

**THE ARKANSAS ABOLISHMENT OF SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE
AS PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME AMENDMENT**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

____ VALID OF ____
BY ____ DATE ____

INITIATIVE PETITION: To the Honorable John Thurston, Secretary of State: We, the undersigned legal registered voters of the State of Arkansas, respectfully propose the following amendment to the State Constitution, to wit: The Arkansas Voting Restoration Amendment of 2020 and our petition, order that the same submitted to the people of said state, to the end that the same may be adopted, enacted, or rejected by a vote of the people, at the regular general election to be held on the 3rd day of November 2020, and each of us for him or herself says: I have signed this petition, I am a legal registered voter of the State of Arkansas, and my printed name, date of birth, residence, city or town of residence, and date of signing this petition are correctly written after my signature.

Voters Registered in _____ County

	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	DATE SIGNED
01.						
02.						
03.						
04.						
05.						
06.						
07.						
08.						
09.						
10.						

FILED
NOV 25 2019
Arkansas
Secretary of State

(FOR CANVASSER ONLY)

Indicate one: Paid Canvasser or Volunteer/Unpaid Canvasser

I, _____ [Canvasser] being first duly sworn, state that the foregoing persons signed this petition, and each of them signed his or her name thereto in my presence. I believe that each has stated his or her name, date or birth, residence or town of residence correctly. I believe that each signer is a registered voter of the State of Arkansas. A complete copy of the Popular Name, Ballot Title, and Text of the Measure was attached to this signature sheet at all times during its circulation

Signature: _____

Residence: _____

(FOR NOTARY ONLY)

State of Arkansas, County of: _____

On this ____ day of _____, 20____, came, _____ well known to me, (or satisfactorily proven by identification documents provided) to be the person described in the foregoing Canvasser Affidavit and acknowledged that s/he executed the same in the capacity of a Canvasser for the purpose of fulfilling legal requirements of a Canvasser in the State of Arkansas; and that I personally witnessed the signature of the Canvasser.

Signature of Notary: _____

My Commission Expires: _____

Residence County of Notary: _____

Original Draft: November 25, 2019

Sponsor: Roderick Greer Talley * P.O. Box 166218 * Little Rock, AR 72216 * 404-719-7793

Popular Name:

THE ARKANSAS ABOLISHMENT OF SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE AS PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME AMENDMENT.

Ballot Title:

An Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution Concerning the Removal of Slavery and Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for a Crime that may be cited as "Abolishment of Slavery and Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for a Crime"

Text of proposed measure:

SECTION 1. The Arkansas Constitution, Article 2 § 27 is amended to read as follows:

§ 27. Slavery - Standing armies - Military subordinate to civil power.

(1) There shall be no slavery in this State, nor involuntary servitude, ~~except as a punishment for crime~~. No standing army shall be kept in time of peace; the military shall, at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power; and no soldier shall be quartered in any house, or on any premises, without the consent of the owner, in time of peace; nor in time of war, except in a manner prescribed by law.

(2) Supersedes any provision of the Arkansas Constitution in conflict with the law.

SECTION 2. Amendment

Notwithstanding the General Assembly's authority to propose amendments to the constitution under Article 19 § 22 of the Constitution, the General Assembly does not have authority to propose an amendment to the Constitution to amend or repeal an initiated Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution. An initiated amendment may only be changed by another vote of the people unless otherwise specified therein. The power to propose an amendment to the Constitution to amend or repeal the removal of Governor and elected State officers is reserved to the people under Article 5, Section 1 of the Constitution, as amended by Amendment 7.

SECTION 3. Effective Date.

This Amendment shall be Effective on and after January 01, 2021.

Instructions to Canvassers and Signers

1. The Arkansas Constitution gives Arkansas citizens the power to (a) initiate legislation by petition of 8% of the legal voters or constitutional amendments by petition of 10% of legal voters, or (b) order the referendum against any general act or any item of an appropriation bill or measure passed by the General Assembly by petition of 6% of legal voters. A proposed measure must be submitted at a regular election. Referendum petitions may be referred at special elections on petition of 15% of the registered voters. Any measure submitted to the people becomes law when approved by a majority of the votes cast upon such measure.
2. Only registered voters may sign. All signatures must be in the signer's own handwriting and in the presence of the person circulating the petition. Each petition part should contain only the signatures of voters residing in a single county.
3. Printed name, date of birth, residence, city or town of residence, and date of signing must be given. If a petition signer needs assistance with this information due to disability, another person may print the signer's information and that person shall sign and print their name in the margin of the petition.
4. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 7-9-103, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500 and confinement of up to one year in jail, if the person knowingly prints a name, address, or birth date other than his or her own to a petition or prints the date of signing for another person unless the signer requires assistance due to disability and the person complies with § 7-9-103.
5. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 5-55-601(c), each of the following activities constitutes "petition fraud," which is a Class D felony and is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and imprisonment for up to six years. Subsection (b) states: "A person commits the offense of petition fraud:
 - 1) If the person knowingly:
 - a) Signs a name other than his or her name to a petition;
 - b) Signs his or her name more than one (1) time to a petition; or
 - c) Signs a petition when he or she is not legally entitled to sign the petition;
 - 2) If the person acting as a canvasser, notary, sponsor as defined under § 79-101, or agent of a sponsor:
 - a) Signs a name other than his or her own to a petition;
 - b) Prints a name, address, or birth date other than his or her own to a petition unless the signor requires assistance due to disability and the person complies with § 7-9-103;
 - c) Solicits or obtains a signature to a petition knowing that the person signing is not qualified to sign the petition;
 - d) Knowingly pays a person any form of compensation in exchange for signing a petition as a petitioner;
 - e) Accepts or pays money or anything of value for obtaining signatures on a petition when the person acting as a canvasser, sponsor, or agent of a sponsor knows that the person acting as a canvasser's name or address is not included on the sponsor's list filed with the Secretary of State under § 7-9-601; or
 - f) Knowingly misrepresents the purpose and effect of the petition or the measure affected for the purpose of causing a person to sign a petition;
 - 3) If the person acting as a canvasser knowingly makes a false statement on a petition verification form; [or]
 - g) ***
 - 5) If the person acting as a sponsor files a petition or a part of a petition with the official charged with verifying the signatures knowing that the petition or part of the petition contains one (1) or more false or fraudulent signatures unless each false or fraudulent signature is clearly stricken by the sponsor before filing."

JOHN THURSTON SECRETARY OF STATE