



Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
A Division of the Arkansas Department of Education

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G.O.T.V. Statewide Mass Voter Initiative – Getting Voters to the Poll

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission – A Division of the Arkansas Department of Education in collaboration with the Urban League of Arkansas, the Little Rock Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the STAND Foundation, Inc. will launch a **G.O.T.V. Statewide Mass Voter Initiative – Getting Voters to the Poll**. This initiative aims at increasing the voter turnout through voter registration campaigns by nonpartisan organizations to educate citizens on their rights while motivating potential voters to register and to vote in all elections open to them.

With the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *called the law “a great step forward in removing all of the remaining obstacles to the right to vote,” and he knew that the ballot would only be an effective tool for social change if potential voters rid themselves of the fear associated with voting (King, 5 August 1965). To meet this goal and “rid the American body politic of racism,” SCLC developed its Political Education and Voter Registration Department (King, “Annual Report”).* [Digitally/Electronically retrieved via Voting Rights Act of 1965 _ The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/voting-rights-act-1965>]

Elections matter. All of them, not just your vote for State Governor or President of the United States. From school superintendent to sheriff to senator to your congressional representatives, our elected officials determine the quality and equality of our law enforcement, public education systems, and so much more. Vote! Our lives depend on it. Eligible citizens who are 18 years of age or older may register to vote. [Digitally/Electronically retrieved via NAACP _ Voter Registration <https://www.naacp.org/campaigns/voterhelp/>]

Additional Voter Information Resources [Digitally/Electronically retrieved via Little Rock Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Arkansas Secretary of State Elections Division, the Arkansas Public Policy Center, ACLU of Arkansas, and others]

How do I register to vote?

Eligible citizens who are 18 years of age or older may register to vote. Every state except North Dakota has a voter registration requirement for voting. **Register to Vote Now** Headcount.org | [Rock the Vote](http://RocktheVote.org) | Vote.org

I think registered a while ago – so how do I verify that I am still active and on my state’s roll?

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It is especially important—with all the [voter purging activities occurring right now](#)—that all of us who think we are already registered to vote? Please go to a reputable resource site—like [Headcount.org](#) or [RockTheVote.org](#)—for help locating where to check your voter status by state. **Verify Your Voter Registration Status** [Headcount.org](#) | [Rock the Vote](#) | [Vote.org](#)

How do I find my polling place?

Once you are registered to vote, you can vote at your local polling place on Election Day. Your polling place should be listed on the sample ballot you receive in the mail once you are registered to vote. You can also call your local county elections office or look it up online at **Election Poll Locator** [Headcount.org](#) | [Rock the Vote](#) | [Vote.org](#)

What should I do if I face obstruction on Election Day?

Obstruction voters may face on Election Day includes polls opening late or closing early, a lack of ballots, or having one's identity, identification, or voter registration status improperly challenged. If you face any obstruction or attempt at obstruction on Election Day, please report the problem directly to the [Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice](#).

Does my vote really make a difference?

YES! Voting is a civic privilege and democratic duty, and we must all exercise our right to vote. Presidential elections may receive the most attention and funding, but every election matters and influences the wellbeing of our communities. Lots of elections indicate how very much impact a single vote can make: Dave Adkins, for example, recaptured his spot in the New Hampshire House of Representatives **by two votes** in 2016. David Ainsworth won his seat in the Vermont House of Representatives by **just one single ballot** that year. The list continues, but the message stays the same: each vote counts and each election matters.

Exercise Your Right to Vote!

The Elections Division is responsible for maintaining the state's election records, assisting county officials with conducting federal, state and district elections, helps to ensure compliance with federal election laws such as the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act, and oversees training on the state's electronic voting systems. The division serves as a clearinghouse for campaign finance reports that are filed with the Arkansas Ethics Commission, and the library of the Elections Division maintains the journals and acts of the Legislature along with all incorporations and annexations of cities and towns. Contact the Elections Division by visiting Room 026 at the State Capitol or by calling 501-682-5070 or toll-free at 1-800-482-1127 or by e-mail at electionsemail@sos.arkansas.gov.

➤ **2020 Candidate Search**

- [Click here for information about candidates that have filed for office](https://www.ark.org/arelections/index.php?ac:show:cand_search=1&elecId=384)
https://www.ark.org/arelections/index.php?ac:show:cand_search=1&elecId=384

➤ **Administrative Rules Search**

- [Search rules & regulations from state agencies, boards, and commissions](https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/rules_and_regs/index.php/rules/search/new)
https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/rules_and_regs/index.php/rules/search/new

➤ **[Candidate Information](#)**

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- Information for candidates running for public office including official forms, handbooks, and more <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/information-for-candidates>
- **District Maps**
 - View maps showing various districts including Statewide House and Senate, Congressional, and more. <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/district-maps>
- **Elected Officials**
 - Resources to help you find and contact your State Senator or Representatives, county and city officials, and judges <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/elected-officials>
- **Election Results & Research**
 - Find historical elections results dating back to 1938, historical district maps and other election research <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/research>
- **Initiatives & Referenda**
 - Find ballot issues, court order notices, ballot, and legislative question committee forms and more. <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/initiatives-and-referenda>
- **Absentee, Military, and Overseas Voting**
 - Find all the information you need to register and vote when in the military or living overseas. <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/military-and-overseas-citizens>
 - [Absentee Voters](#)
 - [Military and Overseas Voters](#)
- **More Election Information**
 - Learn more about elections in Arkansas. <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/more-election-information>
 - [2020 Candidate Search](#)
 - [Voting in Arkansas](#)
 - [Conducting a Voter Registration Drive](#)
 - [Election Voting Rights Information](#) (PDF)
 - [State and Federal Election Laws](#) (PDF)
 - [Arkansas and the Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\)](#)
 - [Voting 101](#) (PDF)
 - [Contact Your Elected Official](#)
- **Register to Vote!**
 - [Download a Voter Registration Application](https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/ArkansasVoterRegistrationApplication.pdf) <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/ArkansasVoterRegistrationApplication.pdf>
 - [Voter Registration Application](#) (English) - PDF
 - [Voter Registration Application](#) (Spanish) - PDF
 - [Voter Registration Information](#)
 - [Voter Registration FAQs](#)
 - [Request an application through the mail \(USPS\)](#) - Online Form
- **Voter Information**
 - Get registered to vote! Find applications, FAQs, information about state and federal laws, and more. <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information>
- **Voter View** [Check Your Voter Registration Information](#)
 - Look up your voter registration information, view the status of your absentee ballot, and see all upcoming elections across the state. <https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/VoterView/Home.do>

Arkansas Public Policy Center

The Public Policy Center exists to provide Arkansans with 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
- Help citizens craft, evaluate, and implement alternative solutions to public issues

Arkansans have a constitutional right to have their voting rights restored after completing a felony sentence.

What if I have been convicted of a crime?

- If you were convicted of a misdemeanor, then you can vote. If you are in jail, then you will have to vote by absentee ballot. You do retain the right to vote if convicted of a misdemeanor.
- If you were convicted of a felony in Arkansas, then you can vote if you are not currently incarcerated or on probation or parole and you have paid all fines.
- Your right to vote can be restored after completion of your sentence, parole, and/or probation and the payment of all probation or parole fees, court costs, fines, or restitution.

What if I have been charged with a crime?

- Your right to vote is only affected if you have been convicted of a felony. Charges only do not affect your right to vote.

How do I restore my right to vote?

- To restore your right to vote, you must take proof of completion of your sentence, including proof that you have paid all fees, fines & costs required of you to your local county clerk.
- Once your local county clerk has received this proof, you are eligible to register to vote.
- If you do not have proof of your discharge, and you were released without parole, you should contact ADC at Centralized Records-Discharge Files 1-870-267-6684 at 2403 E. Harding, Pine Bluff, AR 71603.
- If you were released through probation or parole, you should contact the records units for the individual probation or parole office for proof of supervision release and all payments.
- Proof of restitution payments can be obtained by the entity collecting restitution payments, if any. The circuit clerk can provide you proof of discharge of any fines and costs.
- It is best to collect these records at the time your sentence is completed or as soon as possible thereafter and retain copies of these records as they may be increasingly difficult to obtain as time goes by.

What if I encounter barriers to exercising my right to vote or restoring my right to vote?

- Please contact the ACLU of Arkansas at www.acluarkansas.org/get-help
- Or call the national voting rights hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)

Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, Section 11 provides that:

Any convicted felon who desires to register to vote should provide the county clerk with proof of discharge from probation or parole, & payment of all probation or parole fees, applicable court costs, fines, & restitution.

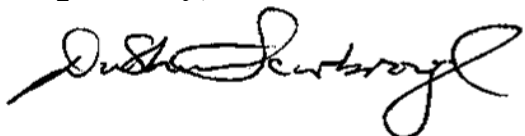
ADC/DCC should provide proof your sentence/supervision has been satisfied upon release from supervision. You may (but do not have to) use [this form](#) to request state or local officials to provide proof that your sentence is complete and all financial obligations are satisfied. https://www.acluarkansas.org/sites/default/files/persons_with_felony_hx_voting_restoration_for_m_final.pdf

Please find attached the following documents:

- 2020 Election Calendar, Information, and Dates
- 2020 Initiatives and Referenda Handbook Facts and Information for the 2020 General Election
- A Pocket Guide to Voting in the Natural State
- Arkansas Voter Registration Application
- County Clerks
- Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot
- House District Map (Statewide)
- Know Your Rights_ Voting After a Criminal Conviction _ ACLU of Arkansas
- Request Proof that Sentence is Complete and Financial Obligations are Satisfied
- Senate District Map (Statewide)
- Solicitud de Incripcion como Votante en Arkansas
- State and Federal Election Law
- Votar Después de una Condena Penal Tríptico
- Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request
- Voter Rights (2018)
- Voting After a Criminal Conviction Trifold

For more information, please visit www.arkansas.gov/mlk or call (501) 683-1300. Thank you.

Respectfully,



DuShun Scarbrough
Executive Director/Agency Spokesperson