



Your party is hard at work. Look out for this report each month.

- Chairman Michael John Gray

MAY 2021

ArkDems Report

A Virtual Evening with Chair Harrison & Chair Gray



“Democrats will fight everywhere and anywhere.

We are with you.”

- DNC Chair Jaime Harrison

DNC Chair Jaime Harrison Pledges Support For Arkansas

In 2022, Arkansas has a unique opportunity to show up, stand out in front of the nation, and to build a statewide organizing infrastructure not seen in more than a decade. The danger of our home state becoming a forward operating base for the next wave of Trump-inspired extremism is too great to not act. This is our shared mission, and we must heed the call. As we learned on May 4th, the DNC is with us for the battle ahead.

The Democratic Party of Arkansas hosted **DNC Chair Jaime Harrison** for a Virtual Evening at the beginning of the month to highlight the Democratic National Committee’s commitment to Arkansas. Chair Harrison ran for U.S. Senate against Lindsey Graham and served as Chair of the Democratic Party of South Carolina.

He knows about red state organizing and the importance of supporting boots on the ground to do hard work.

“Democrats will fight everywhere and anywhere. We are with you,” Harrison told Arkansas Democrats during the May 4th virtual event. “We are committed to supporting and amplifying your work in Arkansas.”

The 2022 election is an opportunity for Democrats to build a resilient, enduring organizing framework. Arkansas routinely finishes near dead last in voter turnout. Hundreds of thousands of voters are left on the sidelines.

This era demands real organizing and investment in electorates and voters, not only candidates. **DPA Chair Michael John Gray** joined Harrison in calling for Arkansas Democrats to seize this moment, “We can do this hard and necessary work, together. Arkansas has a road to a better future and our Democratic Party is committed to building it.”

County Parties Lead The Fight:

How do we organize? Your county party is a great place to start and to find support from fellow Democrats.

County parties in Central Arkansas are embarking on an ambitious voter outreach effort. Faulkner, Lonoke, Pulaski, Saline, and White counties are hosting five Weekends of Action to canvass voters during the non-election year.

It’s part of a long-term effort to build relationships and to inform voters about the INCREDIBLE work being done to support Arkansas families by the Biden administration.

LEARN MORE >>> <https://bit.ly/2SEtngq>

WEEKENDS OF ACTION

Saturday May 22
White County

Saturday June 5:
Pulaski County

Saturday June 12:
Lonoke County

Saturday June 19:
Faulkner County

Central Arkansas Democrats

Check It Out: New Store Items Listed

It's not a bad time to show some support for President Biden or to tell the GOP gubernatorial field "Huck No!"

Your neighborhood Arkansas Democrats Store is freshly stocked with some new items just in time for summer.

[Check Out The Apparel Section >>>](#)

We've got new t-shirts celebrating President Joe Biden and the Biden-Harris administration among other items.

[Check Out The Goods Section>>>](#)

Compliment your "French Is Toast" bumper sticker with a friendly "Huck No" sticker in advance of the 2022 election. Or check out our newly revised Arkansas flag.

The state Legislature failed to advance a bill to remove a star on the flag symbolizing the Confederacy. So we removed that star from the top of the flag's white diamond for them. Enjoy!

BUY HERE >>> <https://store.arkdems.org/>



NEWS FROM OUR PARTY

YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF ARKANSAS
2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM:

**PRESIDENT:
MICAH WALLACE**
**VICE PRESIDENT:
RYAN CARTER**
**VP OF YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS:
OLIVIA RIZZARDI**
**VP OF HS:
ANNA LI
RICHARDSON**

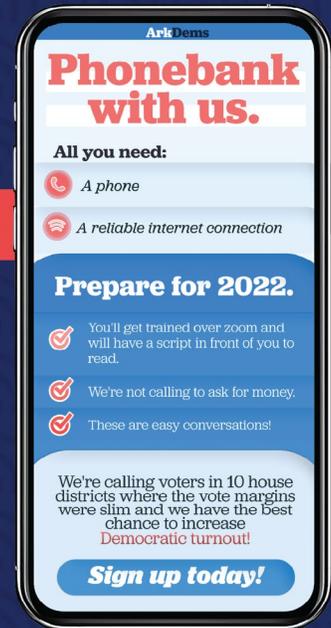
The Young Democrats of Arkansas have elected a new slate of talented officers. YDAR is the largest Democratic Party auxiliary with high school, college, and young professional chapters. Congratulations to **President Micah Wallace** & the entire team on their elections.

Learn more about Young Democrats >>>
solo.to/ydarkansas

**Let's
Talk
Arkansas**



May 13
May 27
June 10
June 24
July 8
July 22



Let's Talk Arkansas

OUR TWICE-A-MONTH ONLINE PHONE BANK IS IN HIGH GEAR. WE'VE ACTIVATED NEW VOLUNTEERS, REACHED OUT TO VOTERS WHO WERE IGNORED IN 2020, AND ARE EXCITED TO EXPAND OUR AT-HOME VOTER CONTACT PROGRAM THIS SUMMER.

Arkansas Democrats are doing "Democrats" with the real-the hard work of connecting with high priority voters *right now*. We're entering our third round of reaching out to the top 7,700 voters-to-get in Arkansas's most flippable districts.

Democrats lost elections by margins as slim as 16 votes in the 2020 election cycle. So far, our volunteers have reached out to more than 570 registered voters who did not vote in the last election. We're starting a series of conversations with them now, so we can build relationships and make life easier for our candidates in 2022.

We're focused on listening to their concerns and priorities – and letting them know that Democrats are doing good work. That means making sure people are connecting

world, pocketbook successes of the Biden administration: stimulus checks, incoming child tax credits, and the most ambitious infrastructure and jobs plan in a generation.

We're building our volunteer capacity and culture together, well in advance of Election Day. And we're seeing positive results with the voters-to-be we're engaging with. New volunteers have joined in from counties in every part of the state – *and we're having a good time!*

Join us every other Thursday from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

REGISTER NOW >>>
<https://secure.ngpvan.com/>

Legislative Lowlights: Georgia-Style Voter Suppression

The Republican Party of Arkansas can always be counted on to mimic their party's national approach to making it harder for people to vote. More than 20 bills were passed this Legislative session impacting Voting Rights...

Act 729 - Makes it easier for partisan officials to close down or move voting centers, removes county clerks from the process.

Act 736 - Creates new signature matching verification hurdle, designed to make it harder for County Clerks to count absentee ballots.

Act 728 - Prohibits people from handing out water to voters in line, even to an elderly or medically frail relative, or in the event of extreme heat and lines.

Act 973 - Limits window to turn in absentee ballots, moves from day before Election Day to Friday before Election Day. Bans drop-off sites for absentee ballot return.

Act 249 - Takes away your right to cast a provisional ballot by signing a sworn affidavit instead of providing a form of ID at a polling site.

HJR1005 - Ends the age-old rule that 50 plus 1 – a majority – is what decides our elections, by raising the threshold for voters to approve ballot initiatives up to 60 percent.

This is a move to restrict your democratic, constitutional right. It's meant to stop things like the Minimum Wage or Medical Marijuana. It will be on the 2022 November ballot. Vote no!

Stay tuned for the DPA's 2021 Legislature Summary.



Democratic Difference: Education Bills Become Law

IT'S TOUGH WORK TO PASS GOOD BILLS WHEN REPUBLICANS HOLD POWER IN BOTH CHAMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE...BUT ARKANSAS DEMOCRATS DELIVERED.

STUDENT SUPPORT // TEACHER PAY // ACADEMIC TRAINING // SCHOOL FUNDING Act 663 - Authorizes a school district to adopt a bilingual or dual-immersion program. [State Sen. Clarke Tucker](#) and [State Rep. Megan Godfrey](#)

Act 912 - Creates the Arkansas Tutoring Corps Act in response to lost learning time due to COVID-19, authorizing the Department of Education to coordinate a program and provide incentives. [State Sen. Joyce Elliott](#)

Act 893 - The Development and Enhancement Fund for academic training to enhance standardized testing achievement for poor and minority students. [State Sen. Linda Chesterfield](#)

Act 679 - Arkansas's median teacher salary will be raised by \$2,000. This law is a start at reducing the gap between the highest and lowest paid educators. [All Democrats co-sponsored.](#)

Act 933 - Requires a public or charter school for students in grades 6-12 to inform students of the availability of free menstrual products. [State Rep. Denise Ennett](#)

Act 338 / Act 890 - Funding for scholarships to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Appropriates funds to the Division of Higher Education from the Development and Enhancement Fund for grants for scholarships to HBCUs. [State Sen. Linda Chesterfield](#)

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GET INVOLVED: Not sure where to get plugged in or how to get involved? Sign-up to receive information about all of our Party's volunteer opportunities between now and Election Day 2022. We look forward to seeing you!

VOLUNTEER: <https://www.arkdems.org/take-action/volunteer/>

DONATE: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/arkansas-democrats-1>