



ISSUE NUMBER 1

(Referred to the people by the Arkansas General Assembly)

Allowing state lottery proceeds to fund scholarships at private and public vocational-technical schools and technical institutes

POPULAR NAME: A constitutional amendment to provide that lottery proceeds may be used to fund or provide scholarships and grants to Arkansas citizens enrolled in vocational-technical schools and technical institutes.

BALLOT TITLE: An amendment to the Arkansas Constitution to provide that lottery proceeds may be used to fund or provide scholarships and grants to Arkansas citizens enrolled in vocational-technical schools and technical institutes

What is being proposed?

Arkansas legislators are asking voters to expand the types of educational institutions that qualify for state lottery scholarships. Currently, lottery scholarships can be used at private and public non-profit two and four-year colleges and universities in the state. Issue 1 would also allow students to use lottery scholarships at private and public vocational-technical schools and technical institutes.

How did this issue get on the ballot?

The Arkansas Constitution grants the legislature the right to include up to three constitutional amendments on the general election

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QUICK LOOK: What does your vote mean?

FOR: A FOR vote means you are in favor of changing the state constitution to allow proceeds from lottery ticket sales to also fund scholarships and grants to vocational-technical schools and technical institutes.

AGAINST: An AGAINST vote means you are not in favor of changing the state constitution to allow proceeds to fund scholarships and grants to vocational-technical schools and technical institutes.

Where can I find more information?

The complete wording of this amendment can be found at uaex.uada.edu/issue1

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ballot. The Arkansas Senate and House of Representatives voted to place Issue 1 on the 2024 General Election Ballot.

Constitutional amendments require the approval of a majority of voters in a statewide election. Election Day is Nov. 5, 2024.

Who were the main sponsors of this amendment?

Rep. Robin Lundstrum of Elm Springs and Sen. Jane English of North Little Rock

When was the last time Arkansas voted on this issue?

In 2008, Arkansas voters approved a constitutional amendment to allow the state to establish, operate and regulate state lotteries to fund scholarships and grants for Arkansas citizens enrolled in private and public non-profit two-year and four-year colleges and

The following statements are examples of what supporters and opponents have made public either in media statements, campaign literature, on websites, or in interviews with Public Policy Center staff. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture does not endorse or validate these statements.

What do supporters say?

- I think it's time we opened up lottery scholarship to its original intent to also include vocational education.
- This is the cornerstone of equity and opportunity.

What do opponents say?

There has been no organized or publicized opposition to this amendment.

- In general, someone may be opposed to lotteries or to expanding scholarships beyond private and public colleges and universities.

universities in the state. Voters approved what is known as Amendment 87 by a vote of 648,122 in favor and 383,467 against.

What scholarships and grants does the lottery fund?

Sales of lottery tickets in Arkansas raised \$114.7 million for college scholarships during the state's 2023 Fiscal Year of July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. Current lottery-funded scholarships include:

- **The Arkansas Academic Challenge Program** – This college scholarship started in 2009 and is funded by Arkansas lottery proceeds as well as \$20 million from state general revenue funds allocated by the legislature. In Fiscal Year 2023, lottery proceeds paid for \$54,318,269 in Academic Challenge scholarships for 26,109 students, according to the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.
- **Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship** – This program assists students pursuing certificate programs rather than a college degree in certain technical fields primarily at two-year public colleges in Arkansas. In Fiscal Year 2023, lottery proceeds paid for \$581,161 in Workforce Challenge scholarships for 701 students. According to the Arkansas Division of Higher Education, all 22 two-year public



colleges in Arkansas have received funding under this scholarship. A small number of students enrolled in certificate programs at four-year colleges have also received funds.

- **Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship** – This scholarship helps fund college credits for high school students who are also taking college classes. In Fiscal Year 2023, lottery proceeds paid \$2,596,826 in Concurrent Challenge scholarships for 13,982 students.

What are vocational-technical schools and technical institutes?

Vocational-technical schools and technical institutes are not defined in the proposed amendment. However, the Arkansas Division of Higher Education considers vocational-technical and technical institutes to be privately funded schools that offer certificates and diplomas. These institutions are not required to be accredited.

The Arkansas Division of Higher Education this year proposed several policy changes to scholarships that included public or private vocational-technical schools or technical institutes in their definition of “approved institution of higher education” as of Jan. 1, 2025. The proposed policies, which must be approved by legislators, said the vocational-technical schools and technical institutes would be approved institutions of higher education only if their primary headquarters are located in Arkansas and they are eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds.

Examples of instruction that might be offered by these school include welding, certified nursing assistant skills, commercial truck driving, and medical assisting, among other vocational studies.

State officials said they expect additional legislation would be introduced in future sessions of the General Assembly if Issue 1 passes to create a scholarship specifically for vocational-technical schools and technical institutes. State legislators have the authority under Amendment 87 to determine who is eligible to receive scholarships paid for by lottery revenues.



Instruction offered by vocational-technical schools and technical institutes include welding, certified nursing assistant skills, commercial truck driving, and medical assisting, among other vocational studies.

From the 1960s through the 1990s, there was a system of publicly-funded vocational schools in Arkansas that focused on teaching trades and specific skills through the Arkansas Board of Vocational Education, the predecessor of what is now called the Arkansas Workforce Development Board. Many of these vocational schools were later converted or merged by order of state law into community colleges, which currently qualify for lottery scholarships as two-year public colleges in the state.

If passed, when would the changes proposed by Issue 1 take effect?

If approved, the changes listed in this proposal would take effect Jan. 1, 2025.

The following is the proposed constitutional amendment name and title as they will appear on the state's November General Election ballot.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Issue No. 1
(Popular Name)**

A Constitutional Amendment to Provide that Lottery Proceeds May Be Used to Fund or Provide Scholarships and Grants to Arkansas Citizens Enrolled in Vocational-Technical Schools and Technical Institutes

(Ballot Title)

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT LOTTERY PROCEEDS MAY BE USED TO FUND OR PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS TO ARKANSAS CITIZENS ENROLLED IN VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES

FOR ISSUE NO. 1

AGAINST ISSUE NO. 1