

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1936

5 By: Representatives R. Burkes, Underwood
6 By: Senators J. Dotson, Hester
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ELECTION TO
10 CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OFFICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING
15 ELECTION TO CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OFFICES.
16

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-42-206(a), concerning nominating
20 petitions for municipal elections, is amended to read as follows:

21 (a)(1) ~~The city or town council of any city or town with the mayor-~~
22 ~~council form of government may request the~~ county party committees of
23 recognized political parties under the laws of the state ~~to~~ shall conduct
24 party primaries for municipal offices unless the governing body of the
25 municipality passes a resolution that the governing body will conduct
26 nonpartisan municipal elections for the forthcoming year by resolution passed
27 before August 31 of the calendar year before the election.

28 (2) The resolution shall remain in effect for ~~the subsequent~~
29 ~~elections~~ two (2) years unless revoked by the city or town council.

30 (3)(A) When ~~the~~ a resolution has been adopted under subdivision
31 (a)(1) of this section, the clerk or recorder shall:

32 (i) Mail a certified copy of the resolution to the
33 chairs of the county party committees and to the chairs of the state party
34 committees; and

35 (ii) File a certified copy of the resolution with the
36 county clerk.



1 (B) The county clerk shall forward a copy of the certified
 2 file-marked resolution to the county board of election commissioners.

3 (4) Candidates nominated for municipal office by political
 4 primaries under this section shall be certified by the county party
 5 committees to the county board of election commissioners and shall be placed
 6 on the ballot at the general election.

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 8 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-42-206(f), concerning nominating
 9 petitions for municipal elections, is repealed.

10 ~~(f) Nothing in this section shall repeal any law pertaining to the~~
 11 ~~city administrator form of government or the city manager form of government.~~

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 13 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 14-47-109(d), concerning the election of
 14 directors in a city manager form of government, is amended to read as
 15 follows:

16 (d)(1) ~~All regular and special elections of directors shall be~~
 17 ~~nonpartisan, the ballots to show no party designation.~~

18 ~~(2)~~ In all regular and special elections, each candidate for the
 19 office of director shall be elected by the electors of the city at large.

20 ~~(3)~~(2) A director shall not be prohibited from holding successive
 21 terms of office.

22
 23 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 14-48-110(d), concerning the election of
 24 mayors and directors in a city administrator form of government, is amended
 25 to read as follows:

26 (d)(1) ~~All primary, general, and special elections of the mayor and~~
 27 ~~directors shall be nonpartisan, and the ballots shall show no party~~
 28 ~~designation.~~

29 ~~(2)~~(A) In all primary, general, and special elections, each
 30 candidate for the office of mayor or director shall be elected by the
 31 electors of the city as follows:

32 ~~(i)~~(A) The persons elected to fill director
 33 positions one, two, three, and four, respectively, shall be qualified
 34 electors of the respective wards and shall be elected by the qualified
 35 electors of the respective wards; and

36 ~~(ii)~~(B) The persons elected to fill the position of

1 mayor and director positions five, six, and seven, respectively, shall be
2 qualified electors of the city and shall be elected by the qualified electors
3 of the entire city.

4 ~~(B)(2)~~ Neither the mayor nor a director shall be
5 prohibited from holding successive terms of office.

6 ~~(C)(i)(a)(3)(A)(i)~~ The persons elected to fill director
7 positions one, two, three, and four, respectively, shall continue to reside
8 in the ward from which he or she was elected for the term for which he or she
9 was elected.

10 ~~(b)(ii)~~ The persons elected to fill the
11 position of mayor and director positions five, six, and seven, respectively,
12 shall continue to reside in the city from which he or she was elected for the
13 term for which he or she was elected.

14 ~~(ii)(B)~~ If a duly elected director shall cease to
15 reside in the ward or the city from which he or she was elected, the director
16 shall be disqualified to hold the office, and a vacancy shall exist that
17 shall be filled as prescribed by law.

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