

Arkansas Ethics Commission - 2025-2026 Rule Making - Public Comments Received:

Summary of Public Comments: The Commission received public comments from Grant Wise of the Bureau of Legislative Research (“BLR”) regarding four (4) of the six (6) sets of draft rules sought to be amended. All of the comments identified non-substantive changes that needed to be made to bring consistency with the underlying statutes. All comments made by Mr. Wise were incorporated into the amended draft rules. No public comments were received for the Rules on Ballot and Legislative Question Committees, the Rules on Campaign Contribution Limit (To be Repealed), or the Rules on Special State Employees (The AEC withdrew its request to amend said rules on 7/28/26 because BLR administratively updated statutory citations, which was the sole reason for amending the rules.)

Rules on Political Committees: (Two (2) comments received, both on July 29, 2026)

Comment: In the draft of 7 CAR § 5-103(l), 7 CAR § 5-103(l)(1) – (3) appeared to have been removed from the rule due to Act 592 of 2025. However, the statutory language upon which 7 CAR § 5-103(l)(3) appears to be based was not repealed by the act and can be found at Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-215(d)(6)(A).

AEC Response: Act 592 of 2025 amended Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-215(d)(6) by deleting two (2) of the four (4) subchapters. However, in the initial draft of the amended rules, three (3) of the four (4) subchapters were erroneously removed. This omission was in error and Mr. Wise’s comment has been incorporated. The contents of Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-215(d)(6)(A) have been added back to the amended draft of the rules.

Comment: In 7 CAR § 5-111, the word “committee” is omitted following “county political party.” This rule provision appears premised on Arkansas Code § 7-6-206(a). However, where the statute mentions “a county political party committee”, the rule references “a county political party”.

AEC Response: The word “committee” has been added to the amended draft section of the Rules on Political Committee to be harmonious with the statute. The omission of the word “committee” was inadvertent.

Rules on Campaign Finance & Disclosure: (Two (2) comments received, both on August 11, 2026)

Comment: In the initial draft of the proposed amended RCF&D, in 7 CAR § 3-140(b)(1)(C)(iv), the provision appears to track Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(c)(2)(C)(iv). However, where the statute makes a reference to “this subchapter” the draft of the amended rule cites to “this section”.

AEC Response: The updated draft has been correct to comport with the statutory language.

Comment: In 7 CAR § 3-141(b)(4), appears to be premised on Arkansas Code § 7-6-208, concerning reports of contributions for candidates for school district, township, or municipal office. The proposed rule adds language in subdivision (b)(4) concerning a candidate keeping remaining funds. While Act 592 of 2025, § 5, added this same language to Arkansas Code § 7-6-207, that statute concerns reports of contributions for state or district office. Act 994 of 2025, § 1, repealed this same language from Arkansas Code § 7-6-208 and added somewhat differing language at subdivision (a)(2)(B) of that section.

AEC Response: This word choice was inadvertent, because the overall substance of the two provisions was very similar. The suggested correction has been made, and the proper language from Act 994 of 2025 has been added to the updated amended drafts.

Rules on Independent Expenditures: (One (1) comment, received on August 11, 2026)

Comment: 7 CAR § 6-102(b) concerns the contents of the registration form of an independent expenditure committee (IEC). Language requiring an affirmation was added as subdivision (b)(6) of the rule that appears premised on Act 999 of 2025, § 3. That section of the Act, however, amended Arkansas Code § 7-6-220, which concerns reports of independent expenditures, rather than the registration form of an IEC addressed in Arkansas Code § 7-6-227.

AEC Response: The new requirement for an affirmation to be filed was added to the section related to *reports*, but the initial amended draft rules added it the *registration* section. This has been corrected in the updated version.

Comment: 7 CAR § 6-107(c) appears to be premised on Arkansas Code § 7-6-206(a). However, where the statute cites to Arkansas Code “§ 7-6-201 et seq.”, the rule cites solely to Arkansas Code § 7-6-201.

AEC Response: “et seq.” was inadvertently omitted from the initial drafted amended rules. This has been corrected.

Rules on Conflicts: (One (1) Comment, received on August 11, 2026)

Comment: In 21 CAR § 2-101(6)(C), while the Arkansas School for the Deaf was struck through, it appears the Arkansas School for the Blind was not struck through in the initial draft.

AEC Response: Act 796 of 2025 combined the names of the Arkansas School for the deaf and the Arkansas School for the Blind. In the initial draft of the amended rules, only the former name of one school was deleted, when both should have been deleted. This has been corrected in the updated version of the draft amended rules.