

POPULAR NAME

THE ARKANSAS GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AMENDMENT.

BALLOT TITLE

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO CREATE THE “ARKANSAS GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AMENDMENT”;

ESTABLISHING GOVERNMENT’S OBLIGATION TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH AND DELIVER INFORMATION TO CITIZENS AS A RIGHT;

PROHIBITING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM MAKING A LAW CONCERNING GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE PEOPLE, BUT ALLOWING A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REFER THAT LAW TO THE PEOPLE TO BE APPROVED OR REJECTED AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION;

PERMITTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BY A NINE TENTHS VOTE AND IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, TO MAKE A REFERRED LAW TAKE IMMEDIATE EFFECT UNTIL APPROVED OR REJECTED AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION;

CLARIFYING THAT ANY ACT REFERRED UNDER THIS AMENDMENT IS NOT A REFERRED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT UNDER ARTICLE 12, SECTION 22 OF THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION;

PROHIBITING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM REFERRING FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO THE ARKANSAS GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AMENDMENT TO THE PEOPLE UNDER ARTICLE 12, SECTION 22;

PRESERVING THE PEOPLE’S POWER TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AMENDMENT UNDER ARTICLE 5, SECTION 1 OF THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION;

EMPOWERING ARKANSAS CITIZENS TO SUE THE STATE OF ARKANSAS IN COURT AND RECOVER DAMAGES AND ATTORNEY’S FEES FOR GOVERNMENT’S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY;

CLARIFYING THAT THIS AMENDMENT DOES NOT ALTER THE CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS OF THE STATE SUPREME COURT;

CLARIFYING THAT THIS AMENDMENT DOES NOT ALTER THE CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DETERMINE THE RULES THAT AFFECT THE OPENNESS OF STATE LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS;

DECLARING THAT ALL PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, STATUTES, AND COMMON LAW OF THIS STATE TO THE EXTENT INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT WITH ANY PROVISION OF THIS AMENDMENT ARE EXPRESSLY DECLARED NULL AND VOID;

PROVIDING THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AMENDMENT ARE SEVERABLE; AND

STATING THAT THE AMENDMENT IS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 6, 2024.