

June 2021

Referendum Signatures Due Next Month

The group [Arkansans for a Unified Natural State](#) has a month to go before it must submit voter signatures to qualify its three proposed referendums for the 2022 ballot.

The group filed referendums with the Arkansas Secretary of State's office last month and has been looking for volunteers across the state to circulate petitions among voters.

To place a referendum on the statewide ballot, a ballot issue group must collect and submit voter signatures equal to 6% of the number of people who voted in the last election for governor. This year, 6% equals 53,491 valid voter signatures. Petitions with voter signatures must be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office no later than 90 days of the legislature adjourning.

Referendums ask voters whether they want to keep a state law recently passed by state legislators. A "FOR" vote on referendums allow the law to go into effect. An "AGAINST" vote would repeal a law.

The Proposed Referendums

Arkansans for a Unified Natural State submitted three proposals:

- [An Act Restricting Absentee and Early Voting Rights](#) - This proposal would put up for a vote [Act 736](#) concerning absentee ballots. (This referendum no longer involves [Act 727](#) concerning ballot privacy or [Act 973](#) concerning deadlines for submitting absentee ballots in person.)
- [An Act Eliminating The Reasonable Duty to Retreat Before Using Deadly Force](#) - This proposal would put [Act 250](#) up for a vote. The law concerns the defense of a person with the use of physical force or deadly physical force, commonly called a "Stand Your Ground" law.
- [An Act Removing Parental Rights to Medically Care For Their Children](#) - This proposal would put [Act 626](#) up for a vote. Sponsors of Act 626 named their law the "Arkansas Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act."

2022 Arkansas Legislature Proposals

State legislators voted during the spring 2021 session to refer the three proposed constitutional amendments listed below to voters to decide in the November 2022 general election.

HJR1005

A constitutional amendment to reform certain measures presented to voters, to be known as the "Constitutional

SJR10

A constitutional amendment to allow the General Assembly to convene in extraordinary session upon the issuance of a joint

SJR14

A constitutional amendment to create the "Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment"

Amendment and Ballot Initiative
Reform Amendment”

[Read the proposal](#)

[See the vote](#)

written proclamation of the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate or upon the submission of a written proclamation containing the signatures of at least 2/3 of the members of the House of Representatives and at least 2/3 of the members of the Senate to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate requesting that the General Assembly convene in extraordinary session

[Read the proposal](#)

[See the vote](#)

[Read the proposal](#)

[See the vote](#)

2022 Citizen Initiative Proposals



Arkansas is one of [15 states](#) where citizens have the right to put constitutional amendments, state laws and referendums on the ballot for voters to decide.

The citizen initiative process involves filing a ballot title with the Secretary of State's Office, collecting voter signatures across the state and submitting the petitions for verification. The Board of Election Commissioners also must approve the ballot title.

Referendums require voter signatures equaling 6% of the number of people who voted in the last governor's election. State laws require 8%, and constitutional amendments require 10%.

Submitted to the Secretary of State

Act 376 of 2019 requires ballot issue groups to submit a copy of their ballot title to the Secretary of State's Office before collecting voter signatures.

Ballot titles that have been filed for the 2022 ballot include:

June 8, 2021 - [An Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution Providing for the Elimination of Taxes Levied Under the Arkansas Constitution Upon Personal Property, Real Property, or Both Personal Property and Real Property](#) - A proposal to eliminate certain taxes was submitted by the Committee to Eliminate Property Taxes From Arkansas.

May 28, 2021 - [An Act Restricting Absentee and Early Voting Rights](#) - A referendum on Act 736 was submitted by Arkansans for a Unified Natural State. This proposal replaces a May 22, 2021 submission.

May 28, 2021 - [An Act Eliminating The Reasonable Duty to Retreat Before Using Deadly Force](#) - A referendum on Act 250 was submitted by Arkansans for a Unified Natural State. This proposal replaces a May 22, 2021 submission.

May 28, 2021 - [An Act Removing Parental Rights to Medically Care For Their Children](#) - A referendum on Act 626 was submitted by Arkansans for a Unified Natural State. This proposal replaces a May 22, 2021 submission.

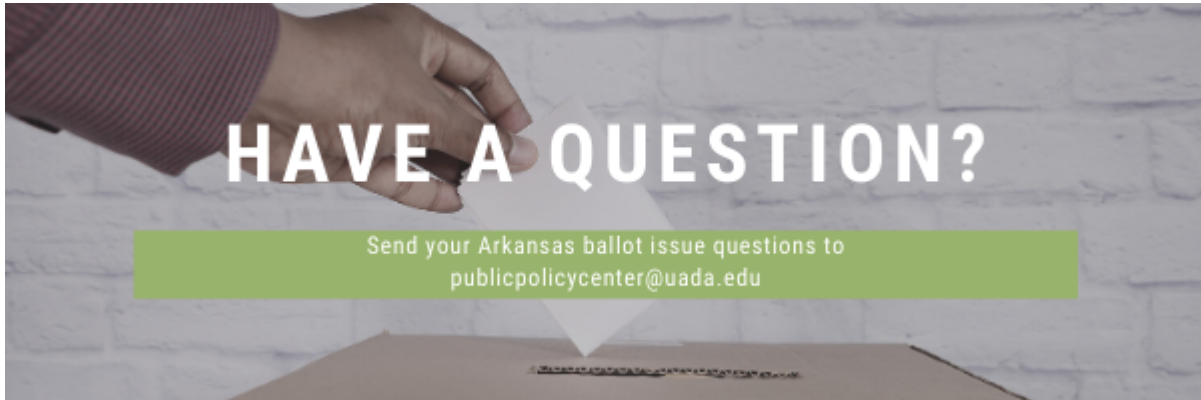
May 25, 2021 - [Arkansas Cannabis Industry Amendment](#) - A proposal to make the cannabis industry legal in Arkansas was submitted by Clair Danner.

May 20, 2021 - [The Arkansas Term Limits Amendment](#) - A proposal to change term limits for state legislators was submitted by Arkansas Term Limits.

Feb. 4, 2021 - The Arkansas Township Amendment of 2022 - A proposal that would create another layer of local government - township assemblies - among other things was submitted by Academy of Democracy.

Jan. 5, 2021 - An Amendment Concerning Jurors' Rights - A proposal that would impact the legislature's ability to pass laws regarding jury awards in lawsuits over injury or death was submitted. The person who submitted the proposal did not provide their contact information to the Secretary of State's Office.

May 22, 2020 - The Arkansas Recreational Marijuana Amendment of 2022 - A proposal to legalize adult marijuana use and to allow certain marijuana convictions to be expunged was submitted by Arkansas True Grass.



#ARballot
uaex.uada.edu/ballot

STAY CONNECTED



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.

News & Notes Volume 8, Issue 7. This e-mail newsletter is shared with Cooperative Extension Service agents, subscribers from the general public and election officials or educators identified by the Public Policy Center. To unsubscribe, click below on "instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe."

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service
 2301 S. University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204
 501-671-2160 | Publicpolicycenter@uada.edu | uaex.uada.edu/ballot

Did someone forward this newsletter to you? Click to join our mailing list

U of A Division of Agriculture | 2301 S. University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by khiggins@uada.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!