted on the Wrong Ballot
- C) _____ Not Registered to Vote

10) 0 **Total Number of Rejected Provisional Ballots**

Total Number of Provisional Ballots Rejected (Restated by Category)

- A) 0 Voter Found as Not Registered to Vote
- B) 0 Voted on the Wrong Ballot
- C) 0 Did not Sign the Provisional Ballot Envelope
- D) 0 Omitted Name from the Provisional Ballot Envelope
- E) 0 Omitted Address from the Provisional Ballot Envelope
- F) 0 Omitted DOB from the Provisional Ballot Envelope
- G) 0 Failed to satisfy Post-Election ID Presentment Requirement
- H) 0 Determined to have Already Voted
- I) 0 Court Ordered Extended Voting Invalidated

11) 0 **Total Number of Counted Provisional Ballots**

Absentee Ballots

12) _____ **Total Number of Absentee Ballots Returned** (as of certification)

13) 0 **Total Number of Absentee Ballots Rejected**

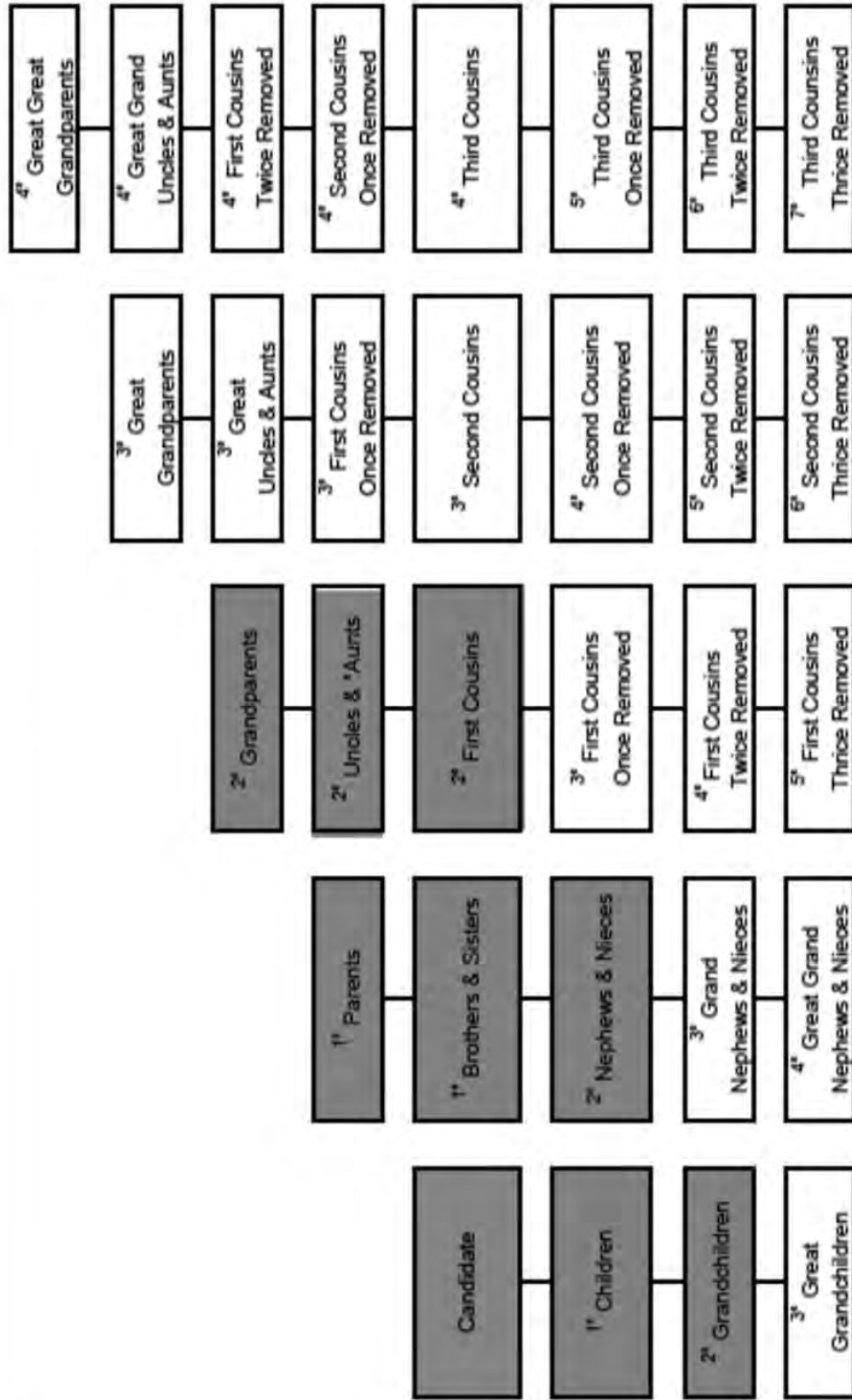
14) 0 † **Number of Absentee Ballots Rejected** (excluding absentee provisionals)

Reasons for Absentee Ballot's Rejection (Non-Provisionals)

- A) _____ Did not Sign the Absentee Voter Statement
- B) _____ Omitted Name from the Absentee Voter Statement
- C) _____ Omitted Address from the Absentee Voter Statement
- D) _____ Omitted DOB from the Absentee Voter Statement
- E) _____ Failed to Return an Absentee Voter Statement
- F) _____ CBEC determined Signature did not Compare

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DEGREES OF CONSANGUINITY (Relationship to Candidate)



Ark. Code Ann. § 7-4-109(d) states that "No person may serve as an election official if married to or related within the second degree of consanguinity to any candidate running for office in the current election if objection to his or her service is made to the county board within ten (10) calendar days after posting the list of officials."

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