Know Your Ballot

Voter Readiness Kit -- Nonpartisan Edition

Check your registration. Research your sample ballot.
Make your plan. Vote ready.

Arkansas dates for the Nov 3, 2026 general election inside,
plus blank state pages that work anywhere in the U.S.

Published by Hanna Press | Nonpartisan -- works for every voter, every party or none

How to Use This Kit

Most voters walk into an election knowing the top of the ballot and guessing at everything below it -- the county offices, judges, and local issues that actually run daily life. This kit fixes that in about an hour, with a pencil.

Work through it in order: (1) verify your registration, (2) make your voting plan, (3) research your sample ballot one race at a time, (4) handle absentee or ID questions early, and (5) use the Election Day checklist so nothing surprises you at the polls.

The one rule that runs this whole kit

VERIFY LOCALLY, EVERY TIME. Voting dates, deadlines, polling places, hours, and ID rules come from your county clerk, your county election office, or your secretary of state's official voter website -- never from a social post, a flyer, a friend, or an AI chatbot. Every date printed in this kit was checked against official Arkansas sources on October 13, 2026, and each one is labeled with where to re-check it. Rules change; the official source wins, always.

This kit is nonpartisan. It takes no side in any race and tells you nothing about who to vote for. It is a planning tool, not legal advice. If your situation is unusual -- a recent move, a name change, a restored right, a question about eligibility -- ask your county clerk directly. That office exists to answer exactly those questions, for free.

Step 1: Are You Registered -- Really?

Registration is the step that quietly goes wrong: a move across town, a name change, or a long stretch without voting can leave your record stale or inactive. Check it before anything else -- it takes two minutes.

Check your status (Arkansas)

- Online: use the Arkansas Secretary of State's official voter lookup (VoterView) and search your name and date of birth.

- By phone or in person: your county clerk's office can confirm your status, your address on file, and your polling place.

- Write down what the official record shows -- that record, not your memory of registering years ago, is what the poll book will say.

Name exactly as it appears on my registration:

Address on my registration:

My polling place (from the official lookup):

[ ] My status shows ACTIVE / registered

[ ] My address on file is current

If something is wrong -- Arkansas timing, honestly

For the November 3, 2026 general election, Arkansas's registration deadline was Monday, October 5, 2026 -- that date has passed. If you missed it, you cannot newly register for November 3. Do not let anyone sell you a workaround; there isn't one. Here is what IS still open to you:

- The December 1, 2026 General Runoff: its registration deadline is November 2, 2026. Register now and you can vote in the runoff.

- Every 2027 local election and beyond: registering today means never missing a deadline again.

- If your record is wrong but you ARE registered (old address, old name), ask the county clerk what can be corrected for this cycle -- some fixes are allowed closer to Election Day than new registrations.

What the county clerk told me (date + who I spoke with):

Step 2: Make Your Voting Plan

Voters with a written plan vote. Voters who 'figure it out that day' get beaten by a long line, a wrong polling place, or a shift that runs late. Pick your path now.

Arkansas key dates -- Nov 3, 2026 general election

- Early voting: Monday, October 19 through Monday, November 2, 2026. Per the Arkansas House newsletter: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, and ending at 5 p.m. on Monday, November 2. Your county's early voting sites and any added hours: confirm with your county clerk.

- Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Polls 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you are in line at 7:30 p.m., stay in line -- you get to vote.

- Absentee request deadlines: October 27, 2026 by mail or electronic delivery; October 30, 2026 in person (see Step 4).

Re-check every date above against the Arkansas Secretary of State or your county clerk before you rely on it -- that is this kit's rule, applied to itself.

My plan

I will vote: [ ] early [ ] absentee [ ] on Election Day

On this date, at this site:

I will get there by (ride, bus, walk -- and my backup):

The ID I will bring (see Step 5):

[ ] I put my voting time on my calendar

[ ] I told one person my plan (accountability helps)

Step 3: Know Your Ballot Before You See It

Your sample ballot is public information, available before you vote. Get it from your county clerk or the Secretary of State's voter lookup, then research one race at a time with the worksheet below. Photocopy or redraw this page once per race -- the local races at the bottom deserve the same hour as the top.

Race / office:

What this office actually does (in one plain sentence):

Candidates on my ballot (exact names from the sample ballot):

Where I checked each candidate (their own site, a voter guide, a forum video):

My pick and the one reason that decided it:

The races nobody researches (and why they matter)

- County judge, sheriff, county clerk, tax offices: these run your roads, jail, records, and assessments.

- Judicial races: judges serve long terms and decide real cases; bar associations and voter guides publish background on candidates.

- School board: sets policy and budgets for your local schools whether you have kids in them or not.

- Ballot issues and amendments: read the actual popular name and ballot title on your sample ballot, then read one source for and one against before deciding.

Research rule: candidate claims get checked the same way voting facts do -- a candidate's own published position beats a post about their position, every time.

Step 4: Voting Absentee (Arkansas)

Arkansas absentee voting requires an application and a qualifying reason under state law -- the application itself lists the current reasons. Ask your county clerk for the application and the exact current rules; do not rely on anyone's summary, including this page's.

- Request deadline: October 27, 2026 if the application goes by mail or electronic delivery; October 30, 2026 in person at the county clerk.

- Apply EARLY. Mail time counts against you in both directions, and a late application is the most common way absentee voters lose their vote.

- Follow the ballot packet instructions exactly -- signatures, envelopes, and any ID copy requirements -- and confirm the current return deadline and delivery options with the county clerk when you apply.

Date I requested my absentee application:

Date I mailed / delivered my completed application:

Date my ballot arrived:

Date I returned my ballot, and how (mail / in person, per clerk's rules):

[ ] I confirmed my ballot was received (ask the clerk how to check)

Step 5: ID and Polling-Place Checklist

Arkansas asks voters to present identification at the polls. The accepted forms and the exact current rules are published by the Arkansas Secretary of State and your county clerk -- this kit deliberately does not print a 'final' ID list, because an outdated list is worse than a blank you fill in from the official source the week you vote.

ID forms accepted (copied from the official source, with the date I checked):

The ID I will bring:

My polling place address (from the official lookup):

My early voting site address, if different:

If something goes wrong at the polls

- Stay calm and stay put. Ask the poll worker what the issue is, in their words.

- Ask whether you can vote a provisional ballot, and what you must do afterward for it to count -- then do that step the same day.

- Call your county clerk or county election commission from the polling place if the issue is not resolved.

- The national nonpartisan Election Protection hotline (866-OUR-VOTE / 866-687-8683) fields voter questions and problems on voting days.

Step 6: Missed a Deadline? Vote in the Next One

Missing one deadline is a setback, not the end of your voice. Arkansas's next chance comes fast:

- December 1, 2026 General Runoff -- registration deadline November 2, 2026. Runoff ballots are short and turnout is low; a prepared voter carries real weight.

- Register once, stay registered: after any move or name change, update your registration the same week so no deadline ever surprises you again.

Runoff races I expect on my ballot (from the clerk / sample ballot):

My plan for the runoff (date, site, ride):

Any-state worksheet (for voters outside Arkansas)

Deadlines vary widely by state, and several states register voters much later -- some on Election Day itself. Never borrow another state's dates. Fill this in from YOUR secretary of state / state election office:

My state election office website + phone:

My registration deadline + how I confirmed my status:

My early voting dates, hours, and sites:

My absentee request + return deadlines:

My Election Day date, poll hours, and polling place:

My ID rule (copied from the official source, date checked):

Election Day Checklist

[ ] My sample-ballot worksheets are done -- no guessing in the booth

[ ] I know my polling place (or early site) and how I am getting there

[ ] My ID is in my pocket, wallet, or bag -- checked, not assumed

[ ] I know my time window and my backup window

[ ] I know the fix-it steps: ask, provisional ballot rules, county clerk, 866-OUR-VOTE

[ ] I stayed in line if I was in line at closing time

After you vote, the most useful thing you own is a filled-in version of this kit: your clerk's number, your polling place, your research habit. Keep it. The next election is closer than it feels, and next time you start at Step 3 instead of Step 1.

Nonpartisan planning tool published by Hanna Press. Not legal advice. All voting dates, deadlines, places, hours, and ID rules must be verified against your county clerk, county election office, or secretary of state before you rely on them. Arkansas dates in this edition were checked against official Arkansas sources (Arkansas House newsletter; Arkansas Secretary of State guidance) on October 13, 2026. Personal use license: use this kit for yourself and your household; do not resell or republish the kit itself.