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Nov. 7, 2016

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Election Day is Here Voters to Decide Four Constitutional Amendments

Polling places open in less than 24 hours for Election Day in Arkansas. The year started out as one with the most ballot issues seen in Arkansas since 1968. After the Arkansas Supreme Court struck three measures from the ballot, voters now have four constitutional amendments to decide on November 8.

Now is the time to decide. Here are links to our fact sheets on the four remaining ballot issues:

[Issue 1 - Terms, election and eligibility of elected officials](#)

[Issue 2 - Allowing the governor to retain power and duties when absent from the state](#)

[Issue 3 - Job creation, job expansion and economic development](#)

[Issue 6 - The Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment](#)

Polls open at 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 8, 2016 and close at 7:30 p.m. You can view your [sample ballot here](#). If you don't see a sample ballot, contact your [county clerk's office](#).

Get engaged. Get informed.

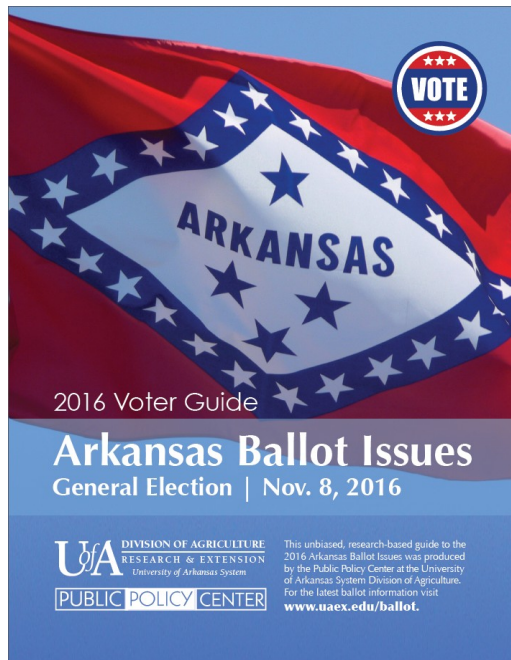
You can download the [complete voter guide](#) or print off this [ballot issue worksheet](#) to write notes on and take with you to the polls.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for the latest info. And if you share, use these hashtags **#ARballot #ARvotes16**.

How did we do in 2016? [Take our survey!](#)

We invite you to take a [quick survey](#) about our ballot issue education materials and share with us whether they have been useful to you this election cycle. Or tell us how we can improve our materials for next time.

We appreciate your feedback. **(All responses are anonymous.)**



Understand the 2016 Arkansas Ballot Issues

Arkansas' 2016 Ballot Issues

On the ballot

Issue 1 - Proposing an Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution Concerning The Terms, Election, And Eligibility of Elected Officials (HJR1027)

Read the [Legislative bill](#)

[Coalition for Arkansas Election Reform](#) has filed with the Arkansas Ethics Commission to support the amendment. [Arkansas for Free Enterprise](#) has filed to oppose the measure.

Issue 2 - An Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution to Allow the Governor to Retain His or Her Powers and Duties When Absent from the State (SJR3)

Read the [Legislative bill](#)

[Arkansas for Free Enterprise](#) has filed with the Arkansas Ethics Commission to support the amendment.

Issue 3 - An Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution to Encourage Job Creation, Job Expansion, and Economic Development (SJR16)

Read the [Legislative bill](#)

[Jobs for Arkansas](#) has filed with the Arkansas Ethics Commission to support the amendment. [Arkansas for Free Enterprise](#) has filed to oppose the measure.

Issue 6 - The Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016 - Opinion No. 2016-007 - A constitutional amendment to make the medical use of marijuana legal under state law and establish a system regulating the cultivation, acquisition and distribution of medical marijuana.

[Arkansans United for Medical Marijuana](#) and [Informing Arkansas](#) has filed with the Arkansas Ethics Commission to support the proposal. [Coalition for Safer Arkansas Communities](#), [Family Council Action Committee](#), [Arkansans Against Legalized Marijuana](#), [Families First Action Committee](#) and [Arkansas for Free Enterprise](#) have filed to oppose the measure.

Looking Forward - Potential 2018 Ballot Issues from Citizens

Attorney General Opinions

The Attorney General is responsible for reviewing the language and titles of potential ballot issues submitted to voters by the public. Ballot issue groups can circulate petitions only after the Attorney General verifies that the ballot title and popular name honestly, intelligibly and fairly describe the purpose of a proposed constitutional amendment or act. The following are recent Attorney General opinions regarding potential ballot issues:

Ballot proposals rejected

Nov. 4, 2016 - The Arkansas Hemp and Cannabis Amendment of 2018 - A proposal to legalize the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, sale, possession and use of the cannabis plant and products derived from it was rejected because of ambiguities in the proposal's text, according to [Opinion No. 2016-110](#). Robert L. Reed of Dennard submitted the measure.

Oct. 31, 2016 - The Arkansas Cannabis Amendment - A proposal to legalize the cultivation, production, distribution, sale, possession and use of the cannabis plant and products derived from the plant was rejected because of ambiguities in the proposal's text, according to [Opinion No. 2016-107](#). The Attorney General opinion cited numerous examples, including that the proposal "is unclear and ambiguous with respect to whether a person must be a resident of the State of Arkansas in order to obtain an industrial hemp license or a marijuana license."

This is the fifth time this proposal has been rejected. See [Opinion No. 2016-100](#) (Oct. 14, 2016), [Opinion No. 2016-097](#) (Sept. 26, 2016), [Opinion No. 2016-089](#) (Aug. 22, 2016) and [Opinion No. 2016-078](#) (Aug. 1, 2016) for previously rejected proposals this petition cycle. Mary L. Berry of Summit submitted the measure.

Ballot proposals approved for signature gathering

Oct. 28, 2016 - Arkansas Term Limits Amendment - A proposal to reduce the number of years a state senator or representative can serve in office was certified for signature gathering, according to [Opinion No. 2016-105](#). The proposal would repeal Amendment 94, which voters passed in 2014 and extended term limits to 16 years for members of the General Assembly. The proposal is similar to one circulated during the 2016 election cycle, but sponsors did not collect enough voter signatures. Thomas Steele of Little Rock submitted the October measure.

The October measure is similar to a proposal approved by the Attorney General's Office on [July 29, 2016](#). That measure was also named Arkansas Term Limits Amendment. Sponsors say the October measure has replaced the July proposal.



Stay Connected

Know of a potential ballot issue?
E-mail the information to publicpolicycenter@uaex.edu or call Kristin Higgins at 501-671-2160.

You can find past newsletters and ballot issue fact sheets at
<http://www.uaex.edu/ballot>



The Public Policy Center was established in 2004 to provide Arkansans with timely, credible, unbiased and research-based information and education about public issues. Public issues are defined as pressing and emerging issues that involve multiple points of view and have widespread consequences. Our goals are to:

- increase citizen knowledge, awareness and understanding of public issues;
- enhance public participation in decisions regarding public issues and
- help citizens craft, evaluate and implement alternative solutions to public issues.

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