



September 2019

## Group Seeks Voter Approval for Game Machines

In a span of 10 years, Arkansas voters approved legalizing the sale of lottery tickets and opening of casinos. Now a group hopes voters will support a constitutional amendment authorizing "coin operated amusement machines" in the state.

Arcade Arkansas filed wording of a proposed constitutional amendment with the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office late last month. The proposal would authorize the gaming machines and allow players to win prizes, with tax proceeds going to fund college scholarships.

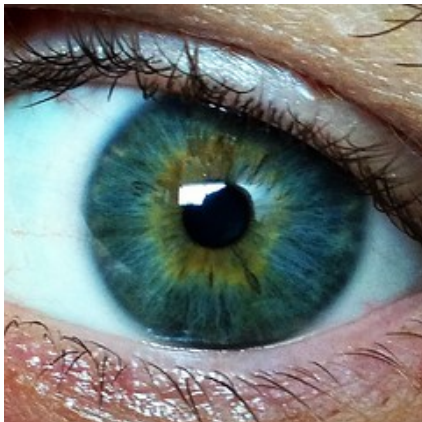
Although the proposal refers to "coin operated machines," players could use a variety of methods of payment to play. The proposal would require the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery to issue 50 licenses to own and lease coin operated machines. Each licensee could have up to 300 machines.

[Read the proposal: The Coin Operated Amusement Machine Amendment to Article 19, Section 14 of the Arkansas Constitution](#)

Now that the wording has been filed with the Secretary of State's Office, supporters of Arcade Arkansas can start collecting signatures from voters to put the proposal on the November 2020 ballot. The citizen initiative is one of five proposed constitutional amendments filed with the Secretary of State's Office as of Sept. 26, 2019.

To qualify for the ballot, a proposal requires signatures from at least 84,000 voters. Those signatures must come from at least 15 counties. Ballot issue groups typically use volunteers or paid canvassers to collect these signatures around the state.

## In the Courts: Act 579 Referendum



### Read for Yourself

Act 579 amended three existing state laws regarding the scope of practice for optometrists. Supporters of a referendum collected voter signatures to put the issue on the ballot.

The effort was rejected by the Secretary of State's Office due to canvasser paperwork not being filed in time as required under a new law, Act 376 of 2019. A lawsuit is now pending before the Arkansas Supreme Court.

[Read the new law](#)

[Read the proposed referendum title](#)

## Signature Collecting: What's Circulating? Ballot Proposals from the Public



Arkansas is one of 15 states where citizens have the right to put a constitutional amendment or a state law on the ballot for voters to decide.

The initiative process includes filing a ballot title with the Secretary of State's office, collecting thousands of signatures from around the state, and submitting the signatures for verification.

New this year is a requirement for the Arkansas Election Commission to certify the ballot title.

### Submitted to the Secretary of State

Act 376 of 2019 requires ballot issue groups to submit a copy of their ballot title with the [Arkansas Secretary of State](#) before collecting signatures.

Ballot titles that have been filed include:

**March 14, 2019 - [Arkansas Term Limits Amendment](#)** - A proposal to lower the number of years state legislators can serve in office was submitted by a group known as Arkansas Term Limits BQC.

**July 19, 2019 - [Arkansas Adult Use Cannabis Amendment](#)** - A proposal to legalize adult use of marijuana was submitted by Melissa Fults.

**July 19, 2019 - [Arkansas Marijuana Expungement Amendment](#)** - A proposal to allow certain marijuana convictions to be expunged was submitted by Melissa Fults.

**July 22, 2019 - [The Arkansas Recreational Marijuana Amendment of 2020](#)** - A proposal to legalize adult marijuana use and to allow certain marijuana convictions to be expunged was submitted by William Barger.

**Aug. 29, 2019 - [The Coin Operated Amusement Machine Amendment to Article 19, Section 14 of the Arkansas Constitution](#)** - A proposal to amend the state's lottery amendment to allow coin operated machines was submitted by a group called [Arcade Arkansas](#).

### Approved by the Attorney General

Before the passage of Act 376, the Arkansas Attorney General was required to certify ballot titles before groups could collect signatures. The Attorney General certified the ballot title of one proposed amendment for the 2020 election before the new law was introduced. It's not known how Act 376 affects that certification.

**Oct. 26, 2018 - [An Amendment to Establish the Arkansas Citizens' Redistricting Commission](#)** - A proposal seeking to change how Arkansas' congressional and state legislative districts are established was approved with a cautionary note that the proposal's subject matter was complex and far reaching, according to [Opinion No. 2018-135](#). This complexity could lead to a ballot title challenge, the opinion stated. David Couch of Little Rock submitted the measure.

## On the 2020 Ballot: Constitutional Amendments from the Legislature

Arkansas senators and representatives put three constitutional amendments on the 2020



ballot for voters to decide.

Issue numbers haven't been assigned yet. We list them below in order of their approval.

We will publish our neutral voter guide on these proposed amendments along with any from the citizen-initiated process closer to Election Day 2020.

Check out our [website](#) for more information.

### **Continuing Sales Tax for Road Construction (HJR1018)**

An Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution Continuing a One-Half Percent (0.5%) Sales and Use Tax for State Highways and Bridges; County Roads, Bridges and Other Surface Transportation; and City Streets, Bridges, and Other Surface Transportation After the Retirement of the Bonds Authorized in Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 91.

[Read the full text of the proposal](#)

### **Changing Legislative Term Limits (SJR15)**

A Constitutional Amendment to Amend the Term Limits Applicable to Members of the General Assembly, to be Known as the "Arkansas Term Limits Amendment"

[Read the full text of the proposal](#)

### **Changing the Citizen-Initiated and Legislative Ballot Issue Process (HJR1008)**

A Constitutional Amendment To Amend The Process For The Submission, Challenge, And Approval Of Proposed Initiated Acts, Constitutional Amendments, And Referenda

[Read the full text of the proposal](#)

## **Celebrate National Voter Registration Day**



WHERE TO



# **FIND A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM**

## **1. YOUR COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE**

Every county has a "County Clerk" who is in charge of voter registration. The office is usually at the county courthouse. Find the address at [www.arcounties.org/counties](http://www.arcounties.org/counties).

## 2. CHECK YOUR LIBRARY FOR REGISTRATION FORMS

Many libraries have voter registration forms for you to fill out and mail to your county clerk. Call the library and see if they have one.



## 3. LOCAL DMV OR REVENUE OFFICE

The place where you get your driver's license or renew your car tags might have a voter registration form. Or if you are renewing your ID, you can request to register to vote.

## 4. DISABILITY AGENCY OR MILITARY RECRUITMENT

Disability agencies and military recruitment locations are supposed to have voter registration forms available.

## 5. DOWNLOAD, PRINT AND MAIL

Print off a form from the Secretary of State's website, fill it out and mail it to your County Clerk. Find the form at <https://tinyurl.com/ARregister>



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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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