

SPONSORED BY: ACADEMY OF DEMOCRACY
1815 LOUISIANA STREET, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72206

THE ARKANSAS TOWNSHIP AMENDMENT OF 2022

INITIATIVE PETITION: To the Honorable John Thurston, Secretary of the State of Arkansas: We, the undersigned registered voters of the State of Arkansas, respectfully propose the following amendment to the Constitution of the State, and by this, our petition, order that the same be submitted to the people of said state, to the end that the same may be adopted, enacted, or rejected by the vote of the registered voters of said state at the regular general election to be held on the 8th day of November, 2022, and each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a 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. The popular name, ballot title, and text of the initiative were made available to me for review before I signed this petition. I understand that it is a crime to sign a name other than my own to this petition, to sign a petition in support of this initiative more than one time, or to sign this petition when I am not legally entitled to do so. If due to disability I required assistance writing my printed name, date of birth, residence, city or town of residence, county of residence, or date of signing, the person who assisted me has signed and printed his or her own name in the margin of the petition next to my signature line. The popular name is **The Arkansas Township Amendment of 2022.**

S.O.S. OFFICE USE ONLY

____ VALID OF ____
 BY ____ DATE ____

VOTERS REGISTERED IN _____ COUNTY

Signature	Printed Name	Date of Birth	Address	City or Town	County	Date Signed
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.	F I L E D					
5.	FEB 04 2021					
6.	Arkansas					
7.	Secretary of State					
8.						
9.						
10.						

Canvasser's Unsworn Declaration Under Penalty of Perjury

I, _____, declare under penalty of perjury under the law of Arkansas that to the best of my knowledge and belief, each of the foregoing persons signed his or her own name to this sheet of the petition, each signature is genuine, and each signer is a registered voter of the State of Arkansas, in the County listed. To the best of my knowledge, this signature sheet was provided to each signer in a manner that also provided to him or her an exact copy of the popular name, ballot title, and text of the initiative. I am familiar with the acts by canvassers and sponsors that are criminalized under Ark. Code Ann. 5-55-601 and Ark. Code Ann. 7-9-103, and have committed none of those acts. My current residence address is correctly stated below.

Signature _____ Date _____
 Residence _____ Indicate one: () Paid Canvasser () Volunteer/Unpaid Canvasser

Popular Name

The Arkansas Township Amendment

Ballot Title

A proposal to amend the Constitution of the State of Arkansas:

1. To authorize new surveys, adjustments and additions to township boundaries in every county of the state for the purpose of establishing township assemblies and thereby expanding public participation in state and local government.
2. To authorize and encourage the right of legal citizens to join together as equals before the law, to form sovereign township assemblies and to exercise their voice and vote in the exclusive management of their township affairs.
3. To reaffirm the civil rights of every legal citizen as declared in Article 2 of the Constitution of Arkansas, and to have these rights strictly and diligently enforced in all legal matters, public, private and corporate.
4. To transfer to all township assemblies certain duties and public services of a local nature that are currently exercised by the state and counties.
5. To dispense to each township, based on population, an adequate, fair and equal portion of public revenues collected by the state and local governments.
6. To authorize townships to register their legal voters, issue paper ballots, oversee an accurate vote count, insure honesty, resolve challenges and certify their vote count in all local, state and federal elections.
7. To authorize the election of township constables and other township officers on a strictly non-partisan basis and to appoint special committees and community task forces, holding them strictly accountable to the will of their respective township assemblies.
8. To grant townships the authority to initiate constitutional amendments, state acts and county ordinances or to repeal state acts and county ordinances.
9. To authorize township procedures for the immediate recall and replacement of elected or appointed officials who are deemed unfit or unworthy to hold office in their township, county or state.
10. And to declare all agency regulations, local ordinances, state laws and constitutional measures in conflict with this amendment null, void and hereafter without force.

Proposed Measures of the Amendment

Section 1:

All constitutional townships ... including unbounded urban neighborhoods and rural villages within the State of Arkansas ... shall conduct surveys to confirm or adjust existing township boundaries ... or create new township boundaries ... to better accommodate the essence and common interests of community life ... and thereby set the stage for calling together all legal citizens within these new boundaries for the purpose of establishing sovereign township assemblies.

Section 2:

Every legal adult citizen of the United States ... at least 18 years of age ... without regard to gender, culture, religion, race or place of birth ... whose primary residence is proven to exist within the boundaries of an Arkansas township ... is hereby authorized and encouraged to:

1. Come together with their fellow neighbors to organize and participate in a self-governing township assembly.

2. Faithfully honor and defend the concept of equality before the law.
3. Propose township resolutions and ordinances while exercising an equal voice and vote in all common matters exclusive to their community.
4. Initiate laws for the county and state ... including constitutional amendments ... to be submitted for consideration and ratification by any other townships across county or state affected by such measures.
5. Pursue township nomination for any county, state or federal office.

Section 3:

The "Declaration of Rights" of the Arkansas Constitution ... containing 29 sections that preserve the civil rights of every citizen ... shall hereafter be strictly, literally and diligently recognized and applied in all public, private and corporate matters hereafter conducted before any and all township assemblies, legislative bodies and courts of justice.

Section 4:

The township assemblies shall assume any duties and public services that would appear to them to be better managed on the community level ... governing all local affairs in the common interest ... including but not limited to the following:

1. To manage, oversee, monitor and insure honest and accurate elections.
2. To work in concert with fire departments, county sheriffs and state police in the preservation of peace and safety.
3. To foster local daycare centers, public schools, libraries, general education and job training.
4. To provide safe shelter and reasonable care for orphaned children, the elderly, the sick, the handicapped, the mentally ill, the impoverished and the homeless.
5. To provide final approval and oversight for the development of township infrastructure and easements such as roads, bridges, utilities, wire-less networks, public parks and permanent buildings of every type.
6. To issue or suspend business permits for conducting industry and commerce within the townships.
7. To protect the environment and natural resources of the township from pollution and exposure to toxic substances.
8. To resolve local disputes by providing mediation prior to litigation.
9. To record and preserve the minutes of township meetings, real estate deeds and other public records in concert with the county clerks and secretary of state.
10. And to provide any other services or duties that are deemed necessary, appropriate and conducive to the freedom, prosperity, happiness and general welfare of all township citizens and their families.

Section 5:

A fair and adequate share of all public revenues and taxes currently collected by state and local governments for various public purposes shall be hereafter transferred and dispensed to pay for similar purposes assumed by any township assembly ... and calculated on the basis of a townships population in order to dispense an equal portion of funds per each person residing in every township.

Section 6:

With the intent to insure an honest and accurate vote count in every election ... whether local, state or federal ... each township assembly shall hereafter act in concert with their respective county election commissions and secretary of state to:

1. Conduct and oversee the voter registration of all legal citizens within their township.
2. Require documented photo evidence as proof that each such registered voter is a legal citizen of the USA ... and a primary resident of their respective township.
3. Issue voter identification cards to each registered voter containing the name of their township ... updated contact information ... a clear color photograph ... a clear thumbprint ... and a clear signature.
4. Select locations within the township where voting may take place.

5. Recruit volunteer citizens from the township to operate as a non-partisan committee to staff, manage, oversee and monitor all elections.
6. Require all voters to appear in person with their voter identification cards at their designated voting location during extended election times. Voting by mail shall be absolutely prohibited.
7. Provide a shuttle service for registered township voters who are handicapped and without the means or ability to obtain transport to their designated election location.
8. Insure that all voter ballots are either marked by hand with black ink on paper ... or marked electronically and then printed out on paper.
9. Require that each voter ... after marking their ballot ... shall fold the ballot ... stamp the backside with their thumbprint ... and sign it where indicated in the presence of a notary who will officially witness the thumbprint and signature.
10. Once a paper ballot is properly marked and notarized it shall be folded again to protect the privacy of the voter and afterwards submitted for counting by the township election committee.
11. The township election committee shall establish two teams of vote counters and monitors to double count the vote. If the two counts fail to match the votes shall be recounted until properly matched. Once the counts match the ballots shall be properly sealed, numbered and vaulted for safekeeping. In no case whatsoever shall paper ballots be counted using an electronic computer of any kind. Hereafter the use of computers for vote counting in special or general elections shall be prohibited and punishable by state law.
12. All matters deliberated in a township assembly shall be resolved and determined by a simple majority vote. If any vote count is questioned or challenged ... the vaulted ballots shall be re-examined and if necessary any voter who marked a ballot in question may be examined under affirmation or oath to verify the accuracy of their ballot. Once all challenges are resolved ... the township assembly shall certify the election and destroy the vaulted ballots by fire

Section 7:

The duly elected constables of each township shall hereafter become responsible for calling together all existing registered voters within their townships and organizing township assemblies in accordance with all the sections of this amendment.

Once formed each township assembly shall operate as a unified, non-partisan democracy engaged in local self-government and thereafter authorized to elect the following township officers:

1. The township constables shall ... in addition to calling together the township assembly ... act as the chief law enforcement officer of the township ... preserve the peace and safety of the township ... recruit and organize a volunteer task force to assist in preserving peace and safety whenever called upon ... organize crime watches ... teach gun safety ... make arrests ... serve legal documents ... act in concert with county sheriffs, state police and courts of justice ... and faithfully serve and defend the democratic will of their respective township assemblies.
2. The township clerks shall act in concert with county clerks and the secretary of state to record and preserve voter registrations ... minutes of meetings ... township ordinances ... maps and surveys ... land deeds ... and other records made readily available for public inspection ... and shall faithfully serve and defend the democratic will of their respective township assemblies.
3. The township treasurers shall ... when directed by their township assemblies ... receive, record and safely deposit all public revenues ... make payments for township expenses ... preserve financial records ... make such records readily available for public inspection ... act in concert with the county and state treasurers ... and faithfully serve and defend the democratic will of their respective township assemblies.
4. The township mediators shall engage in resolving all kinds of domestic and commercial disputes that arise in their townships ... recruit, organize and train a team of mediators to assist when called upon ... act in concert with local and state courts to resolve disputes prior to litigation ... and faithfully serve and defend the democratic will of their respective township assemblies.
5. The township auditors shall inspect the activities and records of all other township officers, special committees and task forces in order to insure an honest and accurate job well done ... recruit and train volunteers to assist when called upon ... and faithfully serve and defend the democratic will of their respective township assemblies.
6. The township assemblies may also elect other officers to carry out whatever tasks they deem necessary in preserving and defending the sovereignty, peace, safety and prosperity of their respective township ... and all such elected township officers shall reside primarily within the township they are elected to serve.
7. The township assemblies shall also select and appoint resident volunteers to act in special committees or task forces in order to carry out whatever tasks deemed necessary in preserving and defending the sovereignty, peace, safety and prosperity of their respective townships.

Section 8:

All township assemblies are hereafter authorized to propose and initiate amendments to the state constitution ... and to initiate or repeal county ordinances and acts of state law ... and once such measures are approved by a majority of a township assembly they shall be submitted for consideration and approval by every other township affected by such measures ... and once the vote counts have been duly certified and approved by a majority of voters ... such approved measures shall become law.

Section 9:

In the event an elected or appointed official of a township is deemed to be mentally or physically unfit ... or morally unworthy to continue in office ... the township assembly ... by majority vote ... may immediately recall such official and elect a replacement in a timely fashion.

In the event an elected or appointed official on the county or state level of government is deemed to be mentally or physically unfit ... or morally unworthy to continue in office ... any township assembly ... by majority vote ... may initiate an immediate recall of such official and submit it for consideration by such other townships of the county or state affected by the recall.

If a majority of township voters across a county or state vote for recall ... the recalled official shall immediately vacate the office and be replaced in a timely manner by a special election across a county or state as the case requires.

Section 10:

The Arkansas Township Amendment ... when once ratified by vote of the People of Arkansas ... shall thereafter become law ... and all agency regulations, local ordinances, state laws and constitutional measures that conflict in any way with this amendment shall thereafter become null, void, non-existent, permanently repealed and unenforceable.