

Vision for a Just and Thriving Arkansas

We believe in building a future where every Arkansan has access to quality education, fair wages, comprehensive healthcare, and a safe, sustainable environment. Our platform is rooted in equity, opportunity, and community empowerment. Here's how we plan to make that vision a reality.

AR Progressive Democrats

Chapters



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Education

Ensuring every child and adult in Arkansas has access to high-quality, inclusive, and equitable education from early childhood through higher education.



- Education declared a human right at all levels.
- Overturn the LEARNS Act and ban school vouchers.
- Overturn the Bell to Bell, No Cell Act.
- Reinstate the Teacher Fair Dismissal Act.
- Universal Pre-K and state-funded before/after-school care.
- Fresh, locally sourced meals through Farm to Cafeteria programs.
- Boost teacher and support staff pay and benefits.
- Equitable access to technology and improved IEP/504 support.
- Gender-inclusive health support and training for school staff.
- Gun safety, hunting, fishing, and archery education in partnership with Arkansas Game & Fish.
- Universal public college and technical school.
- Recognize college athletes as workers with full rights and rights to their likeness.
- Expand agri-tech programs and address rural/urban funding gaps.
- Codify separation of church and state.
- Student debt buyback program.
- Universal K–12 testing standards.
- Implement Restorative Justice Practices as alternatives to more punitive discipline strategies.

Labor & Workers' Rights

Creating a fair economy by empowering workers, raising wages, protecting labor rights, and promoting cooperative ownership and job security.



- \$20/hr minimum wage, indexed to inflation.
- End “Right to Work” laws.
- Guarantee the right to a job and ability to unionize.
- Stronger labor protections and penalties for violations.
- Tax incentives for worker-owned cooperatives.
- Ban unpaid internships and restrict non-compete agreements.
- Fair scheduling and protection from hour cuts.
- Centralized job application system.
- Support for job relocation and unemployment access.
- AI regulation to protect workers.
- Land Trust/Land Bank development for community ownership.
- Streamline unemployment and add availability for workers who quit their jobs to draw unemployment.

Healthcare for All

Guaranteeing comprehensive, accessible, and affordable healthcare for every Arkansan, including mental, dental, vision, and reproductive care.

- Universal state healthcare, including dental and vision.
- Medical debt buyback program.
- Menstrual and reproductive/contraceptive products as a human right.
- Abortion rights protected by law.
- Ban healthcare algorithms that deny coverage.
- Eliminate predatory life insurance practices.
- Zero-cost prescriptions and regulated pharmaceutical prices, including zero cost prescriptions.
- Universal funeral care.
- Expand healthcare education and workforce incentives.
- Paid sick and parental leave for all.
- Expanded FMLA protections to include all family and designated caretakers.
- Legalize marijuana and seal past convictions.



Agriculture & Food Sovereignty

Supporting local farmers, sustainable practices, and food systems that nourish our communities and protect our land.

- Support value-added production and local marketing.
- Match VAPG funds and strengthen ag extension services.
- Incentivize ag cooperatives and regenerative farming.
- Urban farming programs and cover crop reimbursements.
- State-backed compensation for uninsured agri-business losses.



Economic Justice

Building a fair and inclusive economy by reforming taxation, supporting small businesses, and ensuring public resources serve the public good.



- Progressive tax code with higher rates for ultra-wealthy.
- End grocery tax and reduce alcohol tax for small businesses.
- End statewide alcohol prohibition.
- Repeal anti-BDS laws.
- Publicly run grocery stores in food deserts.
- Businesses should not be granted individual rights protections.
- Promote local development from local sources.

Housing and Urban Development

Ensuring every Arkansan has access to safe, affordable housing and vibrant communities through responsible development and public investment.

- Renewable energy mandates for new developments.
- Higher taxes for out-of-state real estate investors.
- End property tax on used vehicles after 5 years.
- Comprehensive Renters Bill of Rights.
- Public vote required to reduce parklands.
- Free hunting licenses with competency testing.
- Fully fund and protect public housing.
- Support community land trusts and non-extractive development.
- Guarantee safe, stable housing with private space for all.
- Responsible land development to protect ecosystems.
- More shelter resources for DV survivors, disabled, and unhoused.
- Incentives to move to urban areas with transit and amenity perks.



Environment

Protecting Arkansas's natural beauty and resources while transitioning to a clean energy future that supports workers and communities.

- Develop a state-funded program to retrain fossil fuel workers for renewable energy jobs.
- Transition utilities to public ownership.
- Protect watersheds and promote eco-tourism.



Civil Rights & Social Justice

Upholding the dignity, safety, and rights of all people in Arkansas through bold reforms that dismantle systemic injustice and promote equity.



- Expand DREAM Act to include adult participants in Arkansas.
- Migration defined as a human right in the state constitution.
- End the ban on Sanctuary Cities.
- Make segregated communities explicitly illegal.
- Equal protection for all religions under state law.
- Police must protect people, not property.
- High standards for law enforcement with automatic termination for violations.
- Reduce/eliminate court fees for non-white collar crimes.
- Audit religious institutions for tax exemption violations.
- Divest public employee retirement funds from genocide-linked entities.
- Mandatory empathy and ethics training for police.
- End juvenile incarceration and trying juveniles as adults.
- Reform Three-Strikes Law to exclude non-violent misdemeanors.

Voting Rights

Empowering every Arkansan to participate in democracy by expanding access to voting and modernizing our electoral systems.



- Automatic voter registration at age 18, with updates tied to ID/license changes.
- Felons retain voting rights regardless of conviction.
- Lower voting age to 16, with civic education and engagement programs.
 - Teen parents under 16 granted voting rights.
 - Project-Based Learning model for local/state voting at 16, full access at 18.
- Every county courthouse and library becomes a voting station.
- Poll workers employed as temporary state/local workers with full benefits.
- End “First Past the Post” system; implement ranked choice or STAR voting.

Requirements for Elected Officials

Restoring trust in public service by ensuring transparency, accountability, and ethical standards for those who represent us.

- Must reside in Arkansas (not just hold a PO Box or holding address).
- Required regular in-person town halls.
- Ban financial trading for elected officials and their immediate families.
- Ban corporate spending in Arkansas elections.
- Public campaign financing.
- Mentorship programs to preserve institutional knowledge.
- 25-year term limits for elected state or federal positions.

