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BQC USE ONLY

MUST BE PRINTED ON 8 1/2 in. x 14 in. (LEGAL SIZE) PAPER

THE BALLOT MEASURE RIGHTS AMENDMENT OF 2026
VOTERS REGISTERED IN _____ COUNTY

SOS
USE
ONLY

VALID OF _____
BY _____ DATE _____

To the Honorable Cole Jester, Secretary of State 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 an amendment to Article 5 § 1 (Initiative and Referendum) of the Arkansas Constitution of 1874, entitled "THE ARKANSAS BALLOT MEASURE RIGHTS AMENDMENT OF 2026," be submitted to the people of said state, to the end that the same may be approved or rejected by the vote of the registered voters of said state at the regular general election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026, 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.

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	BIRTH DATE	STREET ADDRESS	CITY / TOWN	DATE SIGNED
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.				FILED	
5.				OCT 01 2025	
6.				Arkansas Secretary of State	
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
(FOR CANVASSER ONLY) State of Arkansas, County of _____ (county where notary signs) I, _____, (print name of canvasser), being duly sworn, state under oath that, after I verified each petitioner's identity by viewing his or her photo identification under Arkansas Code Ann. § 7-1-101(40), and after I informed each signer by either verbal or by separate written notification that petition fraud is a criminal offense, each of the foregoing persons signed his or her own name to this petition part in my presence. To the best of my knowledge and belief, each signature is genuine and each signer is a registered voter of the State of Arkansas. At all times during the circulation of this petition part, an exact copy of the popular name, ballot title, and text was attached to the petition part, and each signer read the ballot title of the petition or had the ballot title of the petition read to the signer in my presence. My current address is correctly stated below.		(FOR NOTARY ONLY) State of Arkansas, County of _____ (county where notary signs) Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____. [Notary Seal Below] Signature of Notary _____ My Commission Expires _____ Residence County of Notary _____			
Signature _____ Current Residence _____ Indicate one: () Paid Canvasser () Volunteer/Unpaid Canvasser					

(POPULAR NAME)	(BALLOT TITLE)
“THE BALLOT MEASURE RIGHTS AMENDMENT OF 2026”	This measure amends Article 5, § 1 of the Arkansas Constitution. It gives the people the fundamental right to make and repeal laws by petition. It gives Arkansas registered voters the fundamental right to sign a petition. It gives U.S. citizens who have not been convicted of certain crimes the fundamental right to collect signatures on a petition. It defines “petition fraud.” Petition fraud is a criminal offense. The legislature decides the penalty range for this crime. The measure repeals the legislature’s authority to pass other petition fraud laws. The government must notify registered voters before it can reject their signatures. Notice is provided by mail, phone, and email, if possible. If voters timely correct signature problems, their signatures are counted. The government shall not require petition signatures to be from more than 15 counties. The legislature may amend or repeal an initiated act by a 2/3 vote. The legislature shall not amend a constitutional amendment approved by a vote of the people. A county quorum court may amend or repeal an initiated county measure by a 2/3 vote. A city council may amend or repeal an initiated local measure by a 2/3 vote. The ballot title of a referendum shall be “This referendum repeals...” followed by the title of the Act. The Secretary of State must publish a notice that informs the public of a measure’s popular name and ballot title. The notice explains how to contest the name and title. The notice shall be made in a statewide newspaper. It will be on the Secretary of State’s website too. Any lawsuit against the ballot title must be filed within 10 business days after the notice is published. If the sufficiency of a ballot title or popular name is challenged, the Arkansas Supreme Court has jurisdiction. The Court quickly reviews these lawsuits. Lawsuits against petitions require clear and convincing evidence. If the government discovers a scrivener’s or filing error, it notifies the sponsor right away. The sponsor has 10 business days to correct the error. The government shall not reject the measure if the error is timely corrected. The government shall not reject a measure that substantially complies with the law. Any laws affecting this amendment must be clerical. Only registered voters’ signatures are counted. Previously, canvassers signed an affidavit. This changes the affidavit to a declaration. The declaration is made under penalty of perjury. This measure repeals all inconsistent state laws. This amendment is severable. If part of it is held invalid, the rest is still valid if it can stand on its own.
(TEXT OF THE BALLOT MEASURE RIGHTS AMENDMENT OF 2026) <i>(Stricken language would be deleted from, and underlined language would be added to, present law.)</i> SECTION 1. Underlined language in SECTION 2 is new language to be added to the Arkansas Constitution, and the language that is stricken through in SECTION 2 should be removed from the Arkansas Constitution. SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1 is amended to read as follows: § 1. Initiative and Referendum. (a) The legislative power of the people of this State shall be vested in a General Assembly, which shall consist of the Senate and House of Representatives, but the people reserve to themselves the power and the fundamental right to propose legislative measures, laws and amendments to the Constitution, and to enact or reject the same at the polls independent of the General Assembly; and also reserve the power and the fundamental right, at their own option to approve or reject at the polls any entire act or any item of an appropriation bill.	(b) (1) <u>Every qualified elector of this State has the fundamental rights to:</u> (A) <u>Sign a petition under this section; and</u> (B) <u>Have the qualified elector’s signature counted once for each petition signed.</u> (2) <u>A United States citizen has the fundamental right to solicit and obtain signatures on a petition under this section unless the citizen:</u> (A) <u>Has been convicted of a criminal offense under this section;</u> (B) <u>Has been convicted of a criminal offense involving dishonesty or false statement;</u> (C) <u>Has been convicted of a felony criminal offense, and the citizen has not had his or her voting rights restored; or</u> (D) <u>Is required by law to register on the sex offender registry for any state.</u> (c) Initiative. The first power reserved by the people is the initiative. Eight per cent of the legal voters may propose any law and ten per cent may propose a constitutional amendment by initiative petition and every such petition shall include the full text of the measure so proposed. Initiative petitions for statewide measures shall be filed with the Secretary of State not less than four months before the election at which they are to be voted upon; provided, that at least thirty days before the aforementioned filing, the proposed measure shall have been published once, at the expense of the petitioners, in some paper of general circulation. (d) (1) Referendum. The second power reserved by the people is the referendum, and any number not less than six per cent of the legal voters may, by petition, order the referendum against any general Act, or any item of an appropriation bill, or measure passed by the General Assembly, but the filing of a referendum petition against one or more items, sections or parts of any such act or measure shall not delay the remainder from becoming operative. Such petition shall be filed with the Secretary of State not later than ninety days after the final adjournment of the session at which such Act was passed, except when a recess or adjournment shall be taken temporarily for a longer period than ninety days, in which case such petition shall be filed not later than

ninety days after such recess or temporary adjournment. Any measure referred to the people by referendum petition shall remain in abeyance until such vote is taken.

(2) If the referendum is to repeal a general Act or a measure passed by the General Assembly in its entirety, the ballot title shall be the words "This referendum repeals..." followed by the exact title of the Act or measure to be repealed by the referendum.

(e)

(1) The total number of votes cast for the office of Governor in the last preceding general election shall be the basis upon which the number of signatures of legal voters upon state-wide initiative and referendum petitions shall be computed.

(2) Upon all initiative or referendum petitions provided for in any of the sections of this article Article 5, Section 1, it shall be necessary to file from at least fifteen of the counties of the State, petitions bearing the signature of not less than one-half of the designated percentage of the electors of such county.

(3) Initiative or referendum petitions provided for under this Article 5, Section 1 shall not be required to be filed from more than fifteen (15) counties.

(f) **Emergency.** If it shall be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety that a measure shall become effective without delay, such necessity shall be stated in one section, and if upon a year and may vote two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, or two-thirds of all the members elected to city or town councils, shall vote upon separate roll call in favor of the measure going into immediate operation, such emergency measure shall become effective without delay. It shall be necessary, however, to state the fact which constitutes such emergency. Provided, however, that an emergency shall not be declared on any franchise or special privilege or act creating any vested right or interest or alienating any property of the State. If a referendum is filed against any emergency measure such measure shall be a law until it is voted upon by the people, and if it is then rejected by a majority of the electors voting thereon, it shall be thereby repealed. The provision of this subsection shall apply to city or town councils.

(g)

(1) **Local for Municipalities and Counties.** The initiative and referendum powers of the people are hereby further reserved to the legal voters of each municipality and county as to all local, special and municipal legislation of every character in and for their respective municipalities and counties, but no local legislation shall be enacted contrary to the Constitution or any general law of the State, and any general law shall have the effect of repealing any local legislation which is in conflict therewith.

(2) Municipalities may provide for the exercise of the initiative and referendum as to their local legislation. General laws shall be enacted providing for the exercise of the initiative and referendum as to counties. Fifteen per cent of the legal voters of any municipality or county may order the referendum, or invoke the initiative upon any local measure. In municipalities the number of signatures required upon any petition shall be computed upon the total vote cast for the office of mayor at the last preceding general election; in counties upon the office of circuit clerk. In municipalities and counties the time for filing an initiative petition shall not be fixed at less than sixty days nor more than ninety days before the election at which it is to be voted upon; for a referendum petition at not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days after the passage of such measure by a municipal council; nor less than ninety days when filed against a local or special measure passed by the General Assembly.

(3) Every extension, enlargement, grant, or conveyance of a franchise or any rights, property, easement, lease, or occupation of or in any road, street, alley or any part thereof in real property or interest in real property owned by municipalities, exceeding in value three hundred dollars, whether the same be by statute, ordinance, resolution, or otherwise, shall be subject to referendum and shall not be subject to emergency legislation.

(h) **General Provisions,**

(1) **Definition.** The word "measure" as used herein includes any bill, law, resolution, ordinance, charter, constitutional amendment or legislative proposal or enactment of any character.

(2) **No Veto.** The veto power of the Governor or mayor shall not extend to measures initiated by or referred to the people.

(3)

(A) **Amendment and Repeal.** ~~No~~ If the measure is an initiated act approved by a vote of the people shall be amended or repealed by the General Assembly or by any city council, except upon a year and may vote on roll call of the General Assembly may only amend or repeal the initiated act by a vote of at least two-thirds of all the members elected to each house of the General Assembly, or of the city council, as the case may be.

(B) If the measure is a county or local initiated measure approved by a vote of the people, a county quorum court or city council may only amend or repeal the county or local initiated measure by a vote of at least two-thirds of all the members of the county quorum court or city council, as the case may be.

(C) The General Assembly shall not amend or repeal a measure that is a constitutional amendment approved by a vote of the people.

(4) **Election.** All measures initiated by the people whether for the State, county, city or town, shall be submitted only at the regular elections, either State, congressional or municipal, but referendum petitions may be referred to the people at special elections to be called by the proper official, and such special elections shall be called when fifteen per cent of the legal voters shall petition for such special election, and if the referendum is invoked as to any measure passed by a city or town council, such city or town council may order a special election.

(5)

(A) **Majority.** Any measure submitted to the people as herein provided shall take effect and become a law when approved by a majority of the votes cast upon such measure, and not otherwise, and shall not be required to receive

a majority of the electors voting at such election. Such measures shall be operative on and after the thirtieth day after the election at which it is approved, unless otherwise specified in the Act.

(B) This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the General Assembly of the right to introduce any measure, but no measure shall be submitted to the people by the General Assembly, except a proposed constitutional amendment or amendments as provided for in this Constitution.

(6) **Canvass and Declaration of Results.** The result of the vote upon any State measure shall be canvassed and declared by the State Board of Election Commissioners (or legal substitute therefor); upon a municipal or county measure, by the county election commissioners (or legal substitute therefor).

(7) **Conflicting Measures.** If conflicting measures initiated or referred to the people shall be approved by a majority of the votes severally cast for and against the same at the same election, the one receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall become law.

(i) **The Petition and Review of Measures or Titles.**

(1)

(A)

(i) **Title.** If a government entity is designated by law to approve or certify a ballot title before circulating petitions, then no later than ten (10) days after approval or certification of a ballot title and popular name, the Secretary of State shall publish a notice informing the public of the:

- (a) Popular name;
- (b) Approval or certification of the ballot title; and
- (c) Procedure governing any party who may contest the

popular name, ballot title, or approval or certification of the ballot title before the Supreme Court.

(ii) If no such approval or certification of the ballot title is required by law, the sponsor shall notify the Secretary of State of the ballot title and popular name before circulating petitions, and no later than ten (10) days after notification by the sponsor, the Secretary of State shall publish a notice informing the public of the:

- (a) Popular name;
- (b) Ballot title; and
- (c) Procedure governing any party who may contest the popular name or ballot title before the Supreme Court.

(iii) Publication by the Secretary of State under this subdivision (i)(1)(A) shall be made in a newspaper of statewide circulation and on the Secretary of State's website.

(B) At the time of filing petitions the exact title to be used on the ballot shall by the petitioners be submitted with the petition, and on state-wide measures, shall be submitted to the State Board of Election Commissioners, who shall certify such title to the Secretary of State, to be placed upon the ballot, on county and municipal measures such title shall be submitted to the county election board and shall by said board be placed upon the ballot in such county or municipal election.

(2) **Limitation.** No limitation shall be placed upon the number of constitutional amendments, laws, or other measures which may be proposed and submitted to the people by either initiative or referendum petition as provided in this section. No petition shall be held invalid if it shall contain a greater number of signatures than required herein.

(3)

(A)

Verification. Only legal votes the signatures of qualified electors shall be counted upon petitions. Petitions may be circulated and presented in parts, but each part of any petition shall have attached thereto the affidavit declaration under penalty of perjury of the person circulating the same, that all signatures thereon were made in the presence of the affiant declarant, and that to the best of the affiant's declarant's knowledge and belief each signature is genuine, and that the person signing is a legal voter qualified elector and no other affidavit, declaration, or verification shall be required to establish the genuineness of such signatures.

(B) **Voter Cure.**

(i) The Secretary of State, the county clerk, and city clerk shall not disqualify the signature of a qualified elector before providing to the qualified elector whose name is signed on the petition:

- (a) Notice that the qualified elector's signature will be disqualified and will not be counted; and
- (b) An opportunity for the qualified elector whose name is signed to correct any identified insufficiency.

(ii) Notice under this subdivision (i)(3)(B) shall be sent to the qualified elector by mailing to the qualified elector's last known residential address, by telephone call, if available, and by email or other electronic notification system, if available.

(iii) Notice under this subdivision (i)(3)(B) shall be provided

immediately after the insufficiency is discovered by the Secretary of State, county clerk, or city clerk and shall advise the qualified elector:

- (a) Of how to correct any identified insufficiency; and
- (b) That failure to correct any identified insufficiency will result in the qualified elector's signature not being counted.
- (iv) The Secretary of State, county clerk, or city clerk shall give the voter no less than ten (10) business days to correct any identified insufficiency in person or electronically before disqualification.
- (v) The qualified elector shall have no less than ten (10) business days after the Secretary of State, county clerk, or city clerk delivers notice under this section to correct any identified insufficiency.
- (vi) If a qualified elector timely corrects an identified insufficiency, the signature shall be counted once.

(4)

(A) Sufficiency. The sufficiency of all state-wide petitions shall be decided in the first instance by the Secretary of State, subject to review by the Supreme Court of the State, which shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over all such causes.

(B) The sufficiency of all local petitions shall be decided in the first instance by the county clerk or the city clerk as the case may be, subject to review by the chancery court.

(C) A government actor reviewing a measure, ballot title, or petition for sufficiency shall determine it to be sufficient if the measure, ballot title, or petition substantially complies

with the requirements of laws, rules, or procedures enacted or adopted in furtherance of this Article 5, Section 1.

(5) **Court Decisions.**

(A) If the sufficiency of any petition is challenged such cause shall be a:

- (i) Filed with the court of jurisdiction no later than ten (10) business days after approval or denial of the sufficiency of the petition; and
- (ii) A preference cause and shall be tried at once, but the failure of the courts to decide prior to the election as to the sufficiency of any such petition, shall not prevent the question from being placed upon the ballot at the election named in such petition, nor militate against the validity of such measure, if it shall have been approved by a vote of the people.

(B) If the sufficiency of a ballot title or popular name is challenged, the Supreme Court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction, and such cause shall be:

- (i) Filed with the Supreme Court no later than ten (10) business days after the Secretary of State publishes the ballot title; and
- (ii) A preference cause, tried at once, and expeditiously decided.

(6)

(A)

(i) **Amendment of Petition, Measure, or Title.** ~~(a)(1)~~ If the Secretary of State, county clerk or city clerk, as the case may be, shall decide any petition to be insufficient, he or she shall without delay notify the sponsors of such petition, and permit at least

thirty (30) days from the date of such notification, in the instance of a state-wide petition, or ten (10) days in the instance of a municipal or county petition, for correction or amendment.

(2)(ii) For a state-wide petition, correction or amendment of an insufficient petition shall be permitted only if the petition contains valid signatures of legal voters qualified electors equal to:

(A)(a) At least seventy-five percent (75%) of the number of state-wide signatures of legal voters qualified electors required; and

(B)(b) At least seventy-five percent (75%) of the required number of signatures of legal voters qualified electors from each of at least fifteen (15) counties of the state.

(iii) The government shall make no law, rule, procedure, or practice which requires signatures of qualified electors from more than fifteen (15) counties.

(B) In the event of legal proceedings to prevent giving legal effect to any petition upon any grounds, the burden of proof shall be upon clear and convincing evidence presented by the person or persons attacking the validity of the petition.

(C) If a government actor discovers a scrivener's or filing error concerning the measure, ballot title, or petition, the government actor:

(i) Shall immediately notify the sponsor of the scrivener's or filing error;

(ii) Shall allow the sponsor ten (10) business days after delivery of notice

to the sponsor to correct the scrivener's or filing error; and

- (iii) Shall not disqualify a measure, ballot title, or petition that has been timely corrected.

(7) Unwarranted Restrictions and Petition Fraud Prohibited.

- (A) No law shall be passed to prohibit any person or persons from giving or receiving compensation for circulating petitions, nor to prohibit the circulation of petitions, nor in any manner interfering with the freedom of the people in procuring petitions; but laws shall be enacted ~~prohibiting and penalizing perjury, forgery, and all other felonies or other fraudulent practices, in the securing of signatures or filing of petitions~~ designating the classification of and penalty range for the criminal offenses of petition fraud under this subdivision (1)(7).

- (B) Petition fraud is a criminal offense.

- (C) It is petition fraud if a person:

- (i) With the purpose to have an invalid signature counted, knowingly signs another person's name to a petition;
- (ii) Knowingly pays a person anything of value in exchange for his or her signature on a petition;
- (iii) Purposely and materially misrepresents the content of a measure with the intent to deceive another person, and the other person signed the petition or declined to sign the petition in reliance on that misrepresentation; or

- (iv) Who is the sponsor of the measure or the designated representative of the sponsor submits invalid signatures to the Secretary of State, county clerk,

or city clerk for verification with actual knowledge that the signatures were obtained in violation of this Article 5, Section 1; and without advising the Secretary of State, county clerk, or city clerk that those signatures may be invalid.

- (E) The Secretary of State, county clerk, or city clerk shall not invalidate a signature for a criminal violation under this subdivision (1)(7) unless the Secretary of State, county clerk, or city clerk provided notice to the qualified elector under subdivision (1)(3)(B) of this section, and the qualified elector did not correct an identified insufficiency.

- (F) If a procedural practice, rule, or law is adopted or enacted by a government actor concerning the administration of the provisions of this section, the practice, rule, or law shall be clerical in nature.

- (8) **Publication.** All measures submitted to a vote of the people by petition under the provisions of this section shall be published as is now, or hereafter may be provided by law.

- (9) **Enacting Clause.** The style of all bills initiated and submitted under the provisions of this section shall be, "Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Arkansas, (municipality or county, as the case may be)." In submitting measures to the people, the Secretary of State and all other officials shall be guided by the general election laws or municipal laws as the case may be until additional legislation is provided therefor.

- (10) **Self-Executing.** This section shall be self-executing, and all its provisions shall be treated as mandatory, but laws may be enacted to facilitate its operation. No legislation shall be enacted to restrict, hamper or impair the exercise of the rights herein reserved to the people.

SECTION 3. Inconsistent provisions inapplicable. All provisions of the Constitution, statutes, and common law of this State to the extent inconsistent or in conflict with any provision of this Amendment are expressly declared null and void.

SECTION 4. Severability. If any provision or section of this amendment or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application of the amendment that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this amendment are declared to be severable.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANVASSERS AND SIGNERS

1. Under the Arkansas Constitution, citizens have the power to (a) initiate legislation by petition of 8% of the legal voters, (b) initiate constitutional amendments by petition of 10% of legal voters, or (c) order a referendum on 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. The signature is not valid if it is obtained after the next general election following the ballot title certification under A.C.A. § 7-9-107.

3. A signer must provide his or her photo identification as defined in A.C.A. § 7-1-101(40), printed name, date of birth, residence, city or town of residence, and date of signing. If, due to a disability, a petition signer needs help providing this information, another person may print the signer's information, and that person must sign and print her or her name in the petition's margin.

4. A canvasser must be both a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Arkansas. Paid canvassers must also hold domicile in the State of Arkansas. Each canvasser must file a true affidavit, described in A.C.A. § 7-9-111, with the Secretary of State.

5. Under A.C.A. § 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:
 - Signs a name other than his or her name to a petition;
 - Signs his or her name more than once on a petition;
 - Signs a petition when he or she is not legally entitled to do so;
 - 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 A.C.A. § 7-9-103.
- While acting as a canvasser, notary, sponsor as defined under A.C.A. § 7-9-101, or as a sponsor's agent:
 - Knowingly misrepresents the purpose and effect of the petition or the measure for the purpose of causing a person to sign a petition;
 - Solicits or obtains a petition signature knowing that the person signing is not qualified to sign the petition;
 - Knowingly pays a person any form of compensation for signing a petition as a petitioner; or
 - Accepts or pays money or anything of value for obtaining petition signatures 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 A.C.A. § 7-9-601.
- While acting as a canvasser, knowingly accepts a petition signature, and prior to the signing:
 - Fails to either (a) witness the signer read the petition's ballot title, or (b) read aloud the petition's ballot title to the signer; or

- Fails to either (a) verbally disclose or (b) provide written notice separate from the petition to the potential signer that petition fraud is a criminal offense;
- While acting as a sponsor or as sponsor's agent:
 - Knowingly hires a paid canvasser who is not both a resident of this state and domiciled in this state; or
 - Files a petition part with the official verifying signatures knowing that the petition part contains one or more false or fraudulent signatures, unless the sponsor clearly strikes each false or fraudulent signature before filing.

6. Under A.C.A. §§ 5-55-601 and 7-9-109, a person commits a Class D FELONY, punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to six years imprisonment, if the person:

- While acting as a canvasser,
 - Knowingly makes a false statement on a petition verification form; or
 - Witnesses signatures on a petition part but knowingly allows another canvasser who did not witness all signatures on a petition part to execute a false verification affidavit with respect to that petition part.
- While acting as a sponsor, sponsor's agent, or representative:
 - Knowingly pays a canvasser for petitioner signatures on a petition part not personally witnessed by that paid canvasser; or
 - Knowingly submits to the Secretary of State a petition part where the verifying canvasser has not witnessed each signature on that petition part.

7. Under A.C.A. § 7-9-127, 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:
 - Changes, erases, intentionally destroys, or discards a petition signature other than his or her own petition signature;
 - Pays a person any form of compensation for not signing a petition as a petitioner or for destroying a petition signature;
 - Accepts or pays money or anything of value for not obtaining signatures on a petition when the person is included on the sponsor's list filed with the Secretary of State under A.C.A. § 7-9-601;
- When acting as a canvasser,
 - Misrepresents the purpose and effect of the petition or measure affected to cause a person not to sign the petition.

8. Under A.C.A. § 7-9-601, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500 and up to one year in jail, if the person pays or offers to pay a person, or receives payment or agrees to receive payment, on a basis related to the number of signatures obtained on a statewide petition.



Tim Griffin
Attorney General of Arkansas
Revised 05/29/25