



January 2021

Lawmakers Filing 2022 Ballot Issue Proposals

Arkansas lawmakers filed their first proposed constitutional amendments for the 2022 ballot since the General Session started earlier this month.

As of Jan. 22, state representatives have filed two proposed amendments. Nothing had been submitted by state senators yet. Legislators have until Feb. 10 to file their proposals.

We will provide a running list of proposals throughout the session below and on later our [blog](#).

Typically legislators file dozens of proposals that are then narrowed down through the committee process. The Arkansas Constitution allows lawmakers to propose up to three amendments on a general election ballot.



Arkansas is one of 15 states where legislators and citizens can propose changes to the state constitution.

Since 2011, legislators have referred 13 constitutional amendments to voters. Citizen groups have had six proposed amendments and laws on the ballot for voters to decide.

Arkansas' 1874 Constitution currently has 102 amendments, the latest which were approved by voters in November 2020 changing the state's term limit laws and approving a permanent 0.5% sales tax for roadwork and maintenance across the state.

How to Follow Along

Want to read the text of new bills being filed? [All of the bills filed in the session can be found online](#) Once at www.arkleg.state.ar.us, click on the "Bills" section.

Wondering when committees meet? [The calendar shows upcoming meetings and agendas](#).

Want to watch a meeting? [The Arkansas Citizens Access Network, or ARCAN, streams many legislative meetings](#). The Senate also [streams meetings](#) as does the [House](#).

2022 Legislative Ballot Issue Proposals

Proposals Filed in the House

HJR1001 - An amendment to the Arkansas Constitution authorizing the General Assembly to convene itself in extraordinary session.

Sponsor: [Rep. Cavanaugh](#)

HJR1002 - An amendment to the Arkansas Constitution providing when an annual ad valorem tax for the maintenance and operation of schools and the retirement of indebtedness shall be considered at the annual school election.

Sponsor: [Rep. Tollett](#)

2022 Citizen Initiative Process



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:

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.

2021 Arkansas Redistricting Process

Every decade after the U.S. Census count of people living in the United States, lawmakers get to work on creating new legislative district maps for their states.

In Arkansas, state lawmakers are responsible for creating boundaries for U.S. House of Representatives districts during the legislative session. The state's Board of Apportionment will draw district lines for state senators and representatives sometime this year too.

Find more information on our website about the [basics of redistricting in Arkansas](#).



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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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