



September 2020

Courts Disqualify 3 Citizen Initiatives 3 Legislative Proposals Remain

Arkansas voters have fewer decisions to make on the statewide ballot after court rulings this month disqualified three citizen initiatives.

Issue 1, **Issue 2** and **Issue 3** from the legislature are the only measures remaining on the ballot.

Download the **2020 Arkansas Ballot Issue Voter Guide** published by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's Public Policy Center for more information about each issue.

A limited number of printed voter guides will be available at every county Extension office beginning in October.

The Public Policy Center has published neutral fact sheets on statewide issues since 2004 to help voters better understand what is being asked of them. The voter guide includes how the proposals will appear on the ballot, what a FOR or AGAINST vote means, and statements from issue supporters and opponents.

In the Courts

A Pulaski County Circuit Court judge rejected **efforts** to remove Issue 2 and Issue 3 from the ballot but opponents on Sept. 10 filed a notice of appeal.

Justices on Sept. 17 **disqualified** the last of three citizen proposals. **Issue 4**, **Issue 5** and **Issue 6** shared the same fatal flaw: wording used to certify paid canvasser background checks did not meet state requirements, justices ruled. Sponsors did not properly indicate canvassers had passed background checks as required. (Read last month's **newsletter** for an example of the language used) A last-ditch effort appeal to a federal judge over Issue 4 and Issue 5 did not work.

The measures may still appear on ballots due to the timing of court decisions and when ballots were printed or programmed. If this is the case, votes cast on the three disqualified issues will not be counted.

REMAINING ARKANSAS 2020 BALLOT ISSUES:

Arkansas Ballot Issue Number 1:

Making permanent a 0.5% state sales tax that currently funds state, county and city road work



Arkansas Ballot Issue Number 2:

Changing term limits for Arkansas Senators and Representatives

Arkansas Ballot Issue Number 3:

Changing Arkansas' Citizen Initiative Process, Votes Required for Legislative Proposals, and Publication Requirements





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The Public Policy Center was established in 2004 to provide Arkansans with timely, credible, unaligned 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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