



## Current ARLeg Bills Chipping Away Voting Rights

An ARLeg Representative calls these bills an “election integrity package.” A more accurate label would be **the Anti-Democracy Package**. These anti-voter bills:

1. restrict access to the polls for hundreds of thousands of Arkansans,
2. attack the freedoms of groups working to support voter rights,
3. disproportionately exclude vulnerable Arkansans from the polls:  
Black & brown communities, rural communities, elderly, people with disabilities, and those with limited transportation,
4. ignore documented track records of how secure our elections already are, and dishonor the effective dedication of our hard-working elections officials

Bill #	Bill Sponsor	What the Bill Does	Why It's Bad for AR Voters	Status as of 4/5/21
SB12	Sen Dan Sullivan	Makes changes to procedures for elections during declared emergencies, including allowing commissioners to move & consolidate polling sites, & provide notice of changes up to 3 days before the election rather than 15 days	Closing or consolidating polling places with minimal notice is unnecessary. Placing decision-making in the hands of commissioners increases risks of partisan-based decisions and reduces accountability	Senate State Agencies: on agenda to be heard April 6
SB485	Sen Kim Hammer	This bill shortens the early voting period in the state, specifically removing the Monday before Election Day as an early voting option.	Over 51K Arkansans voted on this Monday in 2020; reducing early voting options makes it harder for voters with multiple jobs or who lack transportation to vote	Failed via roll call in Senate State Agencies Committee; vote expunged
SB486	Sen Kim Hammer	Would prevent volunteers from handing out water or food to people in line to vote at polling locations. It would prevent anyone except voters and polling staff from being within 100 feet of a polling entrance.	Bill ostensibly prevents electioneering near polls--but that's already illegal and effectively enforced. Bill piles more rules & regs on top of current law and criminalizes act of charity	Passed Senate, referred to House State Agencies Committee

SB487	Sen Kim Hammer	Removes county clerks from the process of designating and certifying voter centers.	Problematic for rural counties. County clerk and staff operate vote centers and need to have a voice in this process	Passed Senate, referred to House State Agencies
SB556	Sen Mark Johnson	Allows the State Election Commission to take over elections due to an undefined emergency for counties with 50,000 population or more; puts the burden of cost on the counties.	This bill would allow for take-over of any election by a state agency for little or no reason. The bill appears to target Arkansas cities and their voter populations.	Failed in Senate State Agencies Committee; vote expunged
SB557	Sen Mark Johnson	Authorizes a county board of election commissioners to delegate the supervision of election officials.	This bill would remove supervision authority from hired election coordinators, and other full-time county employees working on election related duties and place it in the hands of part-time partisan election commissioners	Senate State Agencies Committee
HB1112	Rep Mark Lowery	Amends our current voter ID law, requiring those who cast provisional ballots to show photo identification by noon on the Monday following Election Day. Previously, voters without ID could cast provisional ballots and still have their vote counted by signature verification.	Disproportionately impacts voters who are elderly, disabled, or poor, for whom maintaining current photo ID can be difficult. This new law makes it harder for people in these groups to have their vote count.	Act 249
HB1715	Rep Mark Lowery	Would make it illegal for County Clerks to distribute unsolicited absentee ballot applications to voters.	This bill ties our Clerks' hands and limits their ability to distribute publicly available voter information to their voters.	Passed House, referred to Senate State Agencies Committee
SJR 5	Sen Jason Rapert	This is a shell amendment to the AR Constitution that relates to primary elections.	This is dangerous because it has yet to be amended. We have no idea what this resolution intends, or how it will affect voting.	Senate State Agencies Committee
HJR1019	Rep Robin Lundstrum	To require Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals Judges, Circuit Judges, and District Judges to be elected on a partisan basis.	This bill promotes partisanship among judges, who should strive to operate as free from partisanship as possible, to best interpret laws for all Arkansans	House State Agencies Committee