



**Progressive
Arkansas
Women PAC**

Toolkit for Mobilizing Opposition to Anti-Democracy Ballot Initiative Bills

Summary of What's Happening

The Arkansas legislature is considering a slate of bills (SB207-SB212) that threaten the people's constitutional right to amend their government through ballot initiatives and referendums. If passed, these bills will significantly restrict citizen-led initiatives (like the abortion initiative from 2024), impose unnecessary barriers to the process, and consolidate power in the hands of the Secretary of State, making it easier to reject petitions without any accountability.

PAWPAC strongly opposes these bills and encourages you to get involved by:

- ✓ Calling & texting the senators on the committee before the committee hearing on February 11th
- ✓ Attending the public comment hearing on Tuesday, February 11th
- ✓ Join the sit-in or Capitol steps protest (wear purple!) on Tuesday, February 11th
- ✓ Sharing this toolkit widely

All the tools you need to do this are in this toolkit, so keep reading!

Why These Bills Are Dangerous

- **SB207:** Requires canvassers to warn signers about petition fraud, instilling unnecessary fear in voters.
- **SB208:** Requires a photo ID to sign a petition, even though Arkansas does not require ID for voter registration.
- **SB209:** Gives the Secretary of State unilateral power to disqualify all signatures collected by a canvasser without a clear appeal process.
- **SB210:** Forces canvassers to read the entire ballot title to signers, making the process impractical and inaccessible.

- **SB211:** Imposes burdensome affidavits before signatures can be counted, causing bureaucratic delays.
- **SB212:** Creates a new division with unchecked investigative power over ballot initiatives.

These bills collectively weaken direct democracy in Arkansas, making it nearly impossible for grassroots movements to succeed.

To learn more about these bills, there are several great resources available. A [video analysis of the bills](#) by the Public Policy Panel and [this TikTok](#) by Kristin Foster from Get Loud Arkansas.

1. CALL & TEXT THESE LEGISLATORS

Calls & Texts Will Be Most Effective!

Arkansas legislators do not have staff members and often do not have time to read emails. Calls and texts will have the greatest impact.

Key Targets: Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee

Senator	Phone (Call & Text)
Scott Flippo	870-421-3420
John Payton	(501) 362-5815
Alan Clark	(501) 844-6800
Jim Dotson	(479) 222-1234
Bryan King	(501) 682-5452
Dan Sullivan	(870) 275-2929
Clarke Tucker	(501) 246-4933
Kim Hammer (Sponsor of the bills)	(501) 840-3841

Sample Call Script

***Hello, my name is [Your Name] and I'm a constituent from [Your City]. I'm calling to urge Senator [Last Name] to vote NO on SB207-SB212. These bills make it harder for everyday Arkansans to participate in our democracy by restricting the ballot initiative process and giving the Secretary of State unchecked power to reject petitions.

For over a century, Arkansans have used ballot initiatives to shape our state's future. These bills take that power away from the people and put it in the hands of politicians. Please vote NO on these anti-democratic bills. Thank you."**


Sample Text Message


"Hi, my name is [Your Name] and I'm a constituent from [Your City]. I strongly oppose SB207-SB212 because they strip away Arkansans' right to direct democracy. These bills create unnecessary barriers for petition efforts and give politicians too much power to reject valid signatures. Please vote NO on these anti-democracy bills. Thank you."

2. SHOW UP & SPEAK OUT

Hearing Details

 **Date:** Tuesday, February 11th

 **Time:** 10:00 AM

 **Location:** Arkansas State Capitol, in the old Supreme Court room ([map](#))

 **Agenda items:** [full agenda](#)

Ways to Show Opposition at the Capitol

There are **three** ways to show your opposition:

1) Participate in Public Comment

- Arrive between 9:00 - 9:30 AM to sign up to speak
- Prepare to speak for 1 minute. See Public Comment Messaging Points below for guidance on this.
- Let the organizers know you're coming by filling out this [Google Form](#)

2) Join a Peaceful Sit-In (Wear Purple!)

- Where: Inside the Capitol
- Dress Code: Wear purple to show solidarity
- What to bring: Signs (without sticks). Focus on messages about the importance of direct democracy or Arkansas's state motto, Regnat Populus, which is Latin for "The People Rule."
- Why: A peaceful presence in the Capitol helps show public opposition
- Let the organizers know you're coming by filling out this [Google Form](#)

3) Protest on the Capitol Steps (Wear Purple!)

- Where: The steps of the Capitol
- Dress Code: Wear purple for visibility and unity

- What to bring: Signs, banners, and friends!
 - Why: A visible, vocal presence outside the Capitol raises awareness
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3. PUBLIC COMMENT MESSAGING POINTS

Giving public comments can feel intimidating, so it's best to prepare ahead of time. We anticipate a large number of comments during this, so it's best to plan to keep your remarks under 1 minute.

Here are some key points to guide your message:

[SB207 - Fear-Based Canvasser Disclosure](#)

🗨️ "SB207 unfairly intimidates voters by forcing canvassers to warn people about petition fraud, even when no crime is being committed. This discourages Arkansans from signing petitions and creates unnecessary fear around participating in our democracy."

[SB208 - Unconstitutional Photo ID Requirement](#)

🗨️ "SB208 requires a photo ID to sign a petition, even though Arkansas doesn't require an ID to register to vote. This places an unconstitutional barrier on citizens who want to participate in the ballot initiative process."

[SB209 - Secretary of State Power Grab](#)

🗨️ "SB209 allows the Secretary of State to disqualify all signatures collected by a canvasser without a fair appeals process. This means thousands of valid signatures could be thrown out based on arbitrary decisions, making it impossible for grassroots efforts to succeed."

[SB210 - Unreasonable Ballot Title Requirement](#)

🗨️ "SB210 forces canvassers to read the entire ballot title to signers, which can be hundreds of words long. This makes petitioning impossible at events like farmers markets or public gatherings and discourages participation."

[SB211 - Unnecessary Bureaucratic Delays](#)

🗨️ "SB211 adds unnecessary red tape to petition efforts by requiring affidavits before signatures are counted. This slows down the process and creates barriers for citizen-led initiatives."

[SB212 - New Investigatory Division with Unchecked Power](#)

🗨️ "SB212 creates a new division with full subpoena power to investigate petition efforts—despite Arkansas already having an Election Integrity Division under the Attorney General. This bill expands government power to intimidate grassroots movements."

4. SPREAD THE WORD

- **Send this toolkit** to friends, family, organizations, and the media
 - **Print copies** for meetings, churches, and workplaces
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5. SOCIAL MEDIA ACTION

Social media is a powerful tool for mobilization. Use these hashtags and tag your legislators:


- ◆ #ProtectDirectDemocracy
- ◆ #ArkansasVotesMatter
- ◆ #StopThePowerGrab

Sample Social Media Post


 **ALERT: Arkansas lawmakers are trying to take away our right to ballot initiatives!** 


SB207-SB212 create unnecessary barriers to signature collection, give politicians unchecked power to reject petitions, and silence grassroots efforts.

 **Take action NOW:**

 Call & text your senator: [Insert Link to Contact Info]

 Show up at the Capitol on **Feb. 11 @ 10 AM**

 **Wear purple** and join the sit-in or the protest on the Capitol steps!

 Arkansans have used ballot initiatives for over 100 years—DON'T let them take this right away!

#ProtectDirectDemocracy #NoToSB207 #StopThePowerGrab

NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Call & text your senator before February 11th
- ✓ Attend the public comment hearing & show up early
- ✓ Join the sit-in or Capitol steps protest (wear purple!)
- ✓ Share this toolkit widely
- ✓ Stay engaged for future actions

Together, we can protect Arkansas's ballot initiative process. Let's take action!