

ARKANSAS 2026 LAW ENFORCEMENT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



This pocket reference guide contains key provisions found within Title 7 of the Arkansas Code and other relevant sections.*

- Interfering with, attempting to prevent voting, threatening, or attempting to intimidate an elector or their family is a felony.
- Interfering in any manner with officials conducting an election or canvass is a misdemeanor.
- Obstructing, impairing, or hindering the performance of a governmental function is a misdemeanor.

** Some provisions have been abridged due to space limitations in this guide.*

VOTING HOURS

Election Day

7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

2026 ELECTION DATES

Primary Election: March 3

General Election: November 3

For more information: sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/2026_Election_Calendar_Rev._6-2025_.pdf

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO

Your local election official:

arkansas.gov/sbec/election-commissioner

Secretary of State:

(800) 482-1127 or (501)-682-5070
electionsemail@sos.arkansas.gov
sos.arkansas.gov/elections



Threats and Intimidation

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-104 (a)(5)

(a)(5) It shall be unlawful for any person to make any threat or attempt to intimidate any elector or the family, business, or profession of the elector.

Violation of this subsection is a Class D felony.

Interference with an elector

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-104 (a)(6)

(a)(6) It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with or to prevent any qualified elector from voting at any election or to attempt to interfere with or to prevent any qualified elector from voting at any election, provided that this subdivision (a) (6) shall not prohibit good faith challenges of ballots or voters according to law by candidates, authorized representatives of candidates, political parties, or ballot issues.

Violation of this subsection is a Class D felony.

Interference with elections

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-103 (a)(19)(G)

(a)(19) No person shall:

(G) In any manner interfere with the officials lawfully conducting the election or the canvass or with the voters lawfully exercising their right to vote at the election.

Violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

Obstructing governmental operations

Ark. Code Ann. § 5-54-102

(a) A person commits the offense of obstructing governmental operations if the person:

(1) Knowingly obstructs, impairs, or hinders the performance of any governmental function;

(b) (1) Obstructing governmental operations by using or threatening to use physical force is a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) A second or subsequent offense of obstructing governmental operations under subdivision (a)(4) of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(4) Otherwise, obstructing governmental operations is a Class C misdemeanor.

Unlawful tampering

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-104 (a)(9)

(a)(9) No person shall tamper with a voting machine or fraudulently affect or attempt to affect its results.

Violation of this subsection is a Class D felony.

False count or certification of election returns

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-104 (a)(15)

(a)(15) No election official or other person shall willfully make a false count of any election ballots or falsely or fraudulently certify the returns of any election.

Violation of this subsection is a Class D felony.

Alteration of election equipment

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-104 (a)(16)

(a)(16) No person shall fraudulently change, alter, or obliterate the poll books or books of any election or break any seals upon any ballot box, voting machine, or stub box, except as authorized by law.

Violation of this subsection is a Class D felony.

Alteration of election returns

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-104 (a)(17)

(a)(17) No person shall contrive, alter, forge, counterfeit, detain, mutilate, steal, secrete, or destroy any election returns or

election materials for the purpose of hindering or preventing or falsely reporting a tabulation or check of the returns.

Violation of this subsection is a Class D felony.

Electioneering

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-103 (a)(8)

(a)(8)

(A) An election official acting in his or her official capacity shall not do any electioneering:

- (i) On election day or any day on which early voting is allowed;
- (ii) In a building in which voting is taking place; or
- (iii) Within one hundred feet (100) of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to a building in which voting is taking place.

(B) On early voting days and election day, a person shall not do any electioneering during voting hours:

- (i) In a building in which voting is taking place;
- (ii) Within one hundred feet (100) of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to a building in which voting is taking place; or
- (iii) With persons standing in line to vote.

(C)

(i) As used in this subdivision (a)(8), "electioneering" means the display of or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any candidate, issue, or measure on a ballot.

Violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

Alteration of ballots

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-103 (a)(19)(D)

(a)(19) No person shall:

(D) Alter or attempt to alter any ballot after it has been cast.

Violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

Fraudulent adding of ballots

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-103 (a)(19)(E)

(a)(19) No person shall:

(E) Add or attempt to add any ballot to those legally polled at any election either by fraudulently introducing it into the ballot box before or after the ballots have been counted or at any other time or in any other manner with the intent or effect of affecting the count or recount of the ballots.

Violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

Fraudulent withdrawal of ballots

Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-103 (a)(19)(F)

(a)(19) No person shall:

(F) Withdraw or attempt to withdraw any ballot lawfully polled with the intent or effect of affecting the count or recount of the ballots.

Violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

Carrying a firearm in publicly owned buildings or facilities

Ark. Code Ann. § 5-73-122

(a)

(1) Except as provided in § 5-73-322, § 5-73-306(5), § 16-21-147, and this section, it is unlawful for a person other than a law enforcement officer, either on-duty or off-duty, a security guard in the employ of the state or an agency of the state or any city or county, a member

of a municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized to carry a concealed handgun under § 12-15-204, or any state or federal military personnel, to knowingly carry or possess a loaded firearm or other deadly weapon in any publicly owned building or facility or on the State Capitol grounds.

(3) However, this subsection does not apply to a person carrying or possessing a firearm or other deadly weapon in a publicly owned building or facility or on the State Capitol grounds:

(D) If the person has completed the required training and received a concealed carry endorsement under § 5-73-322(g) and the place is not:

(i) A courtroom or the location of an administrative hearing conducted by a state agency, except as permitted by § 5-73-306(5) or § 5-73-306(6);

(ii) A public school kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), a public prekindergarten, or a public daycare facility, except as permitted under subdivision (a)(3)(C) of this section;

(c) A person violating this section upon conviction is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

Prohibited places for conceal carrying a firearm

Ark. Code Ann. § 5-73-306

Except as permitted under § 5-73-322(g) requiring special training, a license to carry a concealed handgun issued under this subchapter does not authorize a person to carry a concealed handgun into:

(5) Any courthouse, courthouse annex, or other building owned, leased, or regularly used by a county for conducting court proceedings or housing a county office unless:

(A) The licensee is: (i) Employed by the county; (ii) A countywide elected official; (iii) A justice of the peace; or (iv) (a) Employed by a governmental entity other than the county with an office or place of employment inside the courthouse, the courthouse annex, or other building owned, leased, or regularly used by the county for conducting court proceedings or housing a county office.

(b) A licensee under this subsection is limited to carrying a concealed handgun into the building where the office or place of employment of the governmental entity that employs him or her is located;

(B) The licensee's principal place of employment is within the courthouse, the courthouse annex, or other building owned, leased, or regularly used by the county for conducting court proceedings or housing a county office; and

(C) The quorum court by ordinance approves a plan that allows licensees permitted under this subdivision (5) to carry a concealed handgun into the facility as set out by the local security and emergency preparedness plan;

(7) Any meeting place of the governing body of any governmental entity;

(9) Any state office;

(13) A school, college, community college, or university campus building or event, with limited exceptions provided;

(15) A church or other place of worship, if the place of

worship either places a written notice as permitted under subdivision (18) or provides notice under subdivision (19) prohibiting possession of a concealed handgun at the physical location;

Handgun possession on school property

Ark. Code Ann. § 5-73-119 (b)

(b) (1) No person in this state shall possess a firearm:

(A) Upon the developed property of a public or private school, kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12);

(2) (A) A violation of subdivision (b)(1) of this section is a Class D felony.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code § 5-73-119 (e), exceptions to this prohibition include: law enforcement or correctional officers; members of the Armed Forces acting in the scope of their official duties; registered commissioned security guards acting in their official duties; persons with a conceal carry license who are specifically permitted by the school; and individuals participating in a certified hunting safety course.

