

**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)]