



**CITIZENS FIRST CONGRESS**

# **2023 ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE VOTE GUIDE**

**Arkansas Citizens First Congress (CFC)** is a multi-issue and non-partisan coalition of state organizations who work together for progressive change for all Arkansas residents. Coalition members come from all corners of the state and work on many different issues. At the Arkansas Legislature, CFC coalition members advocate together on a common agenda and also watchdog the legislature to fight against threats to progressive policy.

### Selecting CFC Priorities

Delegates from the CFC's member groups attend the biennial CFC Convention, where they present issues they want the CFC to support in the upcoming Arkansas Legislative Session. The issues are considered, discussed, and debated. From these issues, delegates elect the CFC's broad platform and the Priorities for a Better Arkansas, which the CFC and member groups will use to advocate for during session.



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ARKANSAS

# CITIZENS FIRST CONGRESS



## OUR 10 PRIORITIES FOR A BETTER

# Arkansas

### Long-Term Priorities



Support quality public education with research proven education reforms such as pre-K, discipline reform, and quality after-school and summer programs.  
(Elected in 2020)



Defend the integrity of the state budget through continued funding of the Arkansas Works program and fighting tax cuts that benefit the wealthy and corporations.  
(Elected in 2020)



Address climate change by expanding energy efficiency and renewable energy reforms that reduce carbon pollution, save consumers money, and create jobs.  
(Elected in 2020)



Reform the criminal justice system to create more rehabilitation pathways for juvenile and nonviolent offenders, and reduce fines and fees that disproportionately impact the economic wellbeing of families of color and low-income families.  
(Elected in 2020)



Fight wage theft by implementing a state pay stub law to help employees spot earnings discrepancies, protect themselves from dishonest employers, and avoid retaliation.  
(Elected in 2022)

### Short-Term Priorities



Ban corporal punishment in schools to create a safer, healthier, and more equitable learning environment for students.



Create a pathway to carbon neutrality in electricity production and improve carbon emissions transparency for consumers.



Improve public health and economic opportunity in food deserts by increasing access to affordable and healthy fruits and vegetables in retail food outlets.



Address period poverty by expanding access to menstruation education, hygiene facilities, and essential period products.



End the genocide of Uyghur people by increasing awareness of the issue through education and legislation.



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ARKANSAS

# CITIZENS FIRST CONGRESS

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# WHAT IS A LEGISLATIVE VOTE GUIDE?

The Citizens First Congress designed this vote guide to empower everyday Arkansans to advocate for themselves and the issues they care about. This guide is also intended for nonprofit advocates, state lawmakers and those interested in learning more about how policy that advances equity and opportunity can be moved in Arkansas. Each section correlates with a CFC caucus – with the addition of election reform, which falls under our Civil Rights Caucus – and include key legislation that CFC staff, members and allies have fought to pass or defeat.

This is a guide to how every 2023 legislator voted on several bills that the CFC thought were important. Though the CFC took positions on other bills, many were not voted on. During the legislative session, the CFC Steering Committee votes to support, oppose, or track various bills based on the CFC’s platform. We advocate for those positions, send alerts to the public, and monitor how legislators vote. This is the final record of how those bills played out.

This guide does not endorse or condemn any legislator – or tell you whether your legislators are “good” or “bad” – it simply compares votes taken by legislators to the CFC’s Ten Priorities for a Better Arkansas and other issues on our broad platform. There are many complexities that are impossible to put in a voting chart; this vote guide tells you how your legislators tend to vote, but it does not tell you why.

Legislators are elected volunteers who generally hold other jobs. Though they do receive a stipend for their service, this is not a salary, and most of them don’t have legislative staff aids.

Each issue section has a brief summary of the bills we supported and opposed, as well as a record of how each legislator voted on the bills that came up for a vote. Other important legislation was considered during the 94th Arkansas General Assembly which is not included in this guide.

All bills filed during the assembly can be found in full with amendments at [www.arkleg.state.ar.us](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

# HOW TO READ & USE THIS GUIDE

## BILL DESCRIPTIONS:

In each section, you will see the bills related to the CFC Priorities as well as other bills of interest. Each bill shows the bill number, the sponsor, the bill's status, and a brief description. **Bills we supported are shown in blue; bills we opposed are shown in red.** The bill descriptions include more bills than the charts, as not all bills came up for a vote.

### Term Glossary:

- **Failed:** The bill failed to get enough votes (usually a majority, but some tax and all budget bills require 3/4 majority vote). Bills that fail in committee are usually unrecorded voice votes, but the few recorded committee roll-call votes are included.
- **Enacted:** These bills have passed the House and Senate and become law. They will have an act number listed. (Note: the Governor does not have to sign a bill for it to become law.)
- **Died in Committee:** These bills were filed and sent to a committee but never put to a vote. It is officially labelled as having “Died in a Senate (or House) Committee at Sine Die adjournment”. The term “Sine Die” is the final adjournment of a session of a Congress.
- **Recommended for Interim Study:** Referred to the Interim Committee to have certain matters studied or investigated between legislative sessions, and to report back on the matter at the next session.

## VOTE CHARTS:

P means “present” and NV means “nonvoting.” They are counted as “nay” votes (listed as “N”) because not voting has the same impact as voting against a bill – the bill cannot pass without “yes” votes (listed as “Y”). An “E” means that the legislator was excused from being present at the vote.

## CONSTITUENTS CAN USE THIS GUIDE FOR:

- **Calling Representatives:** Politicians care about the opinions of their constituency and will acknowledge advocacy coming from a significant voter block. This guide shows how each lawmaker voted on each of the policy issues included in this guide and our 2023 Legislative Directory at [www.citizensfirst.org](http://www.citizensfirst.org) will give you the contact information for all legislators. Please contact your representatives and tell them what you think about their vote.
- **Voting:** The most powerful way to understand policy in Arkansas is to know how legislators voted to support or defeat legislation. Use this guide to research the voting history of your elected legislators and decide whether you would like them to represent you and your community for another term.
- **Grassroots Activism:** The last page of this guide provides a list of current Citizens First Congress members. Joining with other community organizations to challenge government bodies and poor policy gives people the power and platform to tell their own story about the issues in their community. Please consider joining our coalition. For more information on how, visit [www.citizensfirst.org/membership](http://www.citizensfirst.org/membership).

# HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN ARKANSAS

## 1 ALL BILLS START AS IDEAS, AND ANYONE CAN HAVE AN IDEA!

You can generally get a lawmaker to help you draft a bill, but in Arkansas, only a Representative or Senator can introduce a bill and guide it through the General Assembly.



## 2 FILING

The bill is drafted and a lawmaker files it with the Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate, and it is assigned a number. Bills that begin in the House are assigned an "HB" number, and bills that begin in the Senate are assigned an "SB" number.



## 3 COMMITTEE

It is signed by the sponsor(s) and read twice to the entire body of the House and Senate. It is assigned to a committee, and then presented. Committees are where the opportunities for public input are greatest. All meetings of the legislature are open to the public.



## 4 COMMITTEE VOTE

The sponsor explains the bill and can bring in expert testimony to support it. Those who oppose the bill also present their case. It is the responsibility of the committee to examine a bill carefully and make one of three recommendations: pass, do not pass, or do pass as amended. They may also table or defer action on a bill. House committees generally have 20 members, and it takes 11 votes to pass a bill. Senate committees generally have eight members, and it takes five votes to pass a bill.



## 5 SENT TO FLOOR FOR DEBATE

If a bill passes committee, then it heads to the floor where legislators discuss the bill and explain why they agree or disagree with it. If a committee recommends changes, amendments must be adopted before the bill is ready for a final vote. The bill may be amended, pass, or fail. Most bills require a simple majority, but some require a two-thirds or three-quarters vote.



## 6 SENT TO SECOND CHAMBER

Once passed by the one chamber, the bill is sent to another chamber where it begins in committee again and follows a similar process. A bill from the Senate goes to the House. A bill from the House goes to the Senate. If the bill fails in either chamber, it cannot advance any further. The bill will either fail, be amended, be tabled, sent to interim study or pass.



## 7 GOVERNOR

After passing both chambers, the bill goes to the Governor who can sign the bill or veto the bill. Within five days, a bill will become law with or without the Governor's signature. A simple majority vote of both chambers will override a Governor's veto.



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# CIVIL RIGHTS

CO-CHAIRS: WILLIAM EL-AMIN & BARRY JEFFERSON



Senate Bill 495  
Judiciary Committee

**PRIORITY:** Reform the criminal justice system to create more rehabilitation pathways for juvenile and nonviolent offenders, and reduce fines and fees that disproportionately impact the economic wellbeing of families of color and low-income families.

# CIVIL RIGHTS BILLS



## **HB1410 (ACT 195) REP. REBECCA BURKES – ENACTED**

This law repeals the state requirement that children under 16 years of age obtain an employment certificate as a condition of employment. The application for the employment certificate included a proof of age, a description of the work and work schedule, and written consent from the parent/guardian that was to be made available to the Division of Labor. Now, none of this information is required to be made available to the Arkansas Division of Labor. The CFC voted to oppose this bill because it eliminates protections for children in the workplace.

## **HB1678 (ACT 742): REP. HOWARD BEATY – ENACTED**

This act authorizes the Governor to deny an application for pardon, commutation of sentence, and remission of fines and forfeitures with prejudice. If they are denied with prejudice by the Governor, Arkansans are now barred from reapplying while that Governor is serving. The

CFC voted to oppose this bill because it limits opportunities for second chances.

## **SB270: (ACT 619): SEN. JOHN PAYTON – ENACTED**

Originally aimed to criminally charge transgender people in restrooms, making it a crime for a transgender person to use a public changing facility that matches their gender identity if anyone under 18 is present. This “bathroom bill” was amended with the language “for the purpose of arousing or gratifying a sexual desire of himself or herself or any other person”. The CFC voted to oppose this bill because it targets the LGBTQ community.

## **SB495 (ACT 659): SEN. BEN GILMORE – ENACTED**

The Governor’s Protect Arkansas Act will have devastating consequences on the criminal punishment system in Arkansas. It’s a trojan horse that will vastly expand the rate of incarceration when state prisons are already overcrowded. The goals of reducing crowding and making people serve longer sentences are contradictory and expensive.

The bill deems some people unredeemable by virtue of their conviction and denies them the opportunity for rehabilitation. It drastically dismantles the parole system in its current form.

### **SB71: SEN. DAN SULLIVAN – RECOMMENDED FOR INTERIM STUDY**

This bill would have banned and criminalized programs that allow for more equitable opportunities for diversity with the state government including any form of affirmative action. The CFC voted to oppose this bill because we support Diversity Equity and Inclusion efforts and programming.

### **SB444 (ACT 771): SEN. GREG LEADING – ENACTED**

Act 771 allows a person sentenced to prison as a juvenile to file for restoration of voting rights and discharge from parole after five years from the start of their parole. The CFC voted to support this bill because of our priorities to juvenile justice reform, juvenile diversion programs and voting rights.

### **SB580: SEN. CLARKE TUCKER – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

This bill would have decriminalized possession of marijuana. Possession of less than two ounces (2 oz.) of marijuana would not be a violation or offense upon the legalization of recreational marijuana/cannabis in the state of Arkansas. Additionally, those with past convictions for possession of 2 oz. or less of marijuana could petition the court to have their record sealed.

### **HB1694: REP. VIVIAN FLOWERS – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

This bill would have prohibited the state from performing an execution on any person with a serious mental illness, this would include schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, delusional disorder, PTSD and disorders



from traumatic brain injuries. The CFC voted to support this bill because it would protect those with mental disabilities and to oppose the death penalty.

### **HB1754: REP. GRANT HODGES – RECOMMENDED FOR INTERIM STUDY**

This bill would have eliminated fines and fees for youth under the criminal court jurisdiction and end collection on existing debt from past juvenile fines and fees. These court-imposed youth fines/fees create educational barriers, with many youth missing classes or dropping out of school to help earn money to pay off fees. Youth also report feeling anxious and depressed, believing the system is working against them. No vote was taken on this bill.

### **SR34: SEN. LINDA CHESTERFIELD – ADOPTED**

This resolution clearly shows Arkansas's opposition to China's atrocious treatment of the Uyghur people and other populations by encouraging state entities to refrain from contracting with companies or entities that benefit from Uyghur forced labor. It's a gateway for future legislation to show support for the Uyghur people, as well as other ethnic groups that are being targeted in the Xinjiang region. This resolution serves as a tool to educate legislators and the public, bringing attention to this major human rights crisis.

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1410</b>	<b>HB1678</b>	<b>SB270</b>	<b>SB495</b>	<b>SB71</b>	<b>SB444</b>
Achor (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Allen (D)	N	N	P	N	N	Y
Andrews (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Barker (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beaty (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
Beck (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bentley (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
M. Berry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
S. Berry (R)	N	Y	NV	Y	N	Y
Breaux (R)	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
Brooks (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
K. Brown (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
M. Brown (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Burkes (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
J.L. Carr (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
J.P. Carr (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cavanaugh (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Clowney (D)	N	N	Y	N	N	Y
Collins (D)	N	N	P	N	N	Y
Cooper (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Cozart (R)	NV	NV	Y	Y	N	Y
Crawford (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Dalby (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Duffield (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	NV
Duke (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Eaves (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Ennett (D)	N	N	Y	N	N	NV
Eubanks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	NV
Evans (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
D. Ferguson (D)	N	N	NV	N	N	NV
K. Ferguson (D)	NV	N	NV	N	N	Y
C. Fite (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
L. Fite (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Flowers (D)	N	N	P	N	N	Y

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1410</b>	<b>HB1678</b>	<b>SB270</b>	<b>SB495</b>	<b>SB71</b>	<b>SB444</b>
Fortner (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Furman (R)	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y
Garner (D)	N	N	P	N	N	Y
Gazaway (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Gonzales (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gramlich (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Haak (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Hawk (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
D. Hodges (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
G. Hodges (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Holcomb (R)	NV	NV	Y	Y	N	Y
Hollowell (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Hudson (D)	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Jean (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Ladyman (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Long (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lundstrum (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lynch (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Maddox (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Magie (D)	N	NV	NV	N	N	Y
Mayberry (R)	N	NV	Y	Y	N	Y
McAlindon (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McClure (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
McCollum (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McCullough (D)	N	N	P	N	N	Y
McElroy (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
McGrew (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
McKenzie (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
McNair (R)	NV	NV	Y	Y	NV	Y
Meeks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Miller (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV	NV	NV
Milligan (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1410</b>	<b>HB1678</b>	<b>SB270</b>	<b>SB495</b>	<b>SB71</b>	<b>SB444</b>
J. Moore (R)	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
K. Moore (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Nicks (D)	N	N	P	NV	N	Y
Painter (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Pearce (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Perry (D)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Pilkington (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	NV
Puryear (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ray (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
J. Richardson (D)	N	N	NV	P	N	Y
R.S. Richardson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Richmond (R)	NV	NV	Y	Y	NV	Y
Rose (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
Rye (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Schulz (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Scott (D)	N	N	Y	N	NV	Y
T. Shephard (D)	N	N	P	N	N	Y
M. Shepherd (R)	NV	NV	NV	Y	NV	NV
Springer (D)	N	N	NV	N	N	Y
Steimel (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Tosh (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Underwood (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Unger (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vaught (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Walker (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Wardlaw (R)	Y	NV	Y	Y	N	Y
Warren (R)	P	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Watson (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Whitaker (D)	N	N	P	N	N	Y
Wing (R)	Y	Y	NV	Y	P	Y
Womack (R)	Y	N	Y	P	Y	Y
Wooldridge (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Wooten (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

<b>Senate</b>	<b>HB1410</b>	<b>HB1678</b>	<b>SB270</b>	<b>SB495</b>	<b>SB71</b>	<b>SB444</b>
Boyd (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bryant (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Caldwell (R)	Y	E	E	E	Y	Y
Chesterfield (D)	N	P	P	N	N	Y
Clark (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Crowell (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
Davis (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Dees (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dismang (R)	P	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Dotson (R)	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
English (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Flippo (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flowers (D)	N	E	N	E	N	Y
Gilmore (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hammer (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hester (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hickey (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y
Hill (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Irvin (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
B.Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
M.Johnson (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
King (R)	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y
Leding (D)	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Love (D)	N	P	N	N	N	Y
McKee (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Murdock (D)	N	NV	Y	P	N	Y
Payton (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Penzo (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Petty (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Rice (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stone (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stubblefield (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sullivan (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tucker (D)	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Wallace (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

# ELECTION REFORM (INCLUDED UNDER CIVIL RIGHTS CAUCUS)





# ELECTION REFORM BILLS

## **HB1407 (ACT 441): REP. RICK MCCLURE - ENACTED**

Act 441 expands the power and duties of the Arkansas Secretary of State as it relates to the voter registration process. The Secretary of State would be authorized to work with other states to compare the accuracy of the voter rolls, specifically the address, the citizenship and other eligibility factors of the voter, including whether they are deceased. Arkansas Trade School identification cards were also included in the list of acceptable forms of ID to present when voting. This bill was enacted to curb voter fraud in Arkansas, however voter fraud is practically non-existent in Arkansas and thus the CFC opposed this bill.

## **HB1419 (ACT 236): REP. KENDON UNDERWOOD - ENACTED**

Act 236 substantially changes the process by which signatures are gathered in the ballot initiative process. The Arkansas Constitution states signatures must be gathered from a minimum of 15 counties across the state, Act 236 raises that threshold from 15 to 50 counties. (At the time of publication, Sen. Bryan King and The League of Women Voters have an active lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of Act 236.) The CFC opposes any attempt at making it harder for average Arkansans to participate in the citizen-led ballot initiative process. Direct democracy should not be stifled in Arkansas.

## **HB1457 (ACT 444): REP. TONY FURMAN - ENACTED**

Act 444 expands the access of poll watchers in all aspects of the voting process. The State Board of Election Commissioners would develop and administer a training program that poll watchers would have to undergo before beginning. Poll watchers would now be allowed to observe all stages of the voting process, including the return and canvassing of absentee

ballots, the casting, spoiling, and remaking of ballots, vote tabulation, voter registration, audits and recounts. The CFC opposed this legislation as poll watchers already have enough access to ensure election integrity and this increased authority could be used as means of intimidating voters and making it less likely that certain groups don't cast their ballots.

## **HB1534 (ACT 424): REP. BRUCE COZART - ENACTED**

Act 424 completely repeals the section of Arkansas law that states that school districts with a minority population of 10% or more have to comply with the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 as it relates to the process by which school boards are designed and members elected. This means that race would no longer factor into how school board zones are drawn following the census. It would have also allowed for those school districts to move to all at-large zones. Historically, at-large elections tend to disproportionately affect minority communities, making it harder for them to elect a candidate of their choice. CFC opposed this bill as it was a clear attempt to peel back voting protections for minority voters in Arkansas.

## **HB1350: REP. CHARLENE FITE - DIED IN COMMITTEE**

This bill would have stipulated that school districts that have a minority population greater than 10% and have a total population under 8,000 people would be exempt from the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 as it pertains to the election of school board members. It would have also allowed for those school districts to move to all at-large zones as opposed to a combination of single member and at-large zones. This bill is similar to HB1534 (Act 424) but would still allow those smaller school districts to comply with the Voting Rights Act. The CFC opposed this

bill as it was a clear attempt to peel back voting protections for minority voters in Arkansas.

**HB1325 (ACT 263): REP. ANDREW COLLINS – ENACTED**

Act 263 mandates that during the early voting period the hours of any additional polling site must be the same, or as close as possible to that of the County Clerk’s office. The CFC supports the expansion of early voting.

**SB247 (ACT 141): SEN. JIM DOTSON – ENACTED**

Act 141 allows an individual to be granted an absentee ballot if they are observing a religious discipline or a religious holiday that falls on election day. The CFC supports any effort to make sure that those who wish to vote have the ability to, regardless of religious observance.

**HB1537: REP. ANDREW COLLINS – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

HB1537 would have established an online voter

registration system in Arkansas. New voter registration applications would need to be done via paper application, but for those who have previously obtained an ID or driver’s license through a state revenue office would have access to an online portal to update and change their voter registrations status. Arkansas is one of 10 states that does not allow for voters to register to vote online, the CFC supports any attempt to expand voter registration access.

**SB230: SEN. BRYAN KING – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

SB230 would have greatly expanded and protected the ability for Arkansans to vote. Employers would have been required to provide 8 hours of paid time off to allow employees to vote early and an employer could not punish an employee for taking time off to vote.

The early voting period would also have been greatly expanded, from the current 15 days up to 30 days, and the time that the polls would be open was also increased to accommodate those during normal working hours. The CFC supports any effort to expand voting access in Arkansas and protecting employees against discrimination.

**SB235: SEN. CLARKE TUCKER – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

SB235 would have strengthened the process by which absentee ballots were collected, processed, and counted. Individuals whose absentee ballots contained procedural errors would have more access to “cure” their ballot. This bill passed out of the Senate but was re-referred to the House State Agencies Committee just after passage from that same committee. The state legislature has made it more difficult for citizens to vote via absentee ballot, therefore the CFC supported this as it would have made it easier for citizens to vote by absentee ballot.



<b>House</b>	<b>HB1407</b>	<b>HB1419</b>	<b>HB1457</b>	<b>HB1534</b>	<b>HB1325</b>	<b>SB247</b>
Achor (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y
Allen (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	NV
Andrews (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Barker (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beaty (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beck (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bentley (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
M. Berry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S. Berry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Breaux (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brooks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
K. Brown (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
M. Brown (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Burkes (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
J.L. Carr (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
J.P. Carr (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
Cavanaugh (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Clowney (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Collins (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Cooper (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Cozart (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P
Crawford (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Dalby (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Duffield (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Duke (R)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Eaves (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ennett (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Eubanks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV
Evans (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
D. Ferguson (D)	Y	N	Y	NV	Y	Y
K. Ferguson (D)	Y	NV	Y	N	Y	NV
C. Fite (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
L. Fite (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flowers (D)	Y	N	Y	NV	Y	Y

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1407</b>	<b>HB1419</b>	<b>HB1457</b>	<b>HB1534</b>	<b>HB1325</b>	<b>SB247</b>
Fortner (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Furman (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Garner (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Gazaway (R)	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y
Gonzales (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Gramlich (R)	Y	Y	NV	NV	Y	Y
Haak (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Hawk (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	P
D. Hodges (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
G. Hodges (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Holcomb (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hollowell (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	NV
Hudson (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Jean (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV
Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ladyman (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Long (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P
Lundstrum (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	P
Lynch (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Maddox (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Magie (D)	NV	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Mayberry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McAlindon (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McClure (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
McCollum (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	P
McCullough (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
McElroy (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
McGrew (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McKenzie (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
McNair (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV
Meeks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV
Miller (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Milligan (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1407</b>	<b>HB1419</b>	<b>HB1457</b>	<b>HB1534</b>	<b>HB1325</b>	<b>SB247</b>
J. Moore (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
K. Moore (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nicks (D)	Y	N	Y	NV	Y	P
Painter (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Pearce (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Perry (D)	Y	N	Y	NV	Y	Y
Pilkington (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Puryear (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	P
Ray (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
J. Richardson (D)	NV	N	Y	N	Y	Y
R.S. Richardson (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Richmond (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
Rose (R)	Y	Y	Y	P	N	Y
Rye (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Schulz (R)	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
Scott (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	NV
T. Shephard (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
M. Shepherd (R)	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV
Springer (D)	NV	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Steimel (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tosh (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Underwood (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Unger (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P
Vaught (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Walker (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wardlaw (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Warren (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Watson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Whitaker (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Wing (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
Womack (R)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Wooldridge (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wooten (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

<b>Senate</b>	<b>HB1407</b>	<b>HB1419</b>	<b>HB1457</b>	<b>HB1534</b>	<b>HB1325</b>	<b>SB235</b>	<b>SB247</b>
Boyd (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bryant (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
Caldwell (R)	Y	E	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
Chesterfield (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Clark (R)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Crowell (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
Davis (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dees (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dismang (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
Dotson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
English (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flippo (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flowers (D)	NV	N	Y	E	Y	Y	E
Gilmore (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hammer (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hester (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hickey (R)	Y	Y	Y	N	E	Y	P
Hill (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Irvin (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P
B.Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	P
M.Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
King (R)	Y	N	Y	NV	Y	Y	N
Leding (D)	P	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Love (D)	P	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
McKee (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Murdock (D)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Payton (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
Penzo (R)	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
Petty (R)	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rice (R)	Y	NV	Y	NV	Y	Y	NV
Stone (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stubblefield (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sullivan (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N
Tucker (D)	P	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Wallace (R)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

# ECONOMIC JUSTICE

CO-CHAIRS: BRUNO SHOWERS & RICH ROY



## PRIORITIES:

- Defend the integrity of the state budget through continued funding of the Arkansas Works program and fighting tax cuts that benefit the wealthy and corporations.
- Improve public health and economic opportunity in food deserts by increasing access to affordable and healthy fruits and vegetables in retail food outlets.
- Implement a state pay stub law to help employees spot earnings discrepancies, protect themselves from dishonest employers, and avoid retaliation.

# ECONOMIC JUSTICE BILLS

## **HB1196 (ACT 160): REP. KENDON UNDERWOOD – ENACTED**

The law makes changes to Arkansas Public Housing Authority work requirements. It adds language for those age 19-64 who are “able bodied” that compels this group to work for at least 20 hours per week to receive funding from a Public Housing Authority Program. This Act cancels benefits for any able-bodied individual who is not meeting this requirement for more than 60 days. The CFC opposed this bill because it adds another work requirement to receive benefits and research shows these work requirements are an ineffective tool for reducing public benefits abuse.

## **HB1197 (ACT 106): REP. KENDON UNDERWOOD – ENACTED**

Act 106 increases the job application requirements a claimant for unemployment compensation must meet before being approved for benefits. While the State has required applying to jobs as a prerequisite to receiving benefits, claimants will now have to apply, go to an interview(s) and either accept or let the employer know they aren’t interested to qualify for benefits. It establishes an online portal for employers to let the state know if someone has been offered a job that they then “ghosted” during the interview/hiring process. The CFC opposed this bill because it adds another work requirement to receive benefits and research shows these work requirements are an ineffective tool for reducing public benefits abuse.

## **SB549 (ACT 532): JONATHAN DISMANG/EAVES – ENACTED**

Act 532 reduces income tax rates for individuals, trusts, estates and corporations. The bill amends the income tax tables so that Arkansas’s top income tax rate would be reduced from 4.9% to 4.7% for tax years beginning on or after

January 1, 2023. For tax year 2023, individuals with net taxable income of greater than or equal to \$87,001 but less than \$91,301 will reduce their income tax due by the appropriate bracket adjustment amount. The CFC opposed this bill because it reduces tax rates for the wealthiest workers in Arkansas and provides no benefit to the majority of Arkansans.

## **HB1245 (ACT 38): REP. CAROL DALBY – ENACTED**

HB1245, now Act 38, commences a legislative study of the impact of court fines and fees. The House Judiciary and the Senate Judiciary meet one time every three months at the call of the Chair of the House to study financial matters related to the court system and to consider related legislation that may be necessary to remedy any issues identified during the course of the study. It will conclude December 31, 2024. The CFC supported this bill because fines and fees are shown to bring undue burden into the lives of regular Arkansans and don’t reduce crime overall.

## **HB1382: REP. ROBIN LUNDSTRUM – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

This bill would have created an income tax credit incentive to hire former offenders. The tax credit is based on the length of time a qualifying former offender has worked for the business, with the maximum credit being \$3,000 for 36 consecutive months of employment. A convicted offender is defined as someone who was convicted of a state or federal felony, incarcerated for that offense, and released from incarceration for less than a year before being hired as an employee. The CFC supported this bill because similar tax credits have been shown to reduce recidivism over time for offenders and this bill would benefit employers and offenders alike.



<b>House</b>	<b>HB1196</b>	<b>HB1197</b>	<b>SB549</b>	<b>HB1245</b>
Achor (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Allen (D)	N	NV	P	Y
Andrews (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Barker (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beaty (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beck (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bentley (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
M. Berry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
S. Berry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Breaux (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brooks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
K. Brown (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
M. Brown (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Burkes (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
J.L. Carr (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
J.P. Carr (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cavanaugh (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Clowney (D)	Y	N	N	Y
Collins (D)	N	Y	N	Y
Cooper (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cozart (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Crawford (R)	Y	Y	NV	Y
Dalby (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Duffield (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Duke (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Eaves (R)	NV	Y	Y	Y
Ennett (D)	N	N	N	Y
Eubanks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Evans (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
D. Ferguson (D)	NV	Y	Y	NV
K. Ferguson (D)	NV	NV	NV	Y
C. Fite (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
L. Fite (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flowers (D)	N	N	N	Y

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1196</b>	<b>HB1197</b>	<b>SB549</b>	<b>HB1245</b>
Fortner (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Furman (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Garner (D)	N	N	N	Y
Gazaway (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gonzales (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gramlich (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Haak (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hawk (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
D. Hodges (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
G. Hodges (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Holcomb (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hollowell (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hudson (D)	N	Y	Y	Y
Jean (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ladyman (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Long (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lundstrum (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lynch (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Maddox (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Magie (D)	N	N	Y	Y
Mayberry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
McAlindon (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
McClure (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
McCollum (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
McCullough (D)	N	N	N	Y
McElroy (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
McGrew (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
McKenzie (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
McNair (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Meeks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Miller (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV
Milligan (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1196</b>	<b>HB1197</b>	<b>SB549</b>	<b>HB1245</b>
J. Moore (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
K. Moore (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nicks (D)	NV	P	N	Y
Painter (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pearce (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Perry (D)	N	NV	N	Y
Pilkington (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Puryear (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ray (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
J. Richardson (D)	N	P	Y	Y
R.S. Richardson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Richmond (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rose (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rye (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Schulz (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Scott (D)	N	N	N	Y
T. Shephard (D)	N	N	N	Y
M. Shepherd (R)	NV	NV	Y	NV
Springer (D)	N	N	N	Y
Steimel (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tosh (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Underwood (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Unger (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vaught (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Walker (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wardlaw (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Warren (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Watson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Whitaker (D)	N	N	Y	NV
Wing (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Womack (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wooldridge (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wooten (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y

<b>Senate</b>	<b>HB1196</b>	<b>HB1197</b>	<b>SB549</b>	<b>HB1245</b>
Boyd (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bryant (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Caldwell (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chesterfield (D)	N	Y	P	Y
Clark (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Crowell (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Davis (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dees (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dismang (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dotson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
English (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flippo (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flowers (D)	N	E	P	Y
Gilmore (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hammer (R)	E	Y	Y	Y
Hester (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hickey (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hill (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Irvin (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
B.Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
M.Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
King (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV
Leding (D)	N	Y	P	Y
Love (D)	N	P	Y	Y
McKee (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Murdock (D)	P	Y	NV	Y
Payton (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Penzo (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Petty (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rice (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stone (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stubblefield (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sullivan (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tucker (D)	N	Y	P	Y
Wallace (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y

# EDUCATION

CO-CHAIRS: LINDA JONES & ELAINE WILLIAMS



## PRIORITIES:

- Support quality public education with research proven education reforms such as pre-K, discipline reform, and quality after-school and summer programs.
- Ban corporal punishment in schools to create a safer, healthier, and more equitable learning environment for students.

# EDUCATION BILLS

## **HB1156 (ACT 317): REP. MARY BENTLEY – ENACTED**

This law requires all pre-K to 12th grade public and charter school superintendents, principals, and teachers to ensure that all students participating in any school activity requiring an overnight stay sleep in rooms with other students of the same sex, if the students are not related. It also requires all building restrooms, locker rooms, changing rooms and shower rooms to be designated as single sex and that students are only permitted to use such facilities in accordance with their sex at birth as designated on their birth certificate.

Any noncompliance must be reported to the Board of Education's Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) where a superintendent, principal, or teacher will be subject to a minimum fine of \$1,000 and other sanctions. It also gives parents a civil cause of action against anyone the PLSB disciplines pursuant to this law. This bill is discriminatory and unnecessary.

## **HB1504 (ACT 543): REP. MARK MCELROY – ENACTED**

This law requires the State Board of Education to permanently terminate the superintendent and take control of any public school district placed on the administrative consolidation list that is classified as Level 5 (Intensive Support) and has at least one student that will be required to ride a bus more than 40 miles to school if the district were to be administratively consolidated. It is meant to save struggling rural districts from consolidation by giving them to the State to control, but the truth is that neither consolidation or State control improves outcomes for students. The state needs to invest in the proven solutions that help struggling students achieve – supports for kids in poverty, quality pre-k, after school and summer programs, improved teacher quality, improved special education programs, etc.

## **HB1531 (ACT 547): REP. GRANT HODGES – ENACTED**

This amends state law that currently allows 10% of the registered voters in any school district to initiate a conversion to single-member zones for the board of directors to achieve racially proportional representation. State law is amended to also allow for conversion to either at-large zones or a combination of at-large and single-member zones; it also deleted the language referencing racially proportional representation. Zoned elections are meant to ensure that minority populations and viewpoints are represented on elected bodies, and these moves towards at-large elections will weaken our public schools by reducing their diversity of representation and viewpoints on our school boards.

## **HB1738: REP. MINDY MCALINDON – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

This law would have been mostly duplicative of existing state and federal laws concerning parental rights in regard to their students enrolled in any Arkansas K-12 public and open-enrollment charter school. However, some additional rights would have included the right of parents to temporarily remove their children from any class or school-sponsored activity that included content and material of which the parent disapproves. It would have required boards of directors to adopt 24-hour parental notification policies whenever there is a change in the ability of school to provide a safe and supportive learning environment or a change in services or monitoring any student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.

## **SB81 (ACT 372): SEN. DAN SULLIVAN – ENACTED**

This law creates a graduated administrative review process for K-12 public school libraries, and for city/county public libraries, where a parent or community member seeks to challenge material that they find obscene and harmful to children. It creates criminal penalties for school or library staff who share

material that is later determined to be obscene. The law deleted the librarian defense to current state obscenity law. We opposed this bill because there is already a reasonable process to protect students from obscene material and for members of the public to object, without criminalizing free speech decisions of librarians and educators.

### **SB206: SEN. CLINT PENZO – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

This bill would have allowed for partisan school board elections where all terms in office would be four years and an incumbent could stay in office for sixteen consecutive years. CFC opposed this bill, because Arkansas does not need more partisan politics in school board elections.

### **SB294 (ACT 237): SEN. BREANNE DAVIS – ENACTED**

This bill is known as the L.E.A.R.N.S. (Literacy, Empowerment, Accountability, Readiness, Networking and Safety) Act. It will fundamentally change the public education system in Arkansas in a multitude of ways. Overall, LEARNs makes a few positive changes but places most of its funding and emphasis on expanding private school vouchers and charter schools despite the fact they are proven not to improve student learning. The bill was rushed through with minimal review and will cost far more than was forecasted, while failing to invest in the most effective strategies to boost student learning.

More detailed summary and our full commentary is available at [www.citizensfirst.org/learnsact](http://www.citizensfirst.org/learnsact).

Highlights include:

- creates a new universal state-funded private school education voucher program called Educational Freedom Accounts
- repeals the Teacher Fair Dismissal Act of 1983, the Public School Employees Fair Hearing Act of 1987,

and the Teacher Compensation Program of 2003;

- compels traditional school districts to partner with open-enrollment charter schools to operate low-performing traditional schools
- establishes a \$50,000 minimum salary for starting teachers while providing veteran teachers \$2,000 raises and educator incentives of up to \$10,000 based on the subject taught and the school where located. It has a few other incentives for teachers, but eliminates pay incentives for years of experience or advanced degrees.
- will chill discussion of race and black history by codifying Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders' vague executive order banning discussion of Critical Race Theory, which it does not define

### **HB1514 (ACT 811): REP. MATT SHEPHERD – ENACTED**

This law requires all Arkansas K through 12th public schools to install wall mounted opioid rescue kits with Narcan or Naloxone nasal spray located next to every wall-mounted automated external defibrillator (AED) no later than January 1, 2024. Also, all school nurses and school resource officers are required to carry a kit on their person at all times. The law also requires state-sponsored colleges to install such wall-mounted kits in most campus buildings next to every AED or every fire extinguisher if no AED is present. CFC supported this as a way of making life-saving medicine available to address opioid overdoses.

### **SB308: SEN. JONATHAN DISMANG – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

This legislation would have amended current state law to allow any public or non-profit private school student who qualifies for the National School Lunch Program to eat breakfast and lunch at school every day at no cost. CFC supported this because feeding hungry kids is both humane and proven to be one of the most effective ways of raising student performance.

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1156</b>	<b>HB1504</b>	<b>HB1531</b>	<b>SB294</b>	<b>SB81</b>	<b>HB1514</b>
Achor (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Allen (D)	N	Y	NV	N	N	Y
Andrews (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Barker (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beaty (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beck (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bentley (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
M. Berry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
S. Berry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Breaux (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brooks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
K. Brown (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
M. Brown (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Burkes (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
J.L. Carr (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
J.P. Carr (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cavanaugh (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Clowney (D)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Collins (D)	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Cooper (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cozart (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
Crawford (R)	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y
Dalby (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Duffield (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Duke (R)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Eaves (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ennett (D)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Eubanks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Evans (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
D. Ferguson (D)	NV	Y	N	N	N	Y
K. Ferguson (D)	P	Y	NV	N	N	Y
C. Fite (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
L. Fite (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flowers (D)	P	Y	NV	N	N	Y



<b>House</b>	<b>HB1156</b>	<b>HB1504</b>	<b>HB1531</b>	<b>SB294</b>	<b>SB81</b>	<b>HB1514</b>
Fortner (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Furman (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Garner (D)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Gazaway (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gonzales (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gramlich (R)	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
Haak (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hawk (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
D. Hodges (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
G. Hodges (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Holcomb (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Hollowell (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
Hudson (D)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Jean (R)	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ladyman (R)	Y	NV	Y	Y	NV	Y
Long (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lundstrum (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lynch (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Maddox (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Magie (D)	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Mayberry (R)	Y	Y	Y	N	P	Y
McAlindon (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McClure (R)	Y	Y	NV	Y	P	Y
McCollum (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McCullough (D)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
McElroy (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
McGrew (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McKenzie (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McNair (R)	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y
Meeks (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Miller (R)	NV	Y	NV	Y	NV	Y
Milligan (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1156</b>	<b>HB1504</b>	<b>HB1531</b>	<b>SB294</b>	<b>SB81</b>	<b>HB1514</b>
J. Moore (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
K. Moore (R)	Y	Y	NV	Y	P	Y
Nicks (D)	NV	Y	NV	N	N	Y
Painter (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pearce (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Perry (D)	P	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Pilkington (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV
Puryear (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ray (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
J. Richardson (D)	P	Y	NV	N	N	Y
R.S. Richardson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Richmond (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rose (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rye (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Schulz (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Scott (D)	N	Y	NV	N	N	Y
T. Shephard (D)	P	Y	N	N	N	Y
M. Shepherd (R)	NV	NV	NV	Y	NV	Y
Springer (D)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Steimel (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tosh (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Underwood (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Unger (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vaught (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Walker (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Wardlaw (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
Warren (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Watson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
Whitaker (D)	NV	Y	N	N	N	Y
Wing (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Womack (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wooldridge (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wooten (R)	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y

<b>Senate</b>	<b>HB1156</b>	<b>HB1504</b>	<b>HB1531</b>	<b>SB294</b>	<b>SB81</b>	<b>HB1514</b>
Boyd (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bryant (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Caldwell (R)	Y	E	E	NV	E	Y
Chesterfield (D)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Clark (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Crowell (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Davis (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dees (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dismang (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y
Dotson (R)	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
English (R)	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y
Flippo (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flowers (D)	N	E	N	E	E	E
Gilmore (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hammer (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hester (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hickey (R)	Y	Y	N	NV	Y	P
Hill (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Irvin (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P
B.Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P
M.Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
King (R)	Y	Y	N	NV	NV	N
Leding (D)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Love (D)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
McKee (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Murdock (D)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Payton (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Penzo (R)	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Petty (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rice (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV
Stone (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stubblefield (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sullivan (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Tucker (D)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Wallace (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

# **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**CO-CHAIRS: GEORGE WISE & GARY KAHANAK**



## **PRIORITIES:**

- Address climate change by expanding energy efficiency and renewable energy reforms that reduce carbon pollution, save consumers money, and create jobs.**
- Create a pathway to carbon neutrality in electricity production and improve carbon emissions transparency for consumers.**

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BILLS

## **HB1307 (ACT 411): REP. JEFF WARDLAW – ENACTED**

This act states that any state public entity divest itself of all direct or indirect holdings with a financial services provider upholding ESG (environmental, social and governance) standards. It also mandates that the Treasurer of State post a list on its website of financial services providers that discriminate against energy companies or firearms entities or otherwise refuse to deal based on ESG factors.

CFC opposed this bill as it goes against its priorities for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

## **HB1370: REP. LANNY FITE – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

HB1370 would have dismantled Arkansas's 1:1 net-metering policies that have made Arkansas one of the fastest-growing states for solar in the region. While this bill did not pass, its Senate companion bill, SB295 – now Act 278 – did pass after several amendments.

## **SB62 (ACT 611): SEN. RICKY HILL – ENACTED**

This prohibits state public entities from entering into a contract with a company (to acquire or dispose of services, supplies, information technology, or construction) unless the contract includes a written certification that the person/company is not currently engaged in – and agrees for the duration of the contract not to engage in – a “boycott” of energy, fossil fuel, firearms, and ammunition industries.

This bill has similar intent as Act 411 and CFC opposed it on the same grounds.

## **HB1395: REP. DENISE ENNETT – DIED IN COMMITTEE**

This bill would have created a task force to help with advanced energy job creation in the state. The bill defines advanced electricity as a transition to a low emission electrical grid system with diverse advanced electricity resources. The task force would have duties to promote adoption of advanced electricity by Arkansas businesses and expand advanced electricity technical training options with educational institutions.

The CFC supported this bill because it directly related to its elected priorities for a better Arkansas.

## **SB295 (ACT 278): SEN. JONATHAN DISMANG – ENACTED**

This thrice-amended bill will end the state's 1:1 net metering policy put in place by the Solar Access Act of 2019. Utility companies will stop paying retail rates under the 1:1 policy for electricity they purchase from solar consumers and move to paying wholesale rates.

Before passing, the grandfathering rules were amended, allowing anyone who wants to benefit from rooftop solar energy under the 1:1 policy to do so through 2024. Maximizing solar energy in Arkansas is a critical piece of combating the effects of climate change, and the CFC opposed this bill for the devastating impact it will likely have on the state's solar industry, including jobs and electric rates.

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1307</b>	<b>SB295</b>	<b>SB62</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>HB1307</b>	<b>SB295</b>	<b>SB62</b>
Achor (R)	Y	NV	Y	Flowers (D)	N	NV	N
Allen (D)	Y	Y	P	Fortner (R)	Y	Y	Y
Andrews (R)	Y	Y	Y	Furman (R)	Y	Y	Y
Barker (R)	Y	P	Y	Garner (D)	N	N	N
Beaty (R)	Y	Y	Y	Gazaway (R)	Y	Y	Y
Beck (R)	Y	Y	Y	Gonzales (R)	Y	Y	Y
Bentley (R)	Y	Y	Y	Gramlich (R)	Y	Y	Y
M. Berry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Haak (R)	NV	Y	Y
S. Berry (R)	Y	Y	Y	Hawk (R)	Y	Y	Y
Breaux (R)	Y	Y	Y	D. Hodges (R)	Y	Y	Y
Brooks (R)	Y	P	Y	G. Hodges (R)	Y	Y	Y
K. Brown (R)	Y	Y	Y	Holcomb (R)	Y	P	Y
M. Brown (R)	Y	Y	Y	Hollowell (R)	Y	Y	Y
Burkes (R)	Y	Y	Y	Hudson (D)	N	N	N
J.L. Carr (R)	N	Y	Y	Jean (R)	NV	Y	Y
J.P. Carr (R)	Y	Y	Y	Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y
Cavanaugh (R)	Y	Y	Y	Ladyman (R)	Y	Y	Y
Clowney (D)	N	N	N	Long (R)	Y	N	Y
Collins (D)	N	N	N	Lundstrum (R)	Y	Y	Y
Cooper (R)	P	N	Y	Lynch (R)	Y	Y	Y
Cozart (R)	Y	Y	Y	Maddox (R)	Y	Y	Y
Crawford (R)	NV	Y	NV	Magie (D)	N	Y	N
Dalby (R)	NV	Y	Y	Mayberry (R)	N	Y	Y
Duffield (R)	Y	N	Y	McAlindon (R)	Y	Y	Y
Duke (R)	N	Y	Y	McClure (R)	Y	Y	Y
Eaves (R)	NV	Y	Y	McCollum (R)	Y	Y	Y
Ennett (D)	N	N	N	McCullough (D)	N	N	N
Eubanks (R)	Y	Y	Y	McElroy (R)	Y	Y	Y
Evans (R)	Y	Y	Y	McGrew (R)	Y	Y	Y
D. Ferguson (D)	N	NV	Y	McKenzie (R)	Y	Y	Y
K. Ferguson (D)	NV	Y	NV	McNair (R)	Y	Y	Y
C. Fite (R)	Y	Y	Y	Meeks (R)	Y	P	Y
L. Fite (R)	Y	Y	Y	Miller (R)	Y	Y	NV

<b>House</b>	<b>HB1307</b>	<b>SB295</b>	<b>SB62</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>HB1307</b>	<b>SB295</b>	<b>SB62</b>
Milligan (R)	Y	Y	Y	Boyd (R)	Y	Y	Y
J. Moore (R)	Y	Y	Y	Bryant (R)	Y	Y	Y
K. Moore (R)	NV	P	Y	Caldwell (R)	P	E	E
Nicks (D)	NV	Y	Y	Chesterfield (D)	N	N	N
Painter (R)	Y	Y	Y	Clark (R)	Y	N	Y
Pearce (R)	Y	Y	Y	Crowell (R)	Y	Y	Y
Perry (D)	N	Y	Y	Davis (R)	Y	Y	Y
Pilkington (R)	Y	Y	Y	Dees (R)	Y	Y	Y
Puryear (R)	Y	Y	Y	Dismang (R)	N	Y	Y
Ray (R)	Y	Y	Y	Dotson (R)	Y	Y	Y
J. Richardson (D)	NV	Y	NV	English (R)	N	Y	N
R. Richardson (R)	Y	N	Y	Flippo (R)	Y	Y	Y
Richmond (R)	Y	P	Y	Flowers (D)	N	N	E
Rose (R)	Y	Y	Y	Gilmore (R)	Y	Y	Y
Rye (R)	Y	Y	Y	Hammer (R)	P	Y	Y
Schulz (R)	Y	Y	Y	Hester (R)	Y	Y	Y
Scott (D)	N	N	N	Hickey (R)	N	Y	Y
T. Shephard (D)	N	NV	NV	Hill (R)	Y	Y	Y
M. Shepherd (R)	Y	NV	NV	Irvin (R)	P	Y	Y
Springer (D)	N	NV	N	B.Johnson (R)	Y	Y	Y
Steimel (R)	Y	N	Y	M.Johnson (R)	Y	N	Y
Tosh (R)	P	Y	Y	King (R)	Y	Y	Y
Underwood (R)	Y	Y	Y	Leding (D)	N	N	N
Unger (R)	Y	Y	Y	Love (D)	N	P	N
Vaught (R)	Y	N	Y	McKee (R)	Y	Y	Y
Walker (R)	Y	Y	Y	Murdock (D)	N	N	Y
Wardlaw (R)	Y	NV	Y	Payton (R)	Y	Y	Y
Warren (R)	NV	Y	Y	Penzo (R)	Y	Y	Y
Watson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Petty (R)	Y	Y	Y
Whitaker (D)	N	N	N	Rice (R)	Y	Y	Y
Wing (R)	Y	Y	Y	Stone (R)	Y	N	Y
Womack (R)	Y	Y	Y	Stubblefield (R)	Y	Y	Y
Wooldridge (R)	Y	Y	Y	Sullivan (R)	Y	Y	Y
Wooten (R)	N	Y	Y	Tucker (D)	N	N	N
				Wallace (R)	Y	N	Y

# 2022 CFC MEMBERSHIP GROUPS

- Arkansans Against School Paddling
- Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
- Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association, Inc.
- Arkansas Community Organizations
- Arkansas Conservation Coalition
- Arkansas Education Association
- Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light
- Arkansas Natural Sky Association
- Arkansas Renewable Energy Association
- Arkansas Sierra Club
- Arkansas United
- Arkansas Youth Coalition for Social Change
- Concern Citizens of Monticello
- Concerned Citizen of Waldo
- Concerned Citizens of Prescott
- Concerned Citizens of the Marvell Area
- Desha County Social Justicee Advocacy Alliance
- Gould citizens Advisory Council
- Gould Organizing Project
- Human Rights Campaign - Arkansas
- League of Women Voters of Arkansas
- League of Women Voters of Pulaski County
- Little Rock Freedom Fund
- Magnolia Community Awareness Council
- Omni Center for Peace, Justice & Ecology
- Pine Bluff Social Justice Activists
- Saline County Women in Arkansas
- Strong Community Leadership Alliance
- Teach Plus Arkansas
- The Arkansas Out of School Network
- Unitarian Universalist Church

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CITIZENS FIRST CONGRESS (CFC) ----- [WWW.CITIZENSFIRST.ORG](http://WWW.CITIZENSFIRST.ORG)  
ARKANSAS PUBLIC POLICY PANEL ----- [WWW.ARPANEL.ORG](http://WWW.ARPANEL.ORG)  
2023 LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY ----- [WWW.CITIZENSFIRST.ORG/2023-ARLEG-DIRECTORY](http://WWW.CITIZENSFIRST.ORG/2023-ARLEG-DIRECTORY)  
ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE ----- [WWW.ARKLEG.STATE.AR.US](http://WWW.ARKLEG.STATE.AR.US)  
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