



UNITY & COMMUNITY

THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

... serving our community for over twenty years

April 2021



Moving Forward

From the pen of the president,

Jane Browning

The world is a better place with President Joe Biden in the White House and Vice President Kamala Harris at his side. The calm, competent daily flow of the federal administration is so welcome I almost cry some days. Bold, carefully designed plans are enacted to meet every existential challenge the world is facing. The array of problems awaiting attention seems endless, but the Biden Administration is unafraid and comes equipped with hundreds of knowledgeable and experienced veterans of government to tackle them head-on. With Democrats in power, I feel optimism once again and can finally get a good night's sleep.

But the irrational forces of Chaos are not gone, they have just moved into the nation's State Houses. The Arkansas State Legislature is rampaging through the worst legislative session on record. The number and nature of truly terrible bills is astonishing, and they are passing without meeting a single obstacle. The Republican leadership simply ignores its own rules of operation when they do meet a bump in the road. A bill is voted down in committee? Just do an end-run and bring it to the floor regardless! The Governor vetoes a cruel and stupid governmental overreach? Just override the veto and proceed.

There is only one antidote to the contagion of chaos in state politics, and that is to elect Democrats to local and state offices. In Saline County, the Democratic Party is directly contacting every registered Democrat with postcards encouraging activism. The Democratic State Party significantly reduced the cost of filing fees to encourage candidate recruitment. And the Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village is staffing up its various committees with volunteers like you who are determined to do something about turning the tide blue, even in Arkansas.

With the dawn of a new Democratic power in the land and the rising of the season of renewal this spring, our Club is getting back together in-person at this month's quarterly meeting on Friday, April 23rd. Come to the Balboa Pavilion at 3 p.m. for fellowship, inspiration, and the offer of jobs for you to do. It will be National Picnic Day and we will honor this holiday with free food and drink, and music. Anaïs Troadec, a former secretary of the HSV Dems board, will give us an overview of the disastrous legislative session, and our committee chairs will be standing by to sign you up to organize for positive change.

Mark your calendars for future quarterly meetings on fourth Fridays in July and October. Our July gala fundraiser will take place at the DeSoto Club, and Octoberfest will feature a Halloween Costume Dog Parade!

See you soon!

Jane Browning

100% Dedicated
to turning Arkansas blue

- *Raising wages, closing the wealth gap, strengthening Social Security*
- *Lowering health care costs; ensuring all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care; stabilizing Medicare and Medicaid*

P.O. Box 8693, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71910



Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village

Join us for our Quarterly Meeting & Celebrate

National Picnic Day



3p.m. at the
Balboa Pavilion

Featuring a legislative recap by Anaïs Troadec

Catered by Subway - FREE food, drinks, beer & wine

Please RSVP by April 19th

so we can provide an accurate count to our caterer.

Just visit our website at hsvdemocrats.com

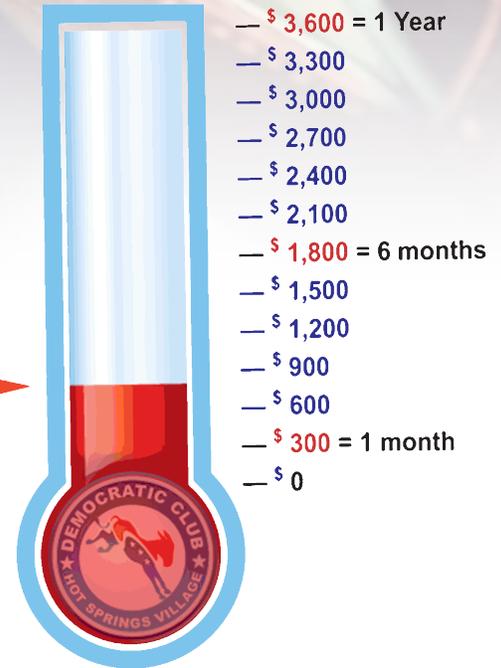
and click the RSVP button.

PLEASE WEAR MASKS

We're Putting Your Money to Work



\$ 930



**WE NEED YOU
TO BE A
BILLBOARD BACKER!**

Lookin' Good In Our Neighborhood

Thanks to your generous donations and membership renewals, we now have FIVE NEW A-Frame structures! The new frames will hold our signage at events and we'll use them at various locations within HSV to promote and inform residents of our upcoming events.

Thank you!



Unfortunately, November 3rd did NOT stop the madness

by Michael Dryhurst



Well, we all knew that November 3rd would NOT stop the madness, NOT stop the lying, the conspiracy theories and all of the other ranting emanating from The White House. The Trump-et will continue his self-delusion until occurs the inevitable, which happens to all of us at some stage of our lives...?

And his supporters? They're no more pro-Republicans than Joseph Biden; they're ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT, regarding all and every long-term politician as the entrenched enemy, to be removed at all and any cost, irrespective of party. In my personal opinion, that's what the anarchy of 6th January was all about. As far as these hooligans are concerned, the Washington swamp is the Establishment (or vice-versa, whichever?) and this is what they want to see removed, feeling their lives are controlled by distant outside forces over which they have no control.

But with WHAT do they propose to replace it? Seen any rational suggestions from the likes of The Proud Boys? No, neither have I.

I return to Jan.6. We are told that the investigative agencies – the FBI, Homeland Security, etc., etc., - are plowing through miles of security-camera footage in an effort to identify individual rioters and charge them accordingly, but isn't this akin to looking for a needle in a haystack?

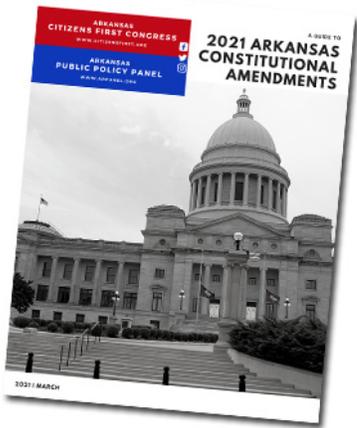
Jan 6 didn't just happen. It wasn't a spontaneous move on the part of certain people to make their way to D.C. to gather and protest the outcome of a general election. These people came from all over the USA to gather in our nation's capital on a particular day. Therefore, it had to be planned, it had to be coordinated, so who were the manipulators BEHIND the scenes who brought all of this together in a well-orchestrated piece of organizing? How did the rioters know the location of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office? Someone familiar with the Capitol building had to be able to tell the rioters where that particular office is to be found? In which case, WHO WAS IT?

Methinks the FBI and Homeland Security are looking in the wrong place; they need to be looking at the-then administration...from the upper echelons downwards?

Hot Springs Village **BUSINESS**

EXPO

Visit our table at the Hot Springs Village Business Expo Saturday, April 17, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Village Square Lower Parking Lot, By Village Inn! The event is managed by the Hot Springs Village Chamber of Commerce, and is an annual event that showcases local businesses, service providers, and non-profits. It is FREE and open to the public. Show your support, enjoy the event and help The Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village show our presence here in the Village.



DOWNLOAD A GUIDE TO ARKANSAS'S 2021 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

In 2021, Arkansas legislators filed 43 proposed amendments addressing a wide variety of issues including partisan elections, procedures to recall a state official, limits to lawsuit damages, renters' rights, and more. The General Assembly is allowed to refer up to three proposed constitutional amendments to voters in the 2022 General Election.

TORT REFORM

Four amendments. Tort Reform refers to actions that reduce claims paid in lawsuits or rights to file suit. Liability limits such as the proposed ones here can limit the rights of people to access the courts to address wrongs, and it can make it harder to use the courts as a tool to hold corporations accountable and get them to correct bad practices. In the case of these proposed amendments, the restrictions appear to be limited to worker claims against employers. The General Assembly sets the upper limits for these actions rather than a court or the Worker's Compensation Commission encroaching on judicial and executive branch responsibilities.

TAXES

Two amendments

POWER OF THE LEGISLATURE

Fourteen total amendments. Four amendments re: Increased legislative power over Executive Branch to call or force extraordinary (special) sessions. Likely to increase odds of legislative overreach and dramatically increase costs.

NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

Six amendments.

BALLOT INITIATIVES

Two amendments.

ELECTIONS

Four amendments. One of these amendments changes the primary process requiring all candidates to run on one ballot. Other amendments are shell bills.

EDUCATION

Four amendments.

OTHER AMENDMENTS

Seven other amendments.

The guide to those 43 proposed amendments provides the position of the Citizens First Congress on each bill, and a brief analysis of the bills.

DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE: www.citizensfirst.org/2021-guide-to-proposed-amendments

Sign up to receive alerts on priority issues and calls to action in the 2021 Legislative Session and **RECEIVE WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATES IN YOUR INBOX** at <https://www.citizensfirst.org>

25 HOUSE AMENDMENTS **18 SENATE AMENDMENTS** **43 TOTAL AMENDMENTS**

FAST FACTS ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- 4 EDUCATION**
- 14 POWER OF THE LEGISLATURE**
- 4 TORT REFORM**
- 2 TAXES**
- 4 ELECTIONS**
- 2 BALLOT INITIATIVES**
- 6 NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES**
- 7 OTHER**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAN PLACE UP TO THREE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE BALLOT.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE FILED AS EITHER HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS (HJR) OR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS (SJR).

BILLS ARE REFERRED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE HOUSE AND SENATE STATE AGENCIES COMMITTEES.

AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL APPEAR ON THE NOVEMBER 2022 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT.

AMENDMENTS DO NOT REQUIRE THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE.

* Shell Resolution: These are proposed resolutions that only have a title and no detailed text. It is possible that text can be amended into them after the deadline to submit a resolution (which was February 10th). We monitor these in case they are amended to add something of substance.

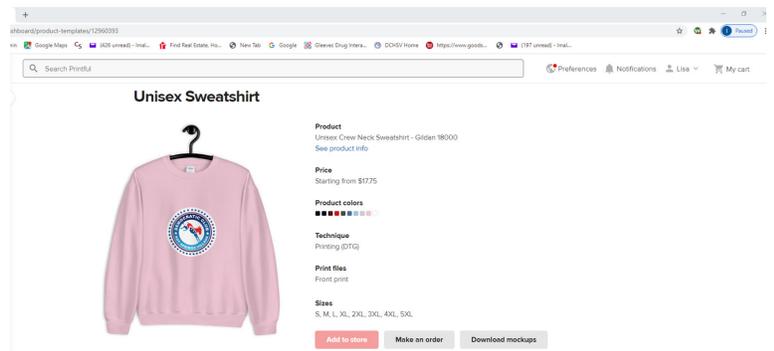
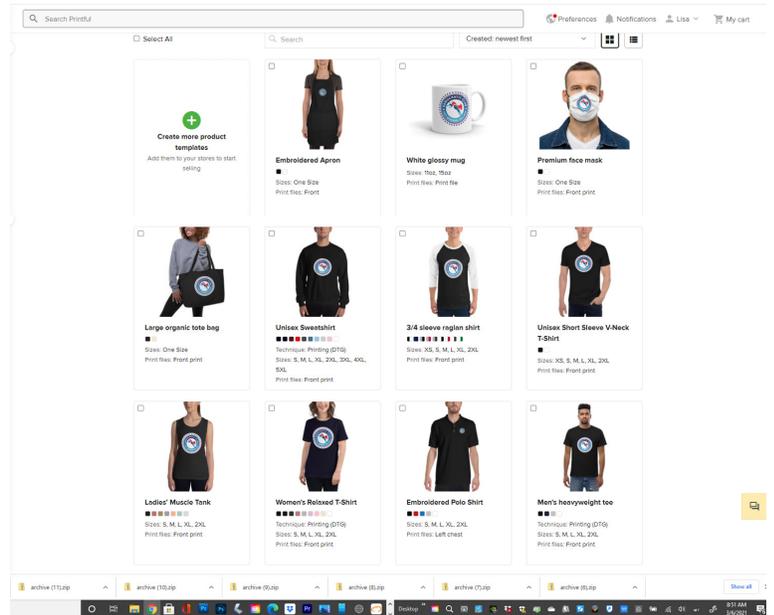
COMING SOON!

Show your Club pride!

Soon you will be able to browse through our new online shop for branded Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village merchandise with just a click. Watch for an e-blast announcement or keep an eye out for the Grand Re-opening at our website at www.hsvdemocrats.com

Choose from embroidered aprons, mugs, premium face masks, tote bags, unisex sweatshirts, 3/4 sleeve raglan shirts, short sleeve v-neck t-shirts, ladies' muscle tank tops, women's relaxed t-shirts, Embroidered polo shirts, men's heavyweight tees. Items include multiple options for colors and sizes and you can view what our logo will look like with each color choice. Anything you order will be shipped directly to your home or P.O. box so you won't need to wait for a quarterly meeting or event.

100% of all profits go to directly to the Democratic Club of HSV.



Century Club Members

These are members choosing to donate \$100 above membership dues annually to the Club to support Club activities. Not meeting in April or July made it tough to remind everyone as we would have if attending meetings as usual. A special thanks to any member who has already donated since the shutdown.

Earl & Suzie Babbie
 Colleen Boardman
 Debra Bryan & Lisa Malmin
 Joi Burton
 Rick & Chris Cash
 Larry & Nancy Chesser
 Glen & Molly Crashaw
 Bill & Charli Dillree
 Bob & Carole Dubbelde
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Webmaster & Web Content Management -
Nancy Jag-Nathan & Richard Jag-Nathan
Contributing Writer - **Michael Dryhurst**

2021 Lifetime Members

Lucy Ainge
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Thomas Boardman
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Glenn & Molly Crawshaw
Kay Croshaw
Bob & Carole Dubbelde
Ralph & Carol Hammer
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Shirley Koonce
Meg Koziar
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STAY CONNECTED!

Visit our Website at

www.hsvdemocrats.com

Find us on Facebook

Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village

After Georgia: Here Are 4 States To Watch Next On Voting Legislation

Written by Benjamin Swasey, April 13, 2021



While the debate and recriminations over Georgia’s controversial new election law continue, some attention turns elsewhere, to other states where lawmakers are similarly weighing contested voting legislation.

In the wake of last year’s massive voter turnout, lawmakers across the country have proposed hundreds of bills to reform how their states conduct elections.

Iowa, like Georgia, is among the states that have already passed voting overhauls. Kentucky is another — a rare instance in which there was bipartisan agreement.

But what else is likely to actually become law falls mostly along partisan lines.

States with Republican leadership — like Georgia, Iowa and Missouri — are broadly seeking measures to make their voting rules more restrictive, often citing the need for election “integrity” amid voters’ distrust in the system. But it was GOP lawmakers themselves, especially former President Donald Trump, who fostered this distrust by questioning election results with false claims of widespread voter fraud.

Meanwhile, Democratic legislatures — like in Vermont, Maryland and Massachusetts — are exploring expanding access, or making permanent some temporary measures that were introduced because of the pandemic. Due to the health crisis, nearly every state did something to make voting easier, at least temporarily.

In short, many states are going in opposite directions. And that’s as far-reaching federal measures backed by Democrats face a tough path ahead on Capitol Hill.

“In 2021, it’s really something of a great political clash,” Michael Waldman, president at the Brennan Center for Justice, a group that tracks state voting legislation and advocates for expanded

ballot access, told NPR recently, when asked about the broad push for election changes.

So, beyond Georgia, here are four states with battles over voting rules to watch:

Arizona

As with Georgia, Democrats won Arizona’s presidential contest and hold its two U.S. Senate seats, but Republicans control state leadership.

In Arizona, the biggest proposed election changes involve the state’s Permanent Early Voting List, a popular mail-ballot system that a majority of voters there use.

A GOP bill that’s passed the state Senate would make the list not-so-permanent anymore. If a voter doesn’t use their mail ballot for two straight two-year election cycles, they’d get a notice that they’re about to be removed from the list, and they’d have to respond to prevent that.

Arizona Democrats, who are opposed to the changes, have said that 126,000 voters cast early ballots in 2020 after not voting that way in 2016 or 2018. As a reminder, President Biden won the state last year by fewer than 11,000 votes.

Another bill, which the state Senate has also passed, would add voter ID requirements when a person mails back their ballot.

The governor signed an additional measure into law Friday. It bans election officials from receiving private funds to help pay for election operations, and comes after Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, last year donated more than \$400 million to nonprofits that in turn distributed grants to various election officials. Georgia’s new law includes a similar restriction.

Texas

Texas’ voter turnout hit a nearly 30-year high in 2020.

This year, state Republicans have proposed a series of voting bills that would restrict the ability of local election officials to make voting more convenient. That follows steps Harris County, which is home to Houston, took last year, including an expansion of voting hours and the introduction of drive-thru voting.

The GOP measures would also create new criminal penalties related to voting and the unauthorized distribution of ballot applications, and would require that election administrators put the same amount of voting machines in every one of their polling sites, no matter the location’s size.

After Georgia: Here Are 4 States To Watch Next On Voting Legislation

Continued from page 8



Democrats have criticized the bills, but Gov. Greg Abbott has said the state “must pass laws to prevent election officials from jeopardizing the election process.”

Even without these bills, some research has concluded that among all states, Texas has the most restrictive voting procedures.

Florida

Florida Republicans are weighing changes to ballot drop boxes — including a ban on them altogether. Another measure would make voters request vote-by-mail ballots more frequently, if they wanted to continue voting that way.

The efforts have the support of Gov. Ron DeSantis, a close ally of Trump’s. According to WLRN, DeSantis has backed other changes to the vote-by-mail system as well, including more scrutiny of ballot signatures and prohibiting “volunteers from collecting vote-by-mail ballots from people outside their immediate families, a process dubbed ‘ballot harvesting.’”

Michigan

Republicans in Michigan’s Legislature have introduced a number of voting measures, including new ID requirements for requesting an absentee ballot. PolitiFact Michigan concluded “that on balance, the changes would make it harder — not easier — to vote.”

Unlike in Arizona, Texas and Florida, though, Republicans don’t control the governorship in Michigan. But the state GOP is reportedly considering a petition drive that could allow Republicans to go around a veto from Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and enact new voting rules. According to Bridge Michigan, it’s “a rare maneuver that is controversial but permissible under the state constitution.”

Ben Giles of KJZZ contributed reported from Arizona, while Ashley Lopez of KUT contributed from Texas.

Lady Bird Johnson’s Barbecue Sauce

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup butter
- ¼ cup vinegar
- ¼ cup ketchup
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- ¼ cup Worcestershire sauce
- Salt to taste
- Red pepper to taste
- Tabasco sauce to taste
- 1 clove garlic, minced



LBJ and Lady Bird were proud of their Texas’ roots and loved down-home cooking so much, the French chef they inherited from the Kennedy administration actually resigned—complaining about having to make too much BBQ!

PREPARATION

Melt butter in saucepan. Add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil.

Brush liberally on meat before barbecuing.



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE
P.O. BOX 8693
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR 71910



Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village Membership Application Form

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ County _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Questions, comments, special interests or experience:

• Individual Yearly Dues - \$20

• Two members at one address - \$30

Make Checks payable to: **Democratic Club of HSV**

Mailing Address: **P.O. Box 8693
Hot Springs Village, AR 71910**

*Welcome
to the Club!*