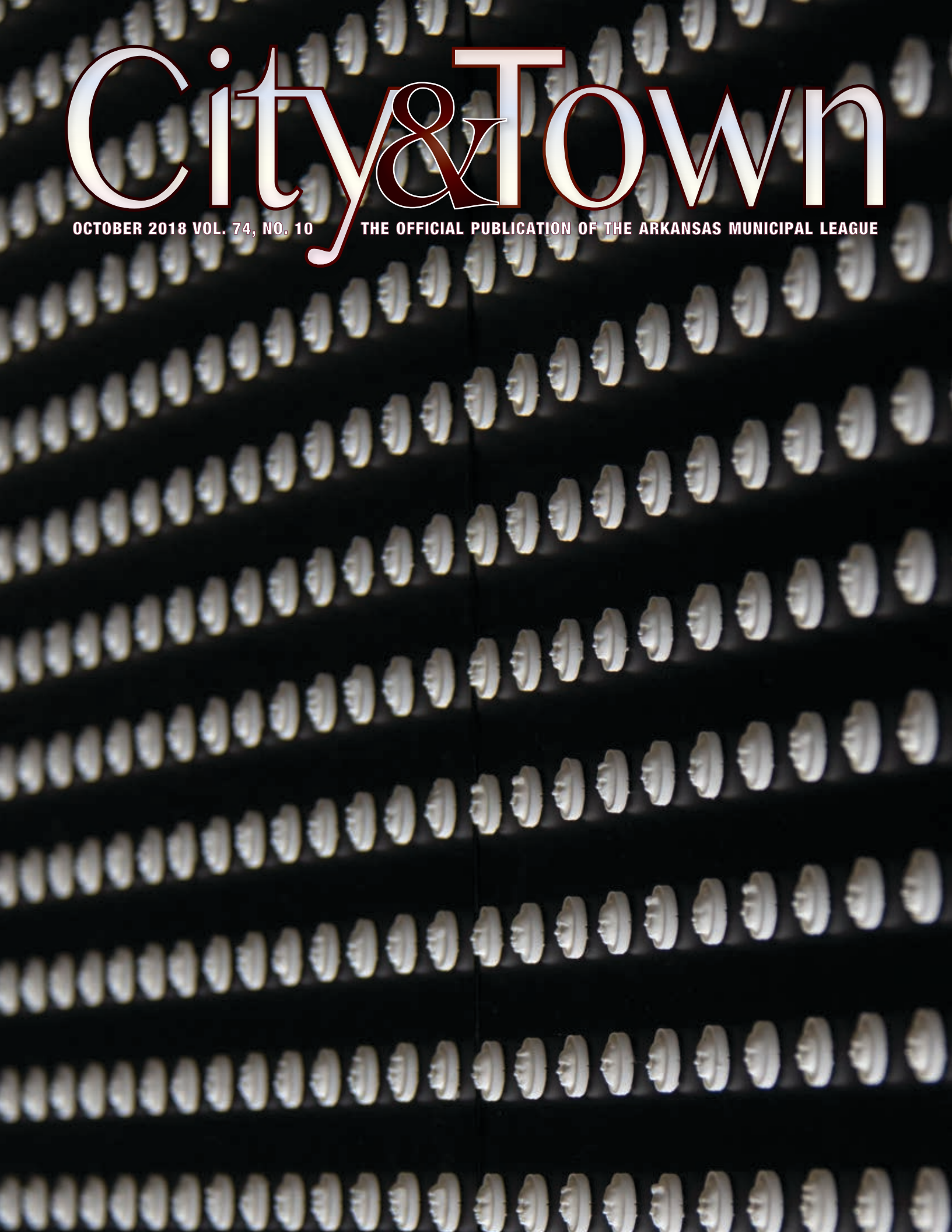
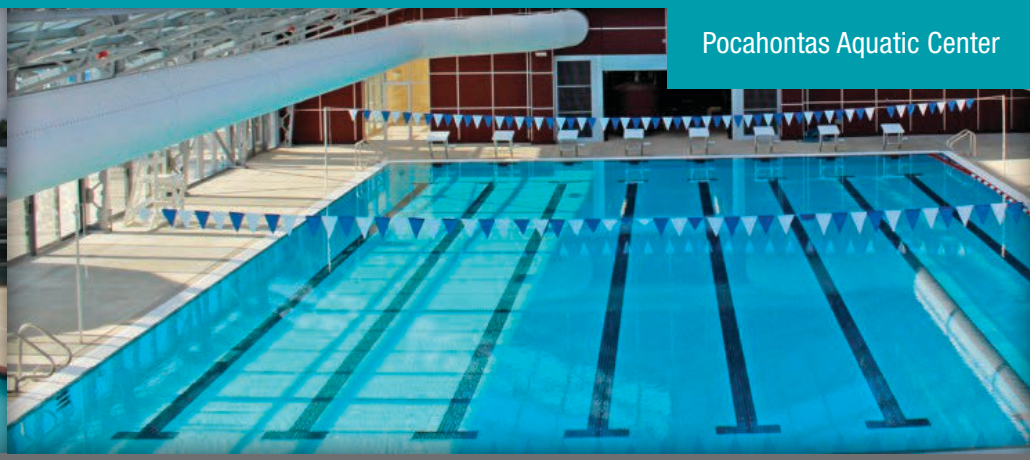


City & Town

OCTOBER 2018 VOL. 74, NO. 10 THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Batesville Aquatic Center



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ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.

ON THE COVER—Set against a black backdrop, thousands of pills, each engraved with a person's face, are a sobering reminder of the death toll of the nation's opioid epidemic. Read about the National Safety Council's Prescribed to Death Memorial, which visited Arkansas this month, on page 6. Read also in this issue a profile of League District 2 Vice President and Morrilton Mayor Allen Lipsmeyer, a comprehensive guide to the ballot issues facing Arkansas voters Nov. 6, and much more.—atm

Features

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Friends,

It seems as fall approaches our work in city government really gets to full steam. Construction and overlay projects are trying to get completed before the winter weather arrives, the grass still needs cutting for another month, and we now have a good idea of all the maintenance that must be done to our summer amenities.

Here in my hometown we added to all that with a groundbreaking for our new Argenta Plaza. This $5 million public project has spurred more than $35 million in private investment and is a great example of creating a livable, walkable community in our historic downtown. It took more than five years to bring this project to this point, but I can't wait to invite everyone to the grand opening.

In League business, we had a terrific turnout for our municipal budget and finance workshop, part of the volunteer certification program for municipal officials. I'm proud the League is offering these learning opportunities for us all to become better stewards of the public's dollars. A lot goes into maintaining the public's trust, and ensuring we handle the money correctly is right at the top. Mark your calendars for the next certification course on HR and personnel matters, Oct. 17. And on Nov. 2 we'll hold a seminar on wellness and the Municipal Health Benefit Fund. Both events will be at the League's North Little Rock headquarters.

We had productive advisory council meetings last month, mainly discussing legislative matters and the upcoming Winter Conference. The NLC City Summit will be held in Los Angeles next month, and it offers excellent opportunities to broaden your scope of public service.

I know we have many readers who are facing an election day next month, and I want to end this note with sincere wishes of good luck! Thanks for offering your name on the ballot. I know it isn't the easiest thing to do, but we certainly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Joe A. Smith

Joe A. Smith
Mayor, North Little Rock
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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NOTE: Names submitted for positions on committees, councils and boards received after the issue printer date will appear in the next issue of *City & Town*.

Prescribed to Death Memorial depicts opioids' deadly toll

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

A black wall, lit from below, features 22,000 white pills arranged in a grid. Each small pill is engraved with a face. The number represents the lives lost nationwide in 2015 from opioid overdoses. In 2016 in Arkansas, 401 people died from opioid overdoses. And the deaths continue.

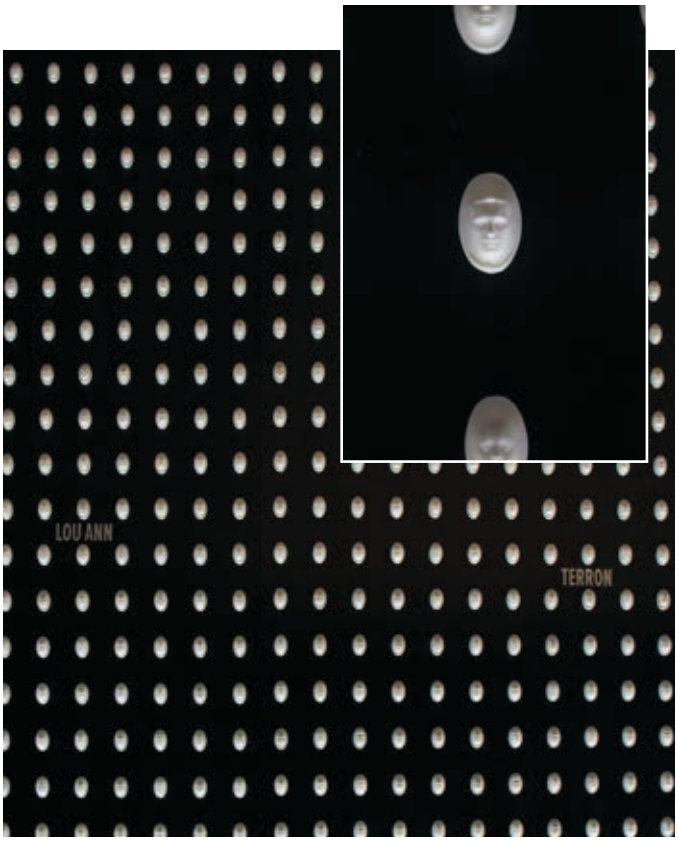
The statistics are startling, and the National Safety Council's Prescribed to Death Memorial is a stark reminder of the human toll of this epidemic.

The traveling exhibit made a stop in Fayetteville Oct. 3-9, in the Arkansas Union on the University of Arkansas campus. It was the fifth stop on its tour after launching in Chicago and visiting Pittsburgh; Atlanta; Washington, D.C.; and Buffalo, N.Y. It will travel to Houston Oct. 22-24. October is also National Substance Abuse Prevention Month.

In addition to the wall of engraved pills, the exhibit features an interactive component where visitors can add names of loved ones they've lost to opioids to a digital memorial. The exhibit also features displays of national and local statistics compiled by the NSC. The harrowing numbers include:

- 60 people die every day from opioid overdose—one every 24 minutes.
- 33 percent of Americans do not know that they are taking an opioid.
- More than half of people who misuse opioid painkillers obtain them from a friend or family member.
- 60 percent of Americans have leftover opioids in their homes.
- The United States makes up about three percent of the world's population but accounts for 80 percent of the global consumption of opioid painkillers.

The Arkansas Municipal League partnered with the Arkansas Attorney General's office and the Association of Arkansas Counties to bring the exhibit to Arkansas. The exhibit is part of the



Prescribed to Death—The NSC memorial wall features 22,000 pills, each engraved with a face representing the number of lives lost in 2015 to opioid overdoses.

Medicine cabinets feature information about the danger of prescription opioids. As part of its educational campaign, the NSC partnered with the Stericycle waste disposal company to provide free seal-and-send medication disposal envelopes to help visitors get rid of any unused medications.

NSC's Stop Everyday Killers educational campaign (stopeverydaykillers.org).

According to NSC data, opioid overdoses have risen 21 percent in Arkansas in the last 10 years. And Arkansas has the second highest prescribing rate in the country, trailing only Alabama.

"The League's desire and assistance in bringing the Prescribed Death Memorial to our state, along with the Attorney General's office and the AAC, is representative of our organization's solid commitment to correct and fully recover from Arkansas's opioid epidemic," League Executive Director Mark Hayes said. "We all have personal, and very painful stories concerning opioids. The wall, and the lives lost to opioids that are represented, will serve as an incredible motivating factor in furthering our efforts to prevent, educate and effectively treat this epidemic that has plagued all our state."

The League has made fighting the epidemic a priority, and this year joined the AAC and the Arkansas Public Entities Risk Management Association to file historic litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors. The litigation was filed in the Circuit Court of Crittenden County and is currently in the discovery stage. All 75 counties and 412 cities, representing 95 percent of the state's population, have signed onto the litigation.

Memorial visitors may enter the names of loved ones they've lost to opioid overdose on a digital display.

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge is also suing opioid manufacturers for violating the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act and the Arkansas Medicaid Fraud False Claims Act. Her office has also created educational outreach initiatives to reach students across the state.

Visitors to the memorial can watch and listen to personal stories of the families and friends who have lost loved ones to the epidemic.

Photos by Andrew Morgan.

Morrilton Mayor and League 2018-2019 District 2 Vice President Allen Lipsmeyer.

Timing good for growth, says Morrilton mayor

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Allen Lipsmeyer, mayor of Morrilton and the 2018-2019 League District 2 vice president, has a long family history in central Arkansas. At the turn of the 20th Century, the Lipsmeyers had a store at Bigelow, which was a booming community at the time thanks to the timber trade on the Arkansas River. His father's side of the family had roots in Perry County, his mother's side in neighboring Faulkner County.

Lipsmeyer grew up in Conway. He graduated from Conway High School and studied finance at the University of Central Arkansas. He and his wife, Stephanie, have two grown children and five grandchildren.

He got involved in local politics early, at the age of 18.

"I was working at the old First State Bank and some friends of mine got me involved in politics, and I got on the election commission," Lipsmeyer says. "That was the year Bill Clinton was running for president. It was a pretty interesting time."

Over the next several years, Lipsmeyer worked at several local banks in addition to First State Bank, including Worthen, Boatmen's, and NationsBank. He stayed involved politically and worked his way up, he says, becoming chair of the Democratic Party in Faulkner County.

Soon after that, a position opened up on the city council. Lipsmeyer took a look at the open seat's ward and said, "Hey, that's where I live."

With 30 minutes left before the deadline, he filed for the election. He won the seat and served his city along with new Mayor Tab Townsell.

"I learned a lot from Tab," Lipsmeyer says about Townsell, who retired at the end of 2016 as the city's longest serving mayor. "He was a very visionary person. He did a lot for Conway."

After serving two years on the city council in Conway, an opportunity with Petit Jean State Bank brought him to Morrilton in 1999, and he quickly became involved in the civic affairs of the city. At the time, there was a pervasive negativity about the perceived lack of opportunity in Morrilton, Lipsmeyer says.

Buying and converting an old gym and retail space into the Morrilton Community Center is one of the ways the city has invested in itself while saving the taxpayers' money. The center features a refurbished gym, indoor pool, and workout rooms.

"We were losing industry. We lost about 1,000 jobs around the time I moved here. That left a bad taste in people's mouth."

Lipsmeyer set out to change that perception, starting with his own investments, which have included buying land and houses and converting them from eyesores to nice rental properties, and turning around several foreclosed-upon businesses, including a local donut shop.

"So when I ran for mayor, I could say I put my money where my mouth is," he says. "I've invested millions of dollars in this town with my own money. I knew what it took to make things better."

New small businesses are good, but without a growing population to support them it wouldn't be enough, he says. For instance, when he bought the donut shop it was the only one in town.

"Then we got a competitor. Well, it hurt. I knew if this town didn't grow people-wise and more businesses kept coming in, the pie was going to get smaller and smaller and it's not going to help anybody."

The old Rialto Theater is another downtown landmark. It hosts meetings and special events.

Building upon Morrilton's assets has been a key to turning things around, he says.

In 2007, when his ward's council member left his seat to become fire chief, the mayor appointed Lipsmeyer to the position. He joined the budget committee and began pushing for the council to pass a bond issue. For several years he was told the timing wasn't quite right for that.

In 2014 he ran and was elected mayor. Around that same time, the city was experiencing modest growth, several businesses were expanding, and the school system had passed a millage increase with close to 80 percent support. Lipsmeyer and the city council took notice.

"I told the council this is the time. The private sector is spending this money. We have to invest back in ourselves."

They unanimously passed a bond issue, and then saved for the first year so they would have a healthy reserve. In the last three years the city has invested about $5 million on projects such as the new city hall, sidewalks, a community center, and more.

The return on investment has been very positive, Lipsmeyer says, with more than $40 million in private investment in Morrilton over the past four years.

"I truly believe the greatest thing, besides the monetary investment, is we've had an attitude change," Lipsmeyer says. "That attitude change has allowed all of these projects to flourish without any opposition. Then it creates hope, and hope creates a future. When you have a future, people are going to spend money, they're going to reinvest, and they're going to do things."

Change can be difficult and risky, he says, but the city took a leap of faith and it's paying off.

"We're open for business."


The new state-of-the-art Workforce Education Center at the UofA Community College at Morrilton opened in April of this year.


One of downtown's unique features is the old First National Bank building, the tallest office building between Little Rock and Fort Smith. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Creating regional alliances has also been a priority for Lipsmeyer, who upon becoming mayor created what he calls a "core connection" group, which includes the Conway County judge, the Morrilton School System superintendent, the chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton, the local chamber director, and other local leaders. They meet once a month, and it has resulted in expanded communication and cooperation across the area. Lipsmeyer credits that cooperation with city having the opportunity to host nearby Hattieville's Wonderview High School and the state 1A basketball tournament this past February at Morrilton High School's new basketball arena. It drew the biggest gate of any tournament of any division since 2011, he says.

"It just shows you what working together does," he says. "Regionalism is a big word. We talk about it all the time. If I can't get along with the people in my own county, how am I going to get along with Russellville or Conway?"

Lipsmeyer expects the city's population to top 7,000 when the results of the coming 2020 Census are in, and he's excited for the future. It's a quaint city with little traffic and easy access to Russellville, Conway, and Little Rock, and it's got a great school system, he says. The community college, part of the UofA system, has grown over the last decade and includes a state-of-the-art workforce education center. The downtown area is busier than it has been in a long time.

With city infrastructure improvements, population growth, business expansion, and other good things all happening in a relatively short period of time, the citizens have really noticed and have shown their support, Lipsmeyer says.

"There's never been this kind of investment in Morrilton at one time where people could really see it," he says. "I really believe that you have to have dirt turning simultaneously all over town for your town to grow."

A sidewalk here and there isn't good enough.

2018 Voter Guide

A guide to the statewide ballot issues facing Arkansas voters in the Nov. 6 General Election

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service's Public Policy Center has produced a comprehensive guide to the five ballot issues coming before Arkansas voters in this year's Nov. 6 General Election. The goal of the Public Policy Center is to provide research-based information on issues to help citizens be more aware and engaged. The League thanks the Extension Service and the Public Policy Center for allowing us to reprint this important information in full. Please note that four of the five issues slated to appear on the ballot are currently being challenged in court. The information presented here is current as of the print date. For the most up-to-date information, visit the Cooperative Extension Service's voter education page online at www.uaex.edu/business-communities/voter-education.—Ed.

The following is the proposed constitutional amendment name and title as they will appear on the state's November General Election ballot.

Issue No. 1

(Popular Name)

An Amendment Concerning Civil Lawsuits and the Powers of the General Assembly and Supreme Court to Adopt Court Rules

(Ballot Title)

A proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution providing that a contingency fee for an attorney in a civil lawsuit shall not exceed thirty-three and one-third percent (33 1/3 %) of the net recovery; defining "contingency fee" as an attorney's fee that is paid only if the claimant recovers money; providing that the General Assembly may amend the foregoing percentage by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of each house; limiting punitive damages awards for each claimant in lawsuits for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death to the greater of (i) five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000), or (ii) three (3) times the amount of compensatory damages awarded; defining "punitive damages" as damages assessed to punish and deter wrongful conduct; providing that the General Assembly may not decrease the foregoing limitations on punitive damages but may increase the limitations by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of each house; providing that the limitations on punitive damages do not apply if the factfinder determines by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant intentionally pursued a course of conduct for the purpose of causing injury or damage to the claimant and that such intentional conduct harmed the claimant; limiting awards of non-economic damages in lawsuits for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death to (i) five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) for each claimant, or (ii) five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) for all beneficiaries of an individual deceased person in the aggregate in a lawsuit for wrongful death; defining "non-economic damages" as damages that cannot be measured in money, including pain and suffering, mental and emotional distress, loss of life or companionship, or visible result of injury; providing that the General Assembly may not decrease the foregoing limitations on non-economic damages but may increase the limitations by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of each house; providing that the General Assembly shall adopt a procedure to adjust the dollar limitations on punitive damages and non-economic damages in future years to account for inflation or deflation; providing that the Supreme Court's power to prescribe rules of pleading, practice, and procedure for courts is subject to the provisions of this amendment; providing that the General Assembly, by a three-fifths vote of each house, may amend or repeal a rule prescribed by the Supreme Court and may adopt other rules of pleading, practice, or procedure on its own initiative; providing that rules of pleading, practice, and procedure in effect on January 1, 2019, shall continue in effect until amended, superseded, or repealed under the provisions of this amendment; providing that a rule of pleading, practice, or procedure enacted by the General Assembly shall supersede a conflicting rule of pleading, practice, or procedure prescribed by the Supreme Court; providing that certain other rules promulgated by the Supreme Court may be annulled or amended by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of each house of the General Assembly instead of a two-thirds (2/3) vote as presently stated in the Arkansas Constitution; and providing that this amendment becomes effective on January 1, 2019.

☐ FOR
☐ AGAINST

ISSUE NUMBER 1 *being challenged in court

(Referred to the people by the Arkansas General Assembly)

Contingency Fees, Lawsuit Damages, and Rules of Court

What is being proposed?

This amendment asks voters to approve changes to four parts of the Arkansas Constitution. First, it proposes to add a section regarding contingency fees to Article 7 (Judicial Department). This section would:

- Prohibit attorneys from collecting a contingency fee that is more than 1/3 of the net amount of money a client receives in a civil lawsuit.
- Require the state legislature in 2019 to pass laws implementing the section, which would also include establishing penalties for collecting fees higher than allowed and defining terms such as "net amount of recovery."

Second, the amendment would make changes to Section 32 (Workmen's Compensation Laws – Actions for Personal Injuries). This section would:

- Define the terms "non-economic damages" and "punitive damages."
- Establish a maximum amount of money a person receives as punitive damages in a lawsuit related to injuries resulting in death, or injuries to person or property. The maximum would be the greater of $500,000 or three times the compensatory damages awarded.
- Establish a $500,000 maximum limit that an injured person or his/her beneficiaries combined can receive as non-economic damages in a lawsuit related to injuries resulting in death, or injuries to person or property.
- Give legislators the authority to increase maximum amounts for non-economic and punitive damages in the future with a 2/3 vote of each house.
- Require the state legislature in 2019 to pass laws creating a procedure to adjust the punitive and noneconomic limits in future years for inflation or deflation.

Third, the proposal would change Section 3 (Rules of Pleading, Practice, and Procedure) of Amendment 80 (Qualifications of Justice and Judges). This section would:

- Allow the state legislature to amend or repeal a rule of pleading, practice, or procedure established by the Supreme Court with a vote of 3/5 of each house.

- Allow the state legislature to create a rule of pleading, practice or procedure with a vote of 3/5 of each house.

Finally, the proposal would change Section 9 (Annulment of Amendment of Rules) of Amendment 80 (Qualifications of Justice and Judges). Specifically, it would:

- Lower the number of votes needed by state legislators from 2/3 to 3/5 to abolish or change rules established by the Supreme Court related to Court of Appeals, Circuit Courts, District Courts and "referees, masters and magistrates."

How did this issue get on the ballot?

The Arkansas Senate and House of Representatives voted to place Issue 1 on the 2018 General Election Ballot. The state legislature has the right to include up to three constitutional amendments on the general election ballot. Constitutional amendments require the approval of a majority of voters in a statewide election.

Who were the main sponsors of this amendment?

Sen. Missy Irvin of Mountain View and Rep. Bob Ballinger of Berryville.

How have voters, legislators and the judicial branch addressed contingency fees and injury damages in the past?

Voters approved amending Section 32 of Article 5 of the state constitution in 1938 by a vote of 77,028 (63%) in favor to 45,966 (37%) against. This changed the state workmen's compensation law to give legislators the power to establish the amount of compensation to be paid by employers for death or injuries to employees.

In 2003, a jury awarded a family $15 million in compensatory damages and $63 million in punitive damages in a lawsuit against a nursing home over an elderly woman's death. Shortly afterward, state lawmakers passed the Civil Justice Reform Act or Act 649 to change procedures related to civil lawsuits. (Although Act 649 did not apply to the earlier lawsuit, the Arkansas Supreme Court eventually reduced the family's compensatory damages to $4 million and punitive damages to $21 million.)

Act 649 placed limits on when punitive damages could be awarded in lawsuits involving injuries or damages, established a $1 million limit on punitive damage awards, established the locations where a lawsuit could be filed and the burden of proof required in a medical injury lawsuit, among other things. Supporters refer to these types of laws as "tort reform." The word "tort" refers to a wrongful act that causes harm or injury to another person. "Tort reform" refers to changes made in the civil justice system that affect a person or company's financial liability for harm or injury. These laws often involve a limit on how much a wronged individual can collect in a lawsuit.

The $1 million limit was found unconstitutional in 2011 during a lawsuit involving rice farmers who successfully sued for losses they suffered after unapproved seeds showed up in American rice crops. The Arkansas Supreme Court also overturned other parts of the law over the years, leaving the constitutional amendment process as the only way to enact limits on damage awards.

In 2016, Health Care Access for Arkansans collected signatures from voters to put an amendment on the ballot that sought to limit attorney contingency fees and non-economic damages in medical lawsuits. The proposal was known as Issue 4.

The Arkansas Supreme Court struck Issue 4 from the ballot ahead of Election Day, saying the proposed amendment did not define "non-economic damages" for the voter and therefore the voter did not have enough information to make an informed decision on the measure.

What is Amendment 80 and when was it passed?

Voters approved Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution in 2000 by a vote of 431,137 (57%) in favor to 323,647 (43%) against. This amendment repealed several sections of Article 7 (Judicial Department) of the constitution and revised the court system in a number of ways, including giving the Arkansas Supreme Court the power to establish court practices and procedures.

The following sections describe the proposed changes included in this amendment organized by the parts of the constitution that would be affected.

Section 1: Amend Article 7 of the Constitution, known as the Judicial Department, to create Section 53 - Contingency Fees

What would this section do?

Attorneys would be prohibited from being paid a "contingency fee" that is more than 1/3 of the net amount of money a client receives in a lawsuit. This prohibition would apply to lawsuits that are resolved without going to court, such as a settlement or arbitration, and to cases determined by a judge or jury. State legislators would be able to change the contingency fee limit in the future without voters approving another constitutional amendment. This would require a 2/3 vote of each house, or approval from 23 senators and 67 representatives.

Legislators would be required to enact laws to implement this section beginning with their next session in 2019. This includes establishing penalties for attorneys who do not abide by the 1/3 limit. It also includes defining terms such as "net amount of the recovery," which is not defined in the proposed amendment.

What is a contingency fee?

Attorneys receive payments from clients to cover expenses associated with their case. A contingency fee is the

QUICK LOOK: Issue No. 1, what does your vote mean?

FOR: A for vote means you are in favor of changing the Arkansas Constitution regarding all of the components proposed. This includes prohibiting attorneys from charging clients more than 1/3 of the amount of money received in a lawsuit; establishing a maximum dollar amount people can receive in lawsuits for non-economic damages and punitive damages; allowing legislators to change the limits to contingency fees, non-economic and punitive damages at a future date without another vote of the people; giving state legislators the authority to set court rules and practices; and lowering the number of legislators required to approve changes to rules established by the Arkansas Supreme Court.

AGAINST: An against vote means you are not in favor of changing the Arkansas Constitution regarding one or more of all of the components proposed. This includes prohibiting attorneys from charging clients more than 1/3 of the amount of money received in a lawsuit; establishing a maximum dollar amount people can receive in lawsuits for non-economic damages and punitive damages; allowing legislators to change the limits to contingency fees, non-economic and punitive damages at a future date without another vote of the people; giving state legislators the authority to set court rules and practices; and lowering the number of legislators required to approve changes to rules established by the Arkansas Supreme Court.

The following statements are examples of what supporters and opponents have made public either in media statements, campaign literature, on websites or in interviews with Public Policy Center staff. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture does not endorse or validate these statements.

What do supporters say?

- Issue 1 will protect everyday Arkansans by limiting how much of their settlement can be taken by their lawyers as a contingency fee and provides for fair judgments and the ability to limit frivolous lawsuits that harm small businesses.
- Arkansas is currently targeted by out-of-state attorneys seeking frivolously large rulings against our companies because we have softer tort reform laws than most of our neighboring states.
- Issue 1 will remove one more obstacle and help level the playing field with our neighbors as we work to grow jobs and recruit and retain physicians for our communities throughout Arkansas.
- Issue 1 helps Arkansas recruit doctors to care for loved ones. Arkansas ranks 48th in infant deaths, 44th in maternal deaths, and 50th in environment for emergency care; The American College of Emergency Physicians has said to help combat its workforce shortages and improve overall access to emergency care, Arkansas should enact medical liability reforms such as a medical liability cap on non-economic damages.
- This authority is nothing new. Lawmakers have the authority to approve and/or adopt court rules in the federal system court system and in 16 other states.
- It's the legislative branch's job and responsibility to set policy and this restores that power back to the legislative branch of government.

What do opponents say?

- Issue 1 makes it more difficult for the poor to obtain justice in court.
- Issue 1 shields bad nursing homes, irresponsible trucking companies, corporate polluters, and other big businesses from lawsuits when they kill or injure someone.
- Issue 1's cap on non-economic damages devalues the lives of people who do not earn an income, such as stay-at-home moms, the elderly, children, and the disabled.
- Issue 1 shifts court-rulemaking authority into the legislature and thereby allows special interests and politics to directly interfere with due process, access to justice, and the fair and impartial administration of justice.
- As compared to other states, Issue 1 is an outlier in terms of the breadth of court rulemaking authority given to the legislature. It allows the General Assembly to adopt, on its own initiative, a rule of pleading, practice, or procedure. The U.S. Congress does not initiate its own court rules, and only a handful of states permit legislatures to initiate and adopt court rules that can supersede rules promulgated by the courts.
- The legislative branch has been scandalized recently by corruption, bribes, self dealing, and collusion with special interests. This amendment will increase the power of insiders who can afford to lobby the legislators because court rulemaking will be moved from the judicial branch and its deliberate non-partisan process to the legislature where special interests wield too much power. It will be much easier for big money to set the rules up against every day citizens.

amount of money an attorney receives for payment only if a lawsuit is won, unlike a fixed fee that a client owes regardless of the case's outcome. According to the American Bar Association, under a contingency fee arrangement, a lawyer agrees to accept a fixed percentage of the final amount paid to a client.

If a client wins, the lawyer's fee comes out of the money awarded and paid to the client. If a client loses, the attorney doesn't receive any payment for his or her legal services, although a client may still be responsible for paying certain costs such as filing fees.

Lawyers and clients use this arrangement most often in cases involving injuries and workers' compensation. A client might agree to a contingency fee because he or she doesn't have enough money to hire a lawyer. The fee typically depends on the complexity of the lawsuit, required resources and how much money the attorney would likely spend while pursuing the lawsuit.

Is there currently a maximum amount that attorneys can charge clients in Arkansas for representing them in a lawsuit?

The amount people pay for legal representation in Arkansas depends on the contract agreed to by the attorney and client. There is no maximum contingency fee established by Arkansas law. However, Arkansas Code§ 11-9-715 limits attorney's fees in workers compensation cases to 25 percent.

If approved, this amendment would create in the state constitution a maximum of 33 1/3 percent of the "net amount recovered," a phrase that would be defined in the

2019 legislative session. It also would give legislators the authority to raise or lower the limit in the future without another constitutional amendment.

What happens in other states?

Most courts have professional conduct rules that require a lawyer's fee to be "reasonable." The rule typically provides several factors to consider when determining the reasonableness of a fee, such as the time and labor required, the experience of the lawyer, and the likelihood that the case would prevent the attorney from working on other cases.

Arkansas's court rule on lawyer fees can be read online at courts.arkansas.gov/rules-and-administrativeorders/court-rules/rule-15-fees-0.

Some states go further and have passed laws that establish a limit on contingency fee rates. Some laws apply only to medical malpractice lawsuits, while others also apply to other types of cases. Tennessee caps attorney contingency fees in medical malpractice cases at 33 1/3 percent. Oklahoma caps contingency fees in lawsuits at 50 percent. There are states with no limits, states with laws that allow caps to be waived under certain circumstances, and states with a sliding scale for fees.

Section 2 – Amend Section 32 of Article 5 of the Constitution, known as the Workmen's Compensation Laws – Actions for Personal Injuries

What would this section do?

This section would establish a maximum dollar amount a person could receive in punitive damages and noneconomic damages in a lawsuit against another party for injuries resulting in death, or injuries to person or property, including medical injuries.

State legislators would be able to change the maximum dollar amounts in the future without voters approving another constitutional amendment in two ways:

- Legislators could vote to increase punitive and noneconomic damage caps. Increasing the cap would require approval from 2/3 of legislators in each house, or approval from 24 senators and 67 representatives.
- Legislators could adjust punitive and non-economic damage caps due to inflation or deflation. This section requires legislators to pass laws in 2019 to specify the process to adjust for inflation or deflation. The initial legislation would require a simple majority to pass (51 of the 100 members in the House of Representatives and 18 of the 35 members in the Senate). Any changes to that process in future years would require a vote of 2/3 of each house.

What are "non-economic damages?"

The amendment defines non-economic damages as "damages that cannot be measured in money, including pain and suffering, mental and emotional distress, loss of life or companionship, or visible result of injury."

These losses are separate from a person's lost income or medical care expenses, both past and future, that are often referred to as "economic damages." Examples of economic damages include medical bills, lost pay, cost of repairs, or value of property damaged.

How much money could a person collect in non-economic damages under this proposal?

The answer depends on how many people are suing for non-economic damages. Non-economic damages could not exceed $500,000 for an individual who is suing for injury. In situations where a person has died as a result of injuries, and the person has multiple relatives or beneficiaries who are seeking compensation for the person's death, the heirs would be limited to receiving a combined $500,000 in non-economic damages. The heirs would share that amount instead of receiving individual damages.

What are "punitive damages"?

The amendment defines "punitive damages" as "damages to punish and deter wrongful conduct." Generally, this money is awarded to punish the wrongdoer and deter similar behavior in the future.

How much money could a person collect in punitive damages under this proposal?

Punitive damages could not exceed the greater of:

- $500,000 or
- Three times the amount of money a person receives as compensatory damages. The proposal doesn't define "compensatory damages," but the term typically includes both non-economic and economic damages.

For example, if a person's compensatory damages were $25,000, the most they could receive is $500,000 in punitive damages. Whereas if a person received $300,000 in compensatory damages, they could receive up to $900,000 in punitive damages.

The proposed limits on punitive damages would not apply in situations where the defendant intentionally caused the injury or damage.

What does the constitution say now?

Section 32 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution currently says:

> *The General Assembly shall have power to enact laws prescribing the amount of compensation to be paid by employers for injuries to or death of employees, and to whom said payment shall be made. It shall have power to provide the means, methods, and forum for adjudicating claims arising under said laws, and for securing*

payments of the same. Provided, that otherwise, no law shall be enacted limiting the amount to be recovered for injuries resulting in death or for injuries to persons or property; and in case of death from such injuries the right of action shall survive, and the General Assembly shall prescribe for whose benefit such action shall be prosecuted.

The proposed change would create an exception, allowing limits to be set on the amount of money people could receive in punitive and non-economic damages for injuries resulting in death or for injuries to people or property.

What happens in other states?

Laws regarding punitive and non-economic damages vary from state to state. Some states, like Arkansas, have no limits. Other states may have a limit on one type of award but not on another. The amounts also vary from state to state, with some having a sliding scale of what can be awarded and others having a limit on the overall amount a person can receive in an injury lawsuit. Some states have limits only in lawsuits involving injuries suffered in a medical setting while others cover non-medical situations.

Missouri, for example, has a $400,000 limit on non-economic damages in medical malpractice lawsuits and a $700,000 limit for catastrophic injury or death. But its cap on punitive damages was found unconstitutional by the state court. In Tennessee, punitive damages are limited to $500,000 and non-economic damages range from $750,000 to $1 million.

Louisiana doesn't allow punitive damages except in cases involving drunk driving, sexual abuse of a child or domestic violence. The state limits economic and non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases to a combined total of $500,000. Other states, like Arkansas, Arizona and Kentucky, have state constitutions that prohibit such limits.

Section 3: Amend Section 3 of Amendment 80, known as the Rules of Pleading, Practice, and Procedure

What would this section do?

This section would give the General Assembly authority to create court rules and to change or eliminate court rules established by the Arkansas Supreme Court. State senators and representatives would have the power to pass laws amending or repealing a rule of pleading, practice, or procedure established by the Arkansas Supreme Court with a vote of 3/5 of each house (or approval from 21 senators and 60 representatives).

The amendment also would give legislators the authority to pass laws creating a rule of pleading, practice or procedure with approval of 3/5 of each house.

Rules passed by the state legislature would take precedence over those established by the Arkansas Supreme Court when there is a conflict between the two sets of rules.

Any rules set by the Supreme Court and already in effect as of Jan. 1, 2019 would remain in effect until changed by legislators.

What does "rule of pleading, practice, or procedure" mean?

The proposed amendment does not define this phrase but generally it refers to the rules and operating procedures that judges and attorneys follow in court. These rules touch on all aspects of law, from criminal to civil to family courts.

Some examples of what these rules govern include what types of evidence can be presented, who can testify as an expert, whether a losing party must pay the winner's attorney's fees, whether lawsuits must be filed where the plaintiff lives or where the defendant lives, what juries must consider, and whether a lawsuit is worthy to proceed.

What does the constitution say now?

Section 3 of Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution currently says:

The Supreme Court shall prescribe the rules of pleading, practice and procedure for all courts; provided these rules shall not abridge, enlarge or modify any substantive right and shall preserve the right of trial by jury as declared in this Constitution.

The proposed change would create an exception in the amendment and give legislators the authority to pass laws establishing, changing and eliminating court rules.

How are rules of pleading, practice and procedure currently made in Arkansas?

The Arkansas Supreme Court has the constitutional authority to create the rules of pleading, practice and procedure. Historically, the Supreme Court has used a committee process to review proposed rule changes.

Committees tend to consist of attorneys, judges and others interested in the subject matter. A committee may be asked by the court or by the public to review a proposed rule or change, followed by a discussion and public comment period. The Supreme Court would then decide whether to enact a rule.

What happens in other states?

Authority over court rules has varied throughout the history of the United States. When some states were created, early leaders gave rulemaking authority to courts. In other states, such as Arkansas, legislatures initially had greater control over procedural rules and a shift to the courts took place over time.

The relationship between the legislature and the court system varies from state to state. In some states, the legislature can change court rules. Some can veto court rules.

Some can create rules as long as they don't conflict with state law. In others, the court has the final say.

Section 4 – Amend Section 9 of Amendment 80, known as the Annulment or Amendment of Rules

What would this section do?

This section would lower the number of state legislators required to abolish or amend rules established by the Supreme Court related to the Court of Appeals, Circuit Courts, District Courts and "referees, masters and magistrates." The amendment would lower the number required to approve legislation from 2/3 of each house (24 senators, 67 representatives) to 3/5 of each house (21 senators, 60 representatives).

What does the constitution say now?

Section 9 of Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution currently says:

> *Any rules promulgated by the Supreme Court pursuant to Sections 5, 6(B), 7(B), 7(D), or 8 of this Amendment may be annulled or amended, in whole or in part, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of each house of the General Assembly.*

If passed, when would the changes in Issue 1 take effect?

All parts of the amendment would go into effect Jan. 1, 2019. The amendment would apply to lawsuits filed starting Jan. 1, 2019 and to contracts signed with attorneys for contingency fees on and after Jan. 1, 2019.

Where can I find more information?

The complete wording of this amendment can be found at www.uaex.edu/issue1.

ISSUE NUMBER 2

(Referred to the people by the Arkansas General Assembly)

The following is the proposed constitutional amendment name and title as they will appear on the state's November General Election ballot.

Issue No. 2

(Popular Name)

A Constitutional Amendment Adding as a Qualification to Vote that a Voter Present Certain Valid Photographic Identification When Casting a Ballot In Person or Casting an Absentee Ballot

(Ballot Title)

An amendment to the Arkansas Constitution concerning the presentation of valid photographic identification when voting; requiring that a voter present valid photographic identification when voting in person or when casting an absentee ballot; and providing that the state of Arkansas issue photographic identification at no charge to eligible voters lacking photographic identification.

☐ FOR
☐ AGAINST

Requiring Photo ID to Vote

What is being proposed?

This proposed amendment asks voters to change Article 3 of the Arkansas Constitution to amend the qualifications residents must meet in order to vote in an election in this state. If approved by voters, this amendment would:

1. Require legislators to pass a law establishing that voters must present photo identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person. Residents voting by way of an absentee ballot would be required to enclose a copy of a valid photo identification with their ballot.
2. Require legislators to establish what photographic identification voters may use.
3. Require the state to issue photo identification at no charge to a voter who does not have identification that meets the requirements established by legislators.
4. Allow a voter without valid photo identification to vote using a provisional ballot, with the ballot counting only if the voter follows the steps required by state law to certify the ballot.
5. Allow legislators to create exceptions to the requirement that voters show valid photo identification when voting in person or through absentee ballot.
6. Require voters to comply with all additional laws regulating elections necessary for their vote to be counted.

QUICK LOOK: Issue No. 2 ,What does your vote mean?

FOR: A for vote means you are in favor of changing the Arkansas Constitution to include the presentation of photo identification as a qualification to vote in Arkansas, and that the state provide voters with qualifying photographic identification at no charge if they do not have one that meets the requirements.

AGAINST: An against vote means you are not in favor of changing the Arkansas Constitution to include the presentation of photo identification as a qualification to vote in Arkansas, and that the state provide voters with qualifying photographic identification at no charge if they do not have one that meets the requirements.

How did this issue get on the ballot?

Arkansas legislators voted to put Issue 2 on the 2018 general election ballot for voters to decide. The state legislature has the right to include up to three constitutional amendments on the general election ballot. Constitutional amendments require the approval of a majority of voters in a statewide election.

Who were the main sponsors of this amendment?

The lead sponsor of this amendment was Rep. Robin Lundstrum of Elm Springs.

The following statements are examples of what supporters and opponents have made public either in media statements, campaign literature, on websites or in interviews with Public Policy Center staff. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture does not endorse or validate these statements.

What do supporters say?

- The proposed amendment would stop instances of fraud in which a person impersonates a voter.
- Voters need to know that when their vote is cast, it counts. This amendment will assure the voters that we are doing everything from the point where that voter comes in to vote to the time they walk out their door to ensure validity of votes cast.
- The amendment is necessary because the Arkansas Supreme Court has struck down previous laws requiring voters to present photographic identification as unconstitutional.
- The amendment is needed to ensure confidence in the state's voting system.

What do opponents say?

- There are only a handful of documented instances nationally of in-person voter fraud, and so this is a costly solution in search of an almost non-existent problem. Across this country, we are seeing more and more photo ID laws. Too much of the effect has been to disenfranchise large numbers of minorities, especially senior citizens.
- Given the great difficulty of someone successfully impersonating another voter and the unlikelihood of ever changing the outcome of an election, there is no incentive for voter impersonation.
- Election fraud is already a crime punishable by a jail sentence and a fine.

How have voting requirements in Arkansas changed over time?

Article 3 of the Arkansas Constitution specifies qualifications of voters and other election-related laws. When Arkansas's Constitution was passed in 1874, Article 3 originally allowed voting only by men who were U.S. citizens or planning to become citizens and had lived in the state for at least a year.

In 1920, voters approved an amendment to Article 3 (the vote tally is not available). Amendment 8, as it is known, gave women the right to vote and also required voters to pay a poll tax before they could vote.

In 1948, Arkansas voters passed Amendment 39, which gave legislators the power to enact voter registration laws. The measure passed by a vote of 135,151 (65%) in favor to 71,934 (35%) against.

In 1964, Arkansas voters approved Amendment 51 by a vote of 277,087 (56%) to 218,681 (44%). This amendment did away with the requirement that Arkansas voters pay a poll tax to vote and instead created a permanent voter registration process that is still used today.

In 2008, voters approved a ballot measure, which became Amendment 85, by a vote of 714,128 (73%) to 267,326 (27%). Amendment 85 updated Article 3 to include existing requirementsto vote in Arkansas, to recognize regulations already in place and to delete old references to poll taxes and the need to be 21 to vote. Those requirements had not been in effect since the approval of Arkansas's Amendment 51, which eliminated the poll tax in 1964, and the passage of the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1971, which lowered the voting age to 18.

In 2017, the state legislature altered Amendment 51, which created the state's voter registration system. They passed legislation requiring voters to present photo identification as a way of verifying their voter registration. The 2017 law is currently being contested in state court.

What does the Constitution say now?

Article 3, Section 1, establishes qualifications for voting in an election in Arkansas. The section states that in order to vote in an election, a person must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of the State of Arkansas
- At least 18 years of age
- Lawfully registered to vote in the election

The constitution does not currently require voters to show photo identification when voting in person or through absentee ballot. However, photo identification is required by state law when a person initially registers to vote.

If the Constitution doesn't require voters to show photo ID when voting, why am I already asked to present photo identification when I vote?

In recent years, Arkansas has gone back and forth on requiring photo identification. For many years, state law required election workers to ask voters for identification on Election Day. However, state law did not require voters to actually present identification in order to receive a ballot and vote.

In 2013, legislators passed Act 595, a law requiring voters to present identification as proof of identity before they could receive a ballot. This requirement was challenged in court and found unconstitutional by the state's Supreme Court in 2014 because it would add an additional qualification to vote that was not in the state constitution. The qualifications for voting in Arkansas could only be changed by a constitutional amendment approved by voters.

In 2017, legislators again passed a voter identification law, though this time the law stated photographic identification was required to verify a person's voter registration before they could receive a ballot. This law, Act 633 of 2017, altered Amendment 51 through the legislative process. Act 633 allows voters without identification to sign additional formssaying they are who they say they are. Or they have the option of returning to election officials at a later time with their identification.

Issue 2 is seen as a way to overcome or avoid legal challenges to Act 633 because the constitution would be changed by voters to add proof of identity as a qualification for voting. The proposed constitutional amendment could still be subject to a federal constitutional challenge.

If this amendment passes, what type of photo identification must I present before I can vote?

This proposed amendment does not define "valid photographic identification." If approved, state senators and representatives would write a new law at a later date establishing what identification voters must provide.

Currently, identification required under Act 633 of 2017 to verify voter registration includes a driver's license, a photo identification card, a concealed handgun carry license, a U.S. passport, an employee badge or identification document issued by an Arkansas post-secondary educational institution, a U.S. military identification document, a public assistance identification card that includes a photograph, or a voter verification card issued by the state.

If this amendment passes, what would happen if a person doesn't have photo identification?

A person without photo identification would be able to vote using a "provisional ballot," or a special ballot used to record a vote when there are questions about a voter's eligibility. These ballots are kept separate from regular ballots.

The proposal says a provisional ballot would only be counted if the voter certifies it "in a manner provided by law."

Currently state law requires a person without identification to either sign a form confirming their identity or to return later and present identification in person before the county's Election Commission certifies the vote tallies as final.

When a person signs the form stating their identity, county election officials check the person's voter registration information in county records and then decide whether or not the vote counts.

Under the proposal, an absentee ballot submitted without a copy of the person's valid photographic identification would be treated as a provisional ballot. State legislators would be able to pass laws creating exceptions to the requirements that voters show valid identification.

What else does the proposed amendment say?

The proposal states that a voter shall also "comply with all additional laws regulating elections necessary for his or her vote to count." This section is not further defined so its impact on voters can't be described.

How many voters in Arkansas lack photo identification?

There are no specific studies on how many Arkansas voters lack photo identification. A lawsuit filed in February 2018 over the state's current photo identification practices said ballots from 1,064 Arkansas voters were not counted in the May 2014 primary because voters did not present required photo identification. That number represents .06 percent (six hundredths of 1%) of the state's registered voters.

Nationally, a 2006 telephone survey by the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York School of Law found that 11 percent of U.S. citizens did not have current, unexpired government-issued photo identification. Based on 2000 Census calculations of the citizen voting-age population, the study's author estimated 21 million American adult citizens did not possess valid government photo ID.

In 2014, a U.S. Government Accountability Office report to Congress summarized 10 studies estimating ownership of driver's licenses or state-issued IDs. The report found that depending on the study, ownership rates among registered voters ranged from 84 to 95 percent.

Arkansas's county clerks, who are responsible for issuing voter identification cards under the state's current system, are tracking how many voter identification cards they issue this year. They will submit information to the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office at the end of the year.

What documentation would be required to obtain valid photo identification and what would it cost the voter?

The proposed amendment would require the state to issue photo identification at no charge. However, there could be costs associated with transportation and personal documents required to obtain the free identification from the state, such as a birth certificate.

The proposed amendment does not describe the process that would be used to issue free identification or what documents would be required to obtain one. Legislators would need to enact laws on what identification is required to vote and how to obtain it.

Currently, county clerks can issue a free "verification of voter registration card." We do not know if the photo identification required for voters and the process for obtaining it will be similar, but we offer that process as an example of what documents are currently accepted.

Under existing state law, county clerks can issue the "verification of voter registration card" only after a person provides a photo or non-photo identity document that includes the applicant's full legal name and date of birth, documentation showing the applicant's name and residential address and evidence the applicant is registered to vote in the county. Acceptable identity documents that must include the voter's full legal name and date of birth, such as:

- A birth certificate, copy of marriage license application, copy of state or federal tax return for the previous calendar year, paycheck or paycheck stub including the name of the applicant and the applicant's employer, an original Medicare or Medicaid statement, an original annual social security statement from the past four years, a certified school record or transcript from the past year, naturalization documents, or a DD-214 form issued to military members.
- Examples of documentation showing the applicant's name and residential address include a utility bill issued within the past 60 days, a bank statement issued within the past 60 days, a copy of a state or federal tax return for the previous year, a current rental contract or receipt of rental payment made within the past 60 days that includes a landlord's name, a homeowners' insurance policy from the past year, a personal property tax bill from the past year, a current automobile registration receipt or a W-2 issued by the applicant's employer in the past year.
- The voter's information must match the name, date of birth and residential address in voter registration records.

Ultimately, what's acceptable under Issue 2 would depend on what legislators would pass in the next legislative session.

How much would it cost the state to issue a voter identification card?

A cost analysis was not included with the proposed constitutional amendment when it went through the legislature for a vote.

According to the Secretary of State's Office, the state has spent $311,171 over the past few years to provide machines, software and supplies to all 75 counties to create photographic identification for voters required by current state law. It is anticipated these resources could be used for the new requirement if Issue 2 passes.

How many states require voters to present photo identification when voting?

A total of 34 states have laws requesting or requiring voters to show some type of identification when voting, whereas voters in 16 states can vote without presenting any identification.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, seven states require voters to present photo identification to receive a regular ballot. Voters who don't have photo identification can receive a special ballot, called a provisional ballot, to cast their vote. These voters are then required to come back within a few days to present an acceptable identification to election workers for their votes to count.

Another 10 states, including Arkansas, require voters to show photo identification but allow voters without it to sign additional paperwork swearing they are telling the truth about their identity. These votes may be counted if accepted by local election officials.

Voter identification laws are often sorted into categories: Strict Photo ID, Strict Non-Photo ID, Photo ID Requested, ID Requested but photo not required, and no document required to vote. Arkansas is currently considered a Photo ID Requested state by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

If this proposal fails, would I still be required to present photo identification when voting?

Legislators passed Act 633 in 2017, which requires voters present photo identification when voting as a way to verify their voter registration. A lawsuit has been filed over the law and whether it is constitutional. The outcome of this court case, Haas v. Martin, would determine whether voters would still have to present photo identification when voting.

Does voter impersonation occur in Arkansas?

Like many states, Arkansas historically has had election outcomes illegally manipulated through stuffing of ballot boxes, changing of vote tallies, fraudulent absentee ballots, bribery, and poll taxes paid by people other than the voter. These historical cases are documented by The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, and in former Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Tom Glaze's book, *Waiting for the Cemetery Vote: The Fight to Stop Election Fraud in Arkansas*.

We could not find any studies that specifically discussed voter impersonation in Arkansas, which this proposed constitutional amendment would address.

In an anonymous online poll by the Public Policy Center in November 2017, Arkansas's 28 prosecutors were asked if they or anyone in their office had been asked to prosecute a case of voter impersonation. Of the 20 respondents, all but one person said no. The one respondent said they had been asked to look at whether someone voted twice, and that further investigation showed the person did not actually vote twice.

Nationally, studies have found voter fraud to be rare, and voter impersonation to be even rarer (2017, Brennan Center for Justice). A 2014 U.S. Government Accountability Office report to Congress summarized studies investigating voter impersonation. The report stated that it was difficult to estimate instances of voter impersonation because there was no single source for this information and variation existed among federal and state sources in the extent of information collected.

An election fraud database compiled by the News21 project at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University did not show any cases of alleged voter impersonation reported in Arkansas between 2000 and 2012. There were three people associated with absentee ballot fraud listed. A similar database compiled by The Heritage Foundation listed two of the same allegations.

If passed, when would the changes take effect?

If approved, the amendment would go into effect 30 days after the election.

Where can I find more information?

The complete wording of this proposed constitutional amendment can be found at www.uaex.edu/issue2.

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ISSUE NUMBER 3 *being challenged in court

(Proposed by Petition of the People)

Changing General Assembly Term Limits

The following is the proposed constitutional amendment name and title as they will appear on the state's November General Election ballot.

Issue No. 3

(Popular Name)

Arkansas Term Limits Amendment

(Ballot Title)

A proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution concerning term limits for members of the Arkansas General Assembly; to provide that no person may be elected to more than three (3) two-year terms as a member of the House of Representatives, to more than two (2) four-year terms as a member of the Senate, or to any term that, if served, would cause the member to exceed a total of ten (10) years of service in the General Assembly; to repeal Section 2(c) of Amendment 73 that established a years-of-service limit on members of the General Assembly of sixteen (16) years; to provide that the ten-year service limit shall include all two (2) and four (4) year terms, along with full years of any partial term served as a result of a special election to fill a vacancy; to apply the limits to terms and service in the General Assembly on and after January 1, 1993; to provide that this amendment shall not cut short or invalidate a term to which a member of the General Assembly was elected prior to the effective date of this amendment; to provide that notwithstanding the General Assembly's constitutional authority to propose amendments to the Constitution, the General Assembly shall not have the authority to propose an amendment to the Constitution regarding term limits for the House of Representatives or Senate, and to continue reserving that power to the people under Article 5, Section I, as amended by Amendment 7; and to declare that if any provision of this amendment should be held invalid, the remainder shall stand.

☐ FOR
☐ AGAINST

What is being proposed?

This amendment asks voters to change term limits for the General Assembly as described in Amendment 73 of the Arkansas Constitution, and to prohibit state legislators from further altering these term limits. If approved by the voters, this amendment would:

1. Repeal existing term limits of 16 years.
2. Limit terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives to three two-year terms for a total of six years.
3. Limit terms in the Arkansas Senate to two four-year terms for a total of eight years.
4. Prohibit legislators from serving more than 10 years in the General Assembly over their lifetime.
5. Include all two-year terms, four-year terms, and full years of partial terms resulting from special elections in the overall 10-year limit that would be put into place under this amendment.
6. Apply the lifetime limits to all terms served by legislators on or after Jan. 1, 1993, with the exception of allowing legislators to complete their current term even if it puts them over the 10-year limit.
7. Prohibit legislators from proposing constitutional amendments to change term limits for the General Assembly.

QUICK LOOK: Issue 3, what does your vote mean?

FOR: A for vote means you are in favor of shortening term limits to three two-year terms in the House of Representatives and two four-year terms in the Senate; prohibiting legislators from serving more than 10 years total; and prohibiting legislators from changing term limits for the General Assembly.

AGAINST: An against vote means you are not in favor of shortening term limits to three twoyear terms in the House of Representatives and two four-year terms in the Senate; prohibiting legislators from serving more than 10 years total; and prohibiting legislators from changing term limits for the General Assembly.

How did this issue get on the ballot?

Sponsors collected signatures from at least 84,859 Arkansas voters, equal to 10 percent of the people who voted for governor in the last election, to put Issue 3 on the statewide General Election ballot.

Who were the main sponsors of this amendment?

Arkansas Term Limits and U.S. Term Limits have both filed Ballot Question Committee paperwork with the Arkansas Ethics Commission to support this measure. Their statements of organization and financial filings are online at the Arkansas Ethics Commission website, www.arkansasethics.com.

The following statements are examples of what supporters and opponents have made public either in media statements, campaign literature, on websites or in interviews with Public Policy Center staff. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture does not endorse or validate these statements.

What do supporters say?

- In 2014, Arkansas legislators used a deceptive ballot title to trick voters into lengthening the amount of time they can stay in office by nearly triple. Voters thought they were voting for legislative ethics reform. Instead, politicians doubled their pay and gutted voter-approved term limits. Voters deserve an honest ballot title.
- Term limits provide fresh faces with fresh ideas to elected office. They reduce lobbyist and special interest influence and make room for the citizen legislator.
- Traditional "outsider" candidates who are blocked by incumbents would be given an enhanced opportunity to serve.
- If eight years is good enough for the president of the United States, the leader of the free world with a $4.4 trillion dollar budget, 10 years is probably okay for a legislator representing half of a county in Arkansas.

What do opponents say?

- Term limits create legislatures filled with inexperienced lawmakers dominated by savvy lobbyists.
- The ballot box is the best form of term limits.
- There is value in having legislators with some continuity and understanding of the process, in particular when agency heads and others don't have that same time limitation in place.
- The impact of an immediate turnover in membership would be monstrous for the knowledge of public policy and on institutional memory in state government. From the state budget to education policy to public employee retirement programs, knowledge of the policy-making process and of the key questions that must be asked for good legislating would disappear in a flash.

When was the last time Arkansas voted on this issue?

Term limits have been on the Arkansas ballot three times over the past 30 years. In 1992, Arkansas voters approved Amendment 73 by a vote of 494,326 (60%) in favor to 330,836 (40%) against. This amendment set terms for constitutional officers such as the governor and commissioner of state lands as well as state legislators. The amendment limited members of the House of Representatives to three two-year terms (a total of six years) and state senators to two four-year terms (a total of eight years).

In 2004, voters rejected a proposal to allow up to six twoyear terms (12 years) in the House and three four-year terms (12 years) in the Senate. The proposal was defeated by a vote of 299,338 (30%) in favor to 703,171 (70 %) against.

In 2014, Arkansas voters approved Amendment 94 by a vote of 428,206 (52%) in favor to 388,459 (48%) against to set the current terms for state legislators. The amendment increased the number of years a state legislator could be in office. The change allowed state legislators to serve a total of 16 years combined in the House or Senate instead of a chamber-specific limit as previously approved. The proposal was known to many people as the "ethics amendment" because of new ethics requirements it included for legislators.

How many years can a legislator serve now?

Currently, members of the General Assembly can serve a total of 16 years. They can serve all 16 years in the Senate or House of Representatives or any combination of the two.

There are some exceptions to the limits:

- A member who completes his or her 16th year of service during a term in which he or she has already been elected may serve until the completion of that term. This can create a scenario where someone serves 18 to 20 years.
- Years for which a member who is serving a partial legislative term as the result of a special election called by the Governor to fill a vacancy are not included in the calculation of total years.
- A two-year term served as a result of apportionment of the Senate is not included in the calculation of total years. Apportionment is the process of redrawing the boundaries of an area that is represented by a state representative and senator to ensure that each legislator represents roughly the same number of people. This process occurs after a federal Census.

How many years is a single term?

Senators are elected to four-year terms. Representatives are elected to two-year terms. The length of a single term would not change under this proposal.

There are 100 members of the House of Representatives and 35 senators. The General Assembly, as they are collectively called, meets for at least 60 days in odd years. They also hold a fiscal session every even year to discuss the state budget and other financial matters.

How would this proposal affect people in office now?

The 10-year limit would apply to all legislators currently in office, making some ineligible for additional terms or limiting them on which chamber they can be elected to in the future based on past years of service and the timing of when their current term ends. The limit would include two-year terms senators serve after re-apportionment. Those terms are not counted under the state's existing term-limit law.

Senators up for re-election this November would be able to complete their new term, even if it puts them over the 10- year limit, because they would be elected before the Jan. 1, 2019 effective date.

Eleven of Arkansas's current 34 senators would participate in their last regular legislative session in January 2019 if the proposal passes, according to information provided by Senate staff. Another 15 senators would participate in their last regular legislative session in 2021.

Six current senators would be eligible to run for office again after this election, though the length of their term may be affected by apportionment. If the proposed amendment fails, 21 senators would be eligible for re-election under existing term limits.

In the House, 44 of the 100 current representatives will have served six or more years when their current term expires at the end of this year. These legislators served between three and four terms, according to the 2018 House of Representative's Seniority List.

All House seats are up for election this year. Any of the representatives with six or more years of service could be re-elected this year and serve out their new term under the proposed amendment because they would have been elected before the effective date. However, they would not be eligible for re-election thereafter.

Another 35 members are in their second term. If re-elected this fall, the term would be their last. The remaining members are in their first term, making them eligible to run for more terms.

How would this affect legislators who previously served?

The proposed amendment would apply the term limits to legislators who served as far back as Jan. 1, 1993. Terms from 1993 to now would be included in the 10-year life-time limit. In instances where people served partial terms, only full years of a partial term would be counted.

How does Arkansas compare to other states?

According to the National Conference of State Legislators, 15 states have term-limits in place for state legislators. Term limits range from six to 12 years in other states. Arkansas has a 16-year limit. Like Arkansas, most of the 14 other states adopted term limits in the 1990s.

Nine of the 15 states allow legislators to run again for office after a break in time. They can then serve the full term limit again. Those states are Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, and South Dakota. Arkansas, California, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada and Oklahoma have lifetime limits that don't allow the clock to reset after a break.

Idaho and Utah previously had term limits but their state legislatures later repealed the laws.

Based on this proposal, how could term limits for the General Assembly be changed in the future?

The proposed amendment would prohibit state lawmakers from referring future constitutional amendments to voters that would change how many years in office state senators and representatives could serve. Changes to term limits would be allowed only through the ballot initiative process, which currently requires:

- A ballot issue group to form and submit the text of the proposed ballot title and amendment to the Attorney General.
- The Attorney General to approve the ballot title.
- The supporter group to collect signatures from voters representing 10 percent of the number of people who voted for governor. As of today, that would require 84,859 signatures.
- The Secretary of State to certify the signatures and place the constitutional amendment on the ballot.
- Voter approval.

If passed, when would Issue 3 take effect?

All parts of the amendment would go into effect Jan. 1, 2019.

Where can I find more information?

The complete wording of this amendment can be found at www.uaex.edu/issue3.

ISSUE NUMBER 4 *being challenged in court

(Proposed by Petition of the People)

Arkansas Casino Gaming

The following is the proposed constitutional amendment name and title as they will appear on the state's November General Election ballot.

Issue No. 4

(Popular Name)

An Amendment To Require Four Licenses To Be Issued For Casino Gaming At Casinos, One Each In Crittenden (To Southland Racing Corporation), Garland (To Oaklawn Jockey Club, Inc.), Pope, And Jefferson Counties

(Ballot Title)

An amendment to the Arkansas Constitution to require that the Arkansas Racing Commission issue licenses for casino gaming to be conducted at four casinos in Arkansas, being subject to laws enacted by the General Assembly in accord with this amendment and regulations issued by the Arkansas Racing Commission ("Commission"); defining "casino gaming" as dealing, operating, carrying on, conducting, maintaining, or exposing for play any game played with cards, dice, equipment, or any mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic device or machine for money, property, checks, credit, or any representative value, as well as accepting wagers on sporting events; providing that individuals under 21 are prohibited from engaging in casino gaming; providing that the Commission shall issue four casino licenses, one to Southland Racing Corporation ("Southland") for casino gaming at a casino to be located at or adjacent to Southland's greyhound track and gaming facility in Crittenden County, one to Oaklawn Jockey Club, Inc. ("Oaklawn") to require casino gaming at a casino to be located at or adjacent to Oaklawn's horse track and gaming facility in Garland County, one to an applicant to require casino gaming at a casino to be located in Pope County within two miles of Russellville, and one to an applicant to require casino gaming at a casino to be located in Jefferson County within two miles of Pine Bluff; providing that upon receiving a casino license, licensees will be required to conduct casino gaming for as long as they have a casino license providing that Southland and Oaklawn do not have to apply for a license and will automatically receive a casino license upon the Commission adopting rules and regulations to govern casino gaming; providing that the Commission shall require all applicants for the two remaining casino licensees, one in Pope County and one in Jefferson County to pay an application fee, demonstrate experience in conducting casino gaming, and submit either a letter of support from the county judge or a resolution from the county quorum court in the county where the casino would be located and, if the proposed casino is to be located within a city, a letter of support from the mayor of that city; providing that the Commission shall regulate all casino licensees; defining "net casino gaming receipts" as casino gaming receipts less amounts paid out or reserved as winnings to casino patrons; providing that for each fiscal year, a casino licensee's net casino gaming receipts are subject to a net casino gaming receipts tax of 13% on the first $150,000,000 of net casino gaming receipts or any part thereof, and 20% on net casino gaming receipts exceeding $150,000,001 or any part thereof; providing that no other tax, other than the net casino gaming receipts tax, may be imposed on gaming receipts or net casino gaming receipts; providing that the net casino gaming receipts tax shall be distributed 55% to the State of Arkansas General Revenue Fund, 17.5% to the Commission for deposit into the Arkansas Racing Commission Purse and Awards Fund to be used only for purses for live horse racing and greyhound racing by Oaklawn and Southland, as the case may be, 8% to the county in which the casino is located, and 19.5% to the city in which the casino is located, provided that if the casino is not located within a city, then the county in which the casino is located shall receive the 19.5%; permitting casino licensees to conduct casino gaming on any day for any portion or all of any day; permitting casino licensees to sell liquor or provide complimentary servings of liquor during all hours in which the casino licensees conduct casino gaming only for on-premises consumption at the casinos and permitting casino licensees to sell liquor or provide complimentary servings of liquor without allowing the residents of a dry county or city to vote to approve the sale of liquor; providing that casino licensees shall purchase liquor from a licensed Arkansas wholesaler; permitting shipments of gambling devices that are duly registered, recorded, and labeled in accordance with federal law into any county in which casino gaming is authorized; declaring that all constitutional provisions, statutes, and common law of the state that conflict with this amendment are not to be applied to this Amendment.

☐ FOR
☐ AGAINST

QUICK LOOK: Issue 4, what does your vote mean?

FOR: A for vote means you are in favor of authorizing four casinos, one each in Jefferson and Pope counties, one at Oaklawn in Hot Springs, and one at Southland in West Memphis.

AGAINST: An against vote means you are not in favor of authorizing four casinos, one each in Jefferson and Pope counties, one at Oaklawn in Hot Springs, and one at Southland in West Memphis.

What is being proposed?

This amendment asks voters to add a section to the Arkansas Constitution authorizing four casinos to operate in the state. If approved by voters, this amendment would:

1. Authorize four casinos to operate in the state, one in Jefferson County within two miles of Pine Bluff, one in Pope County within two miles of Russellville, one at or adjacent to Oaklawn Jockey Club in Garland County, and one at or adjacent to Southland Racing Corporation in Crittenden County.
2. Define what type of casino gaming may occur at the four casinos.
3. Prohibit people under 21 from gambling.
4. Assign the Arkansas Racing Commission to regulate licensing and operation of the casinos.
5. Require the legislature to enact laws and appropriate funds for use by the Arkansas Racing Commission.
6. Establish minimum requirements for who can receive casino licenses in Jefferson and Pope counties and require licensees to conduct casino gaming for as long as they have a license.
7. Require the Arkansas Racing Commission to fund and work with Department of Human Services to implement and administer compulsive gambling disorder educational programs.

The following statements are examples of what supporters and opponents have made public either in media statements, campaign literature, on websites or in interviews with Public Policy Center staff. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture does not endorse or validate these statements.

What do supporters say?

- The proposal will create jobs and generate more than $120 million in annual tax revenue that can be used to fund roads and cut taxes.
- This is a chance to bring Pine Bluff back to its old self.
- The amendment gives communities a real voice in the process and ensures a transparent, merit-based selection of casino operators. It also recognizes and protects two great Arkansas institutions, Oaklawn and Southland, that have created hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenue for our state.
- No longer will Arkansas lose money to out-of-state casinos. The measure will keep our money right here in Arkansas.

What do opponents say?

- The money set aside for gambling addiction treatment services is insignificant compared to the state's needs. The addition of casinos in Arkansas would increase the level of problem gambling more without any measures of protection.
- The amendment could give wealthy casino corporations from other states a monopoly on casino gambling in Arkansas, and it taxes them at a rate that is well below average.
- If they do build any roads, they will be paid for by fleecing the poor, and the best roads in town probably will be the ones leading to the casino.
- Casino gambling is linked to divorce, bankruptcy, and poverty. In Mississippi, counties with casinos have above-average levels of poverty. In Arkansas, counties with racetracks and "electronic games of skill" have high levels of poverty as well.

8. Authorize the Arkansas Department of Human Services to make rules to administer compulsive gambling disorder educational programs.
9. Establish tax rates on casino gaming net receipts and how that revenue is distributed.
10. Require greyhound and horse racing operators to contribute to racing purses and awards and for Southland to set aside money for capital improvements to its racing facilities.
11. Allow the casinos to operate any day, all day.
12. Allow the casinos to serve alcohol during all hours in which gaming takes place, regardless of whether the casino is located in a dry city or county.
13. Require the casinos to purchase alcohol from a licensed Arkansas wholesaler.
14. Permit the shipment of gaming devices to the casinos.
15. Establish that the amendment would not affect current laws regarding greyhound and horse racing, other gambling, bingos and raffles, the state scholarship lottery, or electronic games of skill.
16. Declare any state laws in conflict with this amendment would not apply to this amendment.

How did this issue get on the ballot?

Sponsors collected signatures from at least 84,859 Arkansas voters, equal to 10 percent of the people who voted for governor in the last election, to put Issue 4 on the statewide General Election ballot.

Who were the main sponsors of this amendment?

Driving Arkansas Forward and Arkansas Jobs Coalition have filed Ballot Question Committee paperwork with the Arkansas Ethics Commission to support this measure. Their statements of organization and financial filings are online at the Arkansas Ethics Commission website, www.arkansasethics.com.

When was the last time Arkansas voted on this issue?

The idea of legalizing casinos has been on the Arkansas ballot several times in the past 40 years. Voters in 1984 rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to allow casino gambling in Garland County by a vote of 236,625 (30%) in favor to 561,825 (70%) against. Then in 1996, voters statewide rejected a proposed constitutional amendment that would have established a statewide lottery and allowed voters in Hot Springs to authorize casino gambling in their county by a vote of 333,297 (39%) in favor to 523,986 (61%) against.

Voters in 2000 rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to allow a corporation to own and operate six casino establishments in Sebastian, Pulaski, Garland, Miller, Crittenden and Boone counties. The proposal would also have established a state lottery and permitted charitable bingo games and raffles. Voters rejected the amendment by a vote of 309,482 (36%) in favor to 544,550 (64%) against.

In 2012, the Arkansas Supreme Court struck down a proposed casino ballot measure that would have authorized casinos in four counties after determining the ballot title didn't tell voters that the amendment could affect electronic games of skill at two Arkansas racetracks. The court also ruled that voter signatures gathered were invalid because the measure's backer changed the wording of the proposal after gathering the signatures.

In 2016, the Arkansas Supreme Court removed from the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment legalizing three casinos in the state ahead of Election Day. The court ruled that the ballot title was misleading because it mentioned sports betting, which was illegal under federal law at the time.

Aren't casinos already allowed in Arkansas?

There are multiple state laws that, combined, prohibit casinos. Arkansas Code 5-66-103 makes keeping of a "gambling house" a felony. Arkansas Code 5-66-104 prohibits gaming devices and Arkansas Code 5-66-106 says betting on any machines prohibited under Arkansas Code 5-66-104 is illegal.

However, in 2005, Arkansas legislators passed a bill that allows race tracks to conduct wagering on "electronic games of skills." The law, Arkansas Code 23-113-201, required the issue be put before the voters of the city, town or county where the race track is located. Voters in West Memphis and Hot Springs subsequently approved electronic games of skill at racetracks in their cities. According to the law, in order to constitute an electronic game of skill, the game must not be completely controlled by chance alone. Many gaming websites include these two locations in lists of casinos, but there are no traditional casinos in Arkansas.

What types of gambling would be allowed?

The amendment defines "casino gaming" as "dealing, operating, carrying on, conducting, maintaining, or exposing for play any game played with cards, dice, equipment or any mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic device or machine for money, property, checks, credit or any representative value." The proposal states that casino gaming also includes accepting wagers on sporting events.

If approved, where would the casinos be located?

The proposed constitutional amendment states a casino would be located at or adjacent to Oaklawn in Hot Springs and at or adjacent to Southland in West Memphis. Oaklawn is the only horse race track in the state and Southland is the only greyhound race track in the state.

The proposal also allows one casino within two miles of Pine Bluff in Jefferson County and another casino within two miles of Russellville in Pope County.

A Quapaw Nation representative, who also is the chairman of the Driving Arkansas Forward casino campaign, indicated in an article in the Pine Bluff Commercial that the Tribe would apply to locate a casino inside Pine Bluff city limits if it were to receive one of the licenses. They are not guaranteed to receive the casino license, and their interest does not mean other entities wouldn't apply for a license and be accepted. At the time this guide was printed, no other entities had publicly expressed an intent to apply for a license in Jefferson county. The Cherokee Nation, which also has donated to the campaign, has been mentioned in numerous news articles as having an interest in the Pope County license.

What happens if the majority of voters in Crittenden, Garland, Jefferson and Pope counties vote against this proposal?

The outcome of the proposed amendment depends on if it receives a majority of votes statewide. Voters in Crittenden, Garland, Jefferson and Pope counties could reject the proposal, but if the issue passes statewide, the casinos would be allowed to operate under the provisions of the proposed amendment.

However, applicants seeking to operate a casino in Jefferson or Pope counties are required to submit a letter of support from the county judge or a resolution of support from the quorum court as part of the application process to receive a casino gaming license. If the casino expects to locate within city limits, a letter of support from the mayor also would be required.

In July, the Pope County Quorum Court approved a resolution encouraging the county judge to withhold a letter of support if the people of Pope County voted against the amendment.

Since then, a local ballot issue group has formed to collect signatures in Pope County to hold a local election. The local proposal seeks to prohibit the county judge and quorum court from issuing a letter of support for a casino applicant without approval from voters in a separate election. At the time this voter guide was printed, no similar efforts were taking place in Jefferson County.

If approved, who could apply for the casino licenses?

Under the proposed amendment, Oaklawn and Southland would automatically receive licenses.

The two remaining licenses would be issued by the Arkansas Racing Commission.

The proposal requires applicants to demonstrate experience in conducting casino gaming. The interested party would also be required to pay an application fee of no more than $250,000 and to submit a letter of support from the county judge or quorum court. If the applicant proposes to be within the city limits of Pine Bluff or Russellville, the applicant would have to also submit a letter of support from the mayor.

The amendment would give the Arkansas Racing Commission the authority to adopt other rules necessary to carry out the amendment, including the application process.

The amendment would require the commission to accept applications no later than June 1, 2019.

What is the Arkansas Racing Commission?

Created in 1935, the Arkansas Racing Commission is composed of five members appointed by the governor for terms of five years. The commission has jurisdiction over horse and greyhound dog racing and electronic games of skills authorized at the two race tracks. The commission is supported by the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration's Division of Racing.

Under this proposal, the commission would oversee the casino licensing process and be responsible for issuing renewals every 10 years. The commission would be required to provide at least $200,000 a year for compulsive gambling disorder treatment and compulsive gambling disorder education programs that could be overseen by the Department of Human Services. The Commission would also receive a portion of the tax money generated by casinos, and would be required to spend some of the revenue on racing prizes.

The proposal requires the legislature to enact laws and appropriate funds for use by the Arkansas Racing Commission.

What are the potential economic benefits and costs of casino gaming?

Economic benefits include employment and income generated from spending at the casino and "nonlocal visitor spending" at local businesses, minus the "displacement effects" of local resident spending at the casinos.

"Nonlocal visitor spending" is money spent by people who come to the area for casino gaming, but also spend money at local businesses. The "displacement effect" is what happens when local residents spend money at casino gaming establishments that they would have otherwise spent on other goods or services in their community.

Social costs are the social behaviors that impose measurable costs on society, such as increased crime, bankruptcies, and problem of pathological gambling. Net Economic Benefits = Economic Benefits – Social Costs.

How would the casinos be taxed?

The proposal would create a "net casino gaming receipts tax." This means a tax would be applied to the money that remains after a casino has paid winners or reserved as winnings.

The tax rate on each casino would be:

- 13 percent on the first $150 million of net casino gaming receipts, or money remaining after winnings.
- 20 percent on net casino gaming receipts over $150 million.

Sponsors anticipate that the tax would replace an existing privilege fee paid by Oaklawn and Southland on proceeds from electronic games of skill as required by Arkansas Code 23-113-501. The proposed amendment does not specify that the privilege fee would end, but sponsors have said the tax structure would change once the race tracks convert their gaming to traditional casinos.

The privilege fee is based on net wagering revenues from the games, and is paid to the state, Arkansas Racing Commission, and the county and city where they are located.

The two companies currently pay privilege fees on their net wagering revenues in the amount of:

- 18 percent to the state general revenue fund.
- 14 percent set aside for purse or prize money for live racing.
- 1.5 percent to city where track is located.
- 1 percent to Arkansas Racing Commission.
- 0.5 percent to the county where track is located.

How would the tax revenue be distributed?

Under the proposed amendment, taxes collected on net casino gaming receipts would be distributed according to this formula:

- 55 percent to the state general revenue fund. How these tax dollars would be used would be up to the governor and legislature.
- 19.5 percent to the city or town in which the casino is located. If the casino is located outside city limits, the tax dollars would go to the county.
- 17.5 percent to the Arkansas Racing Commission. These tax dollars would be used for racing purses at Oaklawn and Southland, with the amount being split between the two facilities according to a formula. The term "purse" refers to the prize money distributed to winners of the race.
- 8 percent to the county in which the casino is located. If the casino is located outside of city limits, the county would receive the share that would have gone to a city as well, for a total of 27.5 percent of the tax revenue.

What are the effects of casinos on public revenue?

Public revenue from casinos would come from a new net casino gaming receipts tax, as well as other taxes typically applied to businesses, such as on the sale of food or drinks, event tickets, and merchandise.

The proposed amendment would tax net casino gaming receipts at a lower rate than the existing privilege fees collected from Oaklawn and Southland.

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration provided an analysis to legislators indicating the change in structure would result in the two companies paying less money to the state and more to the purse fund, counties and cities in fiscal years 2020-2022 (Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, 2018). The analysis assumed electronic games of skill receipts collected by Oaklawn and Southland in 2018 would be the same in future years. It also assumed new casinos in Jefferson and Pope counties would begin operating in 2022 with receipts equaling 80 percent of those collected at Oaklawn and Southland.

The casinos would be exempt from paying any other taxes or fees on casino gaming receipts.

The casinos would be subject to the same income, property, sales, use, employment or other taxation or assessments as other for-profit businesses. The casino's income tax would be based on net income (gross receipts less winnings paid to patrons and less gaming receipts taxes paid).

Some of the public revenue generated by the casinos may be the result of revenue lost from less spending in other businesses. Therefore, the net new revenue could be calculated as: Net New Public Revenue = Casino Tax Revenue – Revenue Lost From Other Sources.

There are also public costs associated with casino gaming, including implementing and enforcing rules and regulations and expanding and maintaining public infrastructure and services to meet the demand created by casinos. This includes the cost of providing compulsive gambling treatment programs. Therefore, these costs need to be considered when calculating the net public benefit from casinos.

The economic and social benefits and costs of casino gaming vary greatly among communities and between state and local governments, with local governments often bearing many of the costs. This is one reason that the National Gambling Impact Study Commission recommended in their 1999 report that "local government agencies should make careful and informed decisions about whether to permit gambling into their respective jurisdictions" (National Gambling Impact Study Commission, 1999).

In a report prepared for the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research, the authors reviewed 492 studies analyzing the social and economic impacts of gambling (Williams, et. al, 2011). The study identifies the most consistent economic impacts across all forms of gambling, which tend to be:

- Increased government revenue,
- Increased public services,
- Increased regulatory costs (relatively minor expenses), and
- Either positive or negative impacts on nongambling businesses.

They also identified the most consistent social impacts across all forms of gambling, which tend to be:

- Increased problem gambling, with most of this increase occurring after initial introduction,

- Increased crime (to a small extent),
- Increased socioeconomic inequality (to a small extent), and
- More negative attitudes toward gambling.
- However, they also noted that the socio and economic impacts can vary greatly depending on:
- The size and type of gambling,
- Existing competition,
- Whether patrons and revenues are locally derived,
- The strength of jurisdictional policies and educational programs to mitigate the negative effects of gambling, and
- How gambling revenue is distributed.

How would this amendment address compulsive gambling?

The proposal would require the Arkansas Racing Commission to provide at least $200,000 each year for compulsive gambling disorder treatment and compulsive gambling disorder education programs.

The Commission would be required to work with the Department of Human Services to implement and administer the programs. In 2015, a state law eliminated requirements for annual funding that was put into place after the passage of Arkansas's lottery in 2009. According to the 2016 Survey of Problem Gambling Services in the United States, Arkansas was one of six states in 2016 that did not dedicate funding for problem gambling services.

Who pays the casino gaming taxes?

Many studies have been undertaken to determine who spends money at casinos and, therefore, indirectly pay the casino taxes. An analysis of the many studies, based on site specific data, found that casino tax incidence is regressive and borne disproportionately by lower income, less educated households (Mallach, 2010).

How would winnings received by gamblers be taxed?

Gambling winnings are fully taxable and must be reported on state and federal income tax returns.

What requirements are in this proposal for Oaklawn and Southland?

Oaklawn and Southland would be required to contribute a portion of the money they receive from casino gaming to racing prize money, similar to requirements for revenues from electronic games of skill they currently offer at their locations.

Oaklawn would be required to set aside an amount equal to 14 percent of the money they retain after casino winnings are paid to wagers for live horse racing purses. They would also be required to pay an amount equal to 1 percent of net casino gaming receipts to the Arkansas Racing Commission Purse and Awards Fund to be used for "purse supplements, breeders' awards, owners' awards, and stallion awards" in order to "promote and encourage thoroughbred horse breeding activities in Arkansas."

Southland would be required to set aside an amount equal to 14 percent of the money they retain after casino winnings are paid to wagers. Eighty percent of this money would be for live greyhound racing purses and 20 percent would be for facility improvements at Southland, matched with an equal amount of spending for capital improvements by Southland's racing operator.

Southland also would be required to pay an amount equal to 1 percent of net casino gaming receipts to the Arkansas Racing Commission Purse and Awards Fund to be used for "breeders awards" in order to "promote and encourage greyhound breeding activities in Arkansas." The track is one of six greyhound tracks operating in the United States.

If passed, would this amendment make Jefferson and Pope counties wet?

Alcohol sales are legal in some parts of Jefferson County but are not allowed in Pope County. The proposed amendment would allow liquor to be sold or given away in the casinos regardless of whether residents have voted to approve the sale of alcohol. The proposed amendment would not legalize the sale of liquor anywhere else in Jefferson or Pope counties.

If passed, when would the amendment take effect?

Issue 4 would take effect Nov. 14, 2018. The proposal would require initial laws and appropriations enacted by the legislature to be in effect no later than June 30, 2019.

Where can I find more information?

The complete wording of this amendment can be found at www.uaex.edu/issue4.

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ISSUE NUMBER 5 *being challenged in court

(Proposed by Petition of the People)

Increasing the Arkansas Minimum Wage

The following is the proposed act's name and title as they will appear on the state's November General Election ballot.

Issue No. 5

(Popular Name)

An Act to Increase the Arkansas Minimum Wage

(Ballot Title)

An Act to amend the Arkansas Code concerning the State minimum wage; the act would raise the current State minimum wage from eight dollars and fifty cents ($8.50) Per hour to nine dollars and twenty-five cents ($9.25) per hour on January 1, 2019, to ten dollars ($10.00) per hour on January 1, 2020, and to eleven dollars ($11.00) per hour on January 1, 2021.

☐ FOR
☐ AGAINST

What is being proposed?

This initiated act would increase the state minimum wage from $8.50 to $9.25 per hour on Jan. 1, 2019, then to $10 per hour on Jan. 1, 2020, and finally to $11 per hour on Jan. 1, 2021.

How did this issue get on the ballot?

Sponsors collected signatures from at least 67,887 Arkansas voters – equal to eight percent of the people who voted for governor in the last election – to put Issue 5 on the statewide General Election ballot.

Who are the main sponsors of this initiated act?

Arkansans for a Fair Wage has filed Ballot Question Committee paperwork with the Arkansas Ethics Commission to support this measure. Their statement of organization and financial filings are online at the Arkansas Ethics Commission website, www.arkansasethics.com.

When was the last time Arkansas voted on this issue?

A proposal to increase the state's minimum wage was on the statewide ballot in 2014. Arkansas voters approved the initiated act, or state law, by a vote of 548,789 (66%) to 283,524 (34%). The law increased the state's minimum wage by $2.25 over three years. Wages increased from $6.25 per hour to $7.50 per hour in 2015, then to $8 per hour in 2016 and finally to $8.50 per hour in 2017.

The 2014 law was the first time minimum wage was on the state ballot. Arkansas law established a minimum wage of $1.25 a day for most experienced women workers in 1915, but it wasn't until 1969 that a minimum wage law

The following statements are examples of what supporters and opponents have made public either in media statements, campaign literature, on websites, or in interviews with Public Policy Center staff. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture does not endorse or validate these statements.

What do supporters say?

- Raising the minimum wage helps hard working families cover basic needs, and that money goes right back into local communities and Arkansas's economy. It's more customers for small businesses, which means more hiring and more jobs. When working families do well, Arkansas thrives.
- No one working full time should live in poverty. The cost of housing and groceries has been going up for years, but the minimum wage, just $18,000 for a full-time worker, hasn't kept up. Gradually and responsibly raising the minimum wage will increase the incomes of low-wage workers who frequently rely on government programs, thus increasing their self-reliance and reducing the amount of taxpayer-funded assistance they use. Raising the minimum wage pays off in lower employee turnover, reduced hiring and training costs, lower error and accident rates, increased productivity, and better customer service.

What do opponents say?

- The free market should determine wages. Minimum wage laws typically have a negative impact on jobs for low-skilled workers and family businesses.
- Large corporations would take advantage of this and would further cut employee hours and further enhance automation therefore eliminating more jobs and exacerbating an already tenuous labor market in our state. The wage increase would not be paid by the employers but would be passed through in higher prices. A new report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that teen unemployment is near a record low. But there's a dark side to this figure: Nearly 11 million teens have stopped looking for work or never started. Higher minimum wages at the state and local level are one factor eliminating workplace opportunities for teenagers and other job seekers with less experience.

QUICK LOOK: Issue 5, what does your vote mean?

FOR: A for vote means you are in favor of increasing the Arkansas state minimum wage from $8.50 per hour to $9.25 on January 1, 2019, to $10 per hour on January 1, 2020, and to $11 per hour on January 1, 2021.

AGAINST: An against vote means you are not in favor of increasing the Arkansas state minimum wage from $8.50 per hour to $9.25 on January 1, 2019, to $10 per hour on January 1, 2020, and to $11 per hour on January 21, 2021.

of $1 per hour took effect for the entire state. Since then, Arkansas's minimum wage has increased 25 times to the rate now paid today. All but the last three increases were adopted by the state legislature rather than by a citizen initiated law.

What is the current state of Arkansas minimum wage, and how does it compare with the federal minimum wage?

The current state minimum wage is $8.50 per hour, which is $1.25 above the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour.

If voters pass Issue 5, how would the new state minimum wage rate affect businesses?

The answer depends on a number of factors discussed below.

Businesses subject to the federal minimum wage: If the state minimum wage is higher than the federal minimum wage, then the state law applies. Therefore, if voters approve Issue 5, businesses with four or more employees would be required to pay the proposed hourly wage unless they are already exempt by state law.

Businesses not subject to federal minimum wage: In Arkansas, the state minimum wage law applies to business with four or more employees. There are exceptions for some occupations and industries under state law. For example, some agricultural activities and newspapers with a small circulation are exempt from minimum wage rate

requirements. Also, allowances are made for gratuities (tips) to be part of the hourly minimum wage rate for occupations in which gratuities are customary.

If voters approve Issue 5, how would the new state minimum wage affect workers?

If Issue 5 passes, the state minimum wage will apply to employees who are not working in the exempted industries or occupations and currently earn less than the proposed minimum wage, which would be $9.25 beginning Jan. 1, 2019.

How does the current state minimum wage compare with historical levels?

The first Arkansas minimum wage of $1 per hour took effect on Jan. 1, 1969. The rationale for minimum wages as established in Arkansas Code 11-4-202 was "to safeguard" workers' "health, efficiency, and general well-being and to protect them as well as their employers from the effects of serious and unfair competition resulting from wage levels detrimental to their health, efficiency, and well-being."

The Arkansas minimum wage has been increased 25 times since the initial minimum wage of $1 per hour in 1969. The current minimum wage of $8.50 took effect Jan. 1, 2017. States have raised their minimum wage from time to time because, due to inflation, $1 today cannot buy the same goods and services as in the past.

The thin line in Figure 1 illustrates growth of minimum wage in current dollars (not inflation-adjusted dollars), while the thicker line shows minimum wage in terms of inflation adjusted 2018 dollars. For example, it would take about $10.36 in 2018 to buy the same goods and services that the minimum wage ($2.70) in 1978 purchased.

How does the current federal minimum wage compare with historical levels?

Because most workers are required to be paid at least the federal minimum wage (unless the state minimum wage is higher), it is useful to look at how the purchasing power of the federal minimum wage has changed over time. Purchasing power is the amount of goods and services that can be purchased from a unit of currency.

For example, $2.50 may have purchased one gallon of milk in 1995, but today $2.50 may only purchase 7/10 of a gallon of milk.

The first federal minimum wage was $0.25 per hour, which was part of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. The 1938 Act was applicable generally to employees engaged in interstate commerce, primarily in the production of goods for interstate commerce.

Today the federal minimum wage is $7.25 per hour, which went into effect in 2009. The federal minimum wage has not kept up with inflation since 1969 (See Figure 2). The purchasing power of the federal minimum wage declined steadily from 1969 to 1989 and then remained relatively flat or average, with some yearly fluctuations.

The purchasing power of the federal minimum wage has declined by approximately one-third (34%) since its peak in 1969. It would take a minimum wage of approximately $10.90 today to be able to purchase the same goods and services as could be purchased by the minimum wage in 1969.

How does Arkansas's minimum wage compare with the federal minimum wage?

The state minimum wage somewhat followed the federal level between 1978 and 2005. Between 1984 and 2008, the state minimum wage was 90 percent or higher of the federal level. From 2008 to 2014, the state minimum wage was approximately 86 percent of the federal minimum wage.

Arkansas's minimum wage has been higher than the federal minimum wage since 2016, so state minimum wage laws have applied to all nonexempt businesses with four or more employees.

What is the minimum wage in other states and how has it changed over time?

The average state minimum wage in 2018 is $8.66, ranging from $5.15 in two states to $13.25 in the District of Columbia. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Arkansas is one of 29 states where the state minimum wage is higher than the federal minimum wage. Of these:

• Seventeen states plus the District of Columbia have passed legislation to increase their minimum wage requirements annually based on an index – often using the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

- Sixteen states have minimum wage requirements higher than $9.25 an hour. Of these, three have minimum wages at or above $11 an hour. Eleven states have legislation requiring increases to their minimum wage once or more over the next two years. Five states have set levels that are not required to be adjusted according to their current laws.
- Four states have minimum wage requirements above $8.50 but less than $9.25 per hour.
- Eight states have minimum wage requirements below $8.50 per hour but above federal minimum wage levels.
- Missouri, which has a minimum wage requirement of $7.85 per hour, has a ballot measure this November seeking to raise the state's minimum wage to $12 by 2023.

There are 14 states with minimum wages equal to that of the federal level and two states with lower than federal minimum wages.

Surrounding states—Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee—follow the federal minimum wage rate. Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee don't have minimum wage requirements along with South Carolina and Alabama.

How does increasing the minimum wage affect employment and the economy?

There have been many studies and there are many viewpoints about the effect of increasing the minimum wage on overall employment and the economy.

From a review of past academic studies on the topic and new developments in the study of the effect of increases in the minimum wage on employment, seven Nobel Prize winners and more than 600 other economists state that the bulk of evidence shows that gradually raising the minimum wage does not necessarily mean lower employment (Aaron, H., 2014). The economists also point out that a wage increase could have a small stimulative effect on the economy as low-wage workers spend their additional earnings, raising demand and job growth.

If passed, when would Issue 5 take effect?

If approved, the Arkansas state minimum wage would increase to $9.25 on Jan. 1, 2019, to $10 on Jan. 1, 2020 and to $11 on Jan. 1, 2021.

Where can I find more information?

The complete wording of this initiated act can be found at www.uaex.edu/issue5.

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Notice!
Municipal Property Program Rates

Effective 12/1/2018

A 10% rate increase has been approved but deductibles remain the same:

Rate Increases & Deductibles

Class 1 from .00135 to .001485 : $10,000 per occurrence deductible
Class 2 from .00165 to .001815 : $ 7,500 per occurrence deductible
Class 3 from .00195 to .002145 : $ 5,000 per occurrence deductible
Class 4 from .00225 to .002475 : $ 5,000 per occurrence deductible

Rate is determined by the member's ISO Rating

ISO Ratings of 1 – 3 = Class 1
ISO Rating of 4 – 6 = Class 2
ISO Rating of 7 – 9 = Class 3
ISO Rating of 10 = Class 4

Undervalued Property

We are adopting a rule currently being implemented by FEMA where they allow one undervalued claim to be paid normally at 100% of covered value but give notice that if values are not brought to replacement cost value, 80/20 coinsurance will apply on future claims. It is vital to the health of the program and the strength of the League that all property be valued accurately.

We are also implementing a 3% increase in Total Insured Value (TIV) at renewal for property values one year old or older. This is an industrywide standard practice that we must adopt to keep property values from falling behind and becoming undervalued.

We are working with our reinsurance company, Alliant, on having additional appraisals completed and to assist you in determining the values of your properties.

Municipal Vehicle Program Rates

Effective 12/1/2018

Change Deductible to Occurrence Based: Example, if a hail storm damages two or more vehicles in your fleet, only one $1000 deductible will be applied, regardless of the number of vehicles involved.

Part I (Liability): We have reset ALL Part I to $100. In 2020, adjustments will be based on Loss Ratios. Annual adjustments from prior year rate structure have been eliminated.

Part II (Collision): 10% Rate Increase Determined by cumulative Loss Ratio (same as Prior year)

Loss Ratio – Part II (Collision) Rate multiplier

Under 100% - from .005 to .0055 (last year was .005)
100 – 120% - from .006 to .0066
121-140% - from .007 to .0077
141-170% - from .008 to .0088
171-200% - from .009 to .0099
Over 200% - from .01 to .0110

Surcharge application

As indicated above, Part I (Liability) has been reset for all members to $100. Members with a current loss ratio over 100% for the last two years cumulative plus a current 100% Cumulative Loss Ratio plus an aggregate loss to the pool of $750,000 or higher, will be surcharged. Maximum Part I Rate applies.

The Part II Premium would also incur a 10% surcharge. Our hope is that the surcharge will encourage municipalities to take the necessary steps to mitigate their losses. The League has extensive resources available, at no charge to you, to accomplish this.

Please contact John Wells, General Manager of the Municipal Vehicle and Property Programs, at 501-978-6123, if you have any questions regarding the Municipal Property Program rates.

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Municipal Property Program • wwwarml.org/mpp • email: mpp@arml.org
Phone (501) 978-6123 • Fax (501) 978-6562 • P.O. Box 38 • North Little Rock, AR • 72115-0038

Don Zimmerman named posthumous recipient of Bowen Law School's Alumni Award

The UA Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law has named Don Zimmerman, the longtime executive director of the Arkansas Municipal League who died June 24, the winner of the 2018 Outstanding Public Service Award. It is the first time in the school's history that the award has been presented posthumously.

Don Zimmerman graduated from what is now known as the Bowen Law School in 1972. He continued to serve his alma mater as a member of the UA Little Rock Foundation Board and was a lifelong Trojans fan.

The League's new Executive Director Mark Hayes, who is also the current Alumni Board president and a 1986 graduate of the Bowen School of Law, presented the award during the annual Bowen Alumni Scholarship Luncheon, Oct. 1 in Little Rock. Hayes began working with Zimmerman at the League in 1989 and described his devotion and service to the cities and towns of his beloved state.


Photo by Mark Potter.

The Bowen Law School honored Don Zimmerman at its annual alumni luncheon Oct. 1. It featured the largest attendance in its history with 571 tickets sold.

Zimmerman led the League for 42 years and was employed by the League for 52 years. In that time he worked to pass legislation and constitutional amendments that are now essential for the operation of cities and towns, from the availability of the local option sales tax to the concept of home rule. He also created optional benefit programs—from the Municipal Health Benefit Fund to the Municipal Property and Vehicle Programs—that have saved Arkansas cities and their taxpayers millions of dollars, and many of these programs were the first of their kind in the nation and have been emulated by state leagues across the country, Hayes said.

"The National League of Cities named the Arkansas Municipal League in 2011 the Municipal League of the Year. I'm happy to tell you that we were the inaugural winner of that award and, to date, the only winner of that award. That's how high the bar was set by Don."

He was always a gentleman and was respected by leaders across Arkansas and across the nation, Hayes said.

"Congressmen, senators, police officers, water clerks, firefighters, even presidents listened to what Don had to say.

Hayes presented the award to Don's wife, Jan Zimmerman, and several members of his family were also able to attend the ceremony.


Photo by Benjamin Krain.

League Executive Director and Bowen Alumni Board President Mark Hayes presents Jan Zimmerman with the Bowen Law School's 2018 Outstanding Public Service Award, posthumously awarded to her husband and longtime League Executive Director Don Zimmerman.

Don dedicated his life to the cities and towns of Arkansas, she said, and always made himself available to help them with any issue. She recalled the countless hours that she spent with him driving across the state to meet with municipal leaders, often with her at the wheel so he could take phone calls. He could recite the pages of the state code from memory.

"I was amazed because he would say, 'Look in the middle of page 504 halfway down, you'll see exactly what you need and take that to the council tonight,'" she said.

Don loved being a Bowen alum and loved being a lawyer, Zimmerman said.

"Don was trustworthy, ethical, a good friend, and, as Mark said earlier, he always led by example."

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Springdale Water Utilities receives Governor's Quality Award

Front row, from left, Water and Sewer Commission Chair Chris Weiser, Glen Robinson, Chris Clark, Brad Stewart, Kim Patulak, and Mayor Doug Sprouse. Top, from left, CFO Terry Phillips, Executive Director Heath Ward, and Executive Secretary Leanna Hollingsworth.

Springdale Water Utilities has been recognized with the Governor's Quality Award for Performance Excellence for its business and organizational best practices, the city has announced. Springdale Water Utilities is the first utility in the state to receive this honor in the 24-year history of the awards, and is only the second ever government-related entity to win.

Twenty-five organizations from across the state were presented with Arkansas Governor's Quality Awards by Gov. Asa Hutchinson during a ceremony held Sept. 13 in Little Rock.

Springdale Water Utilities Executive Director Heath Ward said, "We are very pleased to be the very first in our business sector to achieve the highest level of recognition in our state. Our team did a fantastic job. We believe we provide the best service at the best value and this affirms that we are attaining those goals by independent examiners and judges from across the state. Public services can achieve excellence and can be held accountable. We are proud to be an asset to this community and be a positive part of its growth. The GQA program should be a part of every business that wants to improve their processes, public or private."

Springdale Water Utilities was started as the Springdale Water Improvement District in 1922 and serves over 105,000 persons in five municipalities in Washington and Benton Counties.

The goal of the nonprofit Governor's Quality Award program is to encourage Arkansas organizations to engage in continuous quality improvement, which leads to performance excellence, and to provide significant recognition to those organizations. The Governor's Quality Award program partners with the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit www.arkansas-quality.org.

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The League's assembly hall was nearly at capacity for the Sept. 12 certification session.

Certification workshop covers budgeting best practices

The assembly hall at the League's North Little Rock headquarters was at near capacity Sept. 12, with 133 city and town officials participating in a municipal finance and budgeting workshop, part of the voluntary certification program for municipal officials. Members of the League staff and representatives from Legislative Audit, the Arkansas Department of Information Systems, and other presenters covered essential topics, including establishing the budgeting process, statutory requirements, avoiding common audit findings, IT security, and government transparency.

League Executive Director Mark Hayes provides an overview of state statutes guiding the municipal budget process.

North Little Rock Mayor and League President Joe Smith welcomes workshop participants.

League Finance Director Cindy Frizzell encourages city officials to familiarize themselves with the Municipal Accounting Handbook, available from the League in print or as a PDF download at arml.org.

The must-have reference for every city hall in Arkansas

The new 2017-2018 edition of the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials* has arrived. The Handbook compiles state laws affecting Arkansas municipalities, including the newest laws from the 2017 legislative session.

This is the most complete publication on municipal law and city government in Arkansas. You may order and pay for your copy online via Visa or MasterCard by visiting the Publications page at www.arml.org/store, or use the order form below.

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Bella Vista city leaders and outdoor enthusiast break ground on "11 Under," which will add 50 more miles to the city's existing trail system.

Bella Vista breaks ground on 50 more miles of trails

By Cassi Lapp

The City of Bella Vista is now on its way to being home to nearly 100 miles of soft-surface trails. Bella Vista residents, city officials, builders, and trail enthusiasts and advocates gathered Sept. 14 to break ground on the second phase of city trails, an approximately 50-mile system of multi-use trails in the central portion of the city.

"The first time the city broke ground on trails in Bella Vista—on a cold January day in 2016—we had no idea what to expect," Mayor Peter Christie said. "We were then, as we are now, grateful to be in the presence of experts to guide this process, from the dream of an idea to the day we cut the ribbon and beyond."

Construction for the new system is funded by a $3.9 million Walton Family Foundation grant. The grant to the city also includes two years of funding for maintenance costs, which is split between the city and the Bella Vista Property Owners Association.

The Back 40 Trails—40 miles of natural-surface trails constructed in 2016—were also funded by a $3 million grant from the Walton Family Foundation to the NWA Trailblazers, a local nonprofit organization that has been part of the effort to develop multi-use and soft-surface trails in Northwest Arkansas for more than two decades.

The Back 40 trails have drawn riders, runners, and other outdoor lovers from all areas of the country and even internationally since they opened in October 2016. A noticeable shift in demographics continues among those who both visit and choose to live in Bella Vista. The once well-known retirement destination is now a thriving community of corporate professionals and young families.

This new section of trails will be like none other in the northwest Arkansas area, the mayor said.

"They will, like the Back 40 trails, make accessible sights and scenery in our picturesque city that even those who have lived here for decades have never seen," Christie said.

The new system will also feature 11 tunnels to move riders and pedestrians safely under busy streets. In honor of this unique feature and as a nod to the city's history as a golfing destination, the trail system will be called 11 Under.

There are nearly 250 miles of natural-surface trails across Northwest Arkansas. Once complete, the new Bella Vista trail system will increase the total number of natural-surface trails in the region by more than 20 percent.

Construction has now begun, and the project is expected to be complete by late 2019.

Cassi Lapp is communications manager for the City of Bella Vista.

Summaries of Attorney General Opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

Clerk's combined years of service raises retirement questions

Opinion: 2018-069

Requestor: Mark D. McElroy, State Representative

If the Dumas City Council votes to allow the clerk/treasurer to combine her service as a city employee from January 2009 through December 2014 (six years) with her service as clerk/treasurer from January 2015 through December 2018 (four years), for a total of 10 years of service, would she qualify for the half salary retirement benefits provided for in A.C.A. 24-12-121? Q2) Should the retirement benefit provided for in A.C.A. 24-12-121 be based solely on her salary as clerk/treasurer or on her combined salaries from her job as clerk/treasurer and administrative assistant? Q3) Would A.C.A. 14-42-117 prohibit the clerk/treasurer from drawing two retirements since the two retirements would be based upon her service in different jobs for different periods of service? **RESPONSE:** Q1) "yes," under the facts presented. But questions of this nature concerning the eligibility of particular city officials and city employees for retirement benefits must be presented first to the city for determination. Q2) The benefit under Ark. Code Ann. 24-12-121 is based solely on her salary as clerk/treasurer. Q3) Ark. Code Ann. 14-42-117 prohibits an individual from receiving more than one retirement benefit "for the same period of service." You state in your question that "the two retirements would be based upon her service in different jobs for different periods of service." If that is the case, then section 14-42-117's prohibition would not apply.

State's "enhanced" concealed carry law applies to retired law enforcement officers

Opinion: 2018-045

Requestor: Cecile Bledsoe, State Senator

Do the privileges set out in the enhanced version of Arkansas's concealed carry law, which allows individuals who pass a 10-hour course the ability to possess firearms in certain government buildings, extend to retired law enforcement officers, who have more experience and training than the 10 hours required for a citizen? **RESPONSE:** The answer to your question under Arkansas law is "yes," in my opinion. A retired law enforcement officer who qualifies under Ark. Code Ann. sec. 12-15-202(b) to carry a concealed handgun may carry a concealed handgun in the same locations and subject to the same limitations as an "enhanced" concealed-carry licensee. Regarding LEOSA, the potential federal law implications of Arkansas's "enhanced" concealed-carry licensing scheme are matters falling outside the scope of an opinion from this office.

To find and read full Attorney General opinions online, go to www.arkansasag.gov/arkansas-lawyer/opinions-department/opinions-search.

Nominations open for 2018 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards

The Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Communications and Community Engagement is now accepting nominations for the 2018 Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year Awards. The deadline to apply is Nov. 2.

Each year DHS partners with the Governor's Office and the Arkansas Municipal League to recognize cities and towns that seek to address the greatest needs within their communities through volunteerism. A panel of judges from across the state will select 12 communities to be honored at the League's Winter Conference in Little Rock in January 2019. Winners will also receive two signs donated by the Arkansas Highway Commission designating the city as a Voluntary Community of the Year.

For more information, support materials, and to complete a nomination form online, visit www.volunteerar.org/COY-nomination.

Photo by Andrew Morgan.

Ten cities were winners or finalists in several categories at this year's Arkansas Digital Government Transformation Awards.

Cities and counties recognized for tech innovation

Ten cities from across Arkansas were winners or finalists in five categories at the second annual Arkansas Digital Government Transformation Awards, presented during a ceremony on Sept. 14 in Little Rock. Presented by the Information Network of Arkansas (INA), the awards recognize the achievements of local governments that have used technology to drive innovation and make positive, measurable changes that affect citizens and businesses within the state and beyond.

The Arkansas Digital Government Transformation Awards are sponsored by the INA, Arkansas Secretary of State, Department of Information Systems, and Arkansas Office of Transformation. This year, INA partnered with the Association of Arkansas Counties and the Arkansas Municipal League to recognize city and county offices that have used technology to provide better service and reduce costs to taxpayers. INA issued a call for award nominations in June to all city and county government offices in the state. More than 30 government offices entered more than 50 nominations, which were evaluated by the INA board, the secretary of state, the Department of Information Systems director and state chief technology officer, the state's chief transformation officer, and Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

"It's easy to talk about transformation, but transformation is hard work," Gov. Hutchinson said via video during the awards ceremony. "This year's nominations represent many great achievements in digital transformation. Our office reviewed 53 nominations and we were impressed by the creativity, innovation and passion for public service that our cities and counties have demonstrated. The work these public servants are doing helps the people in their communities, and I hope the cost savings and improvements represented by these award-winning initiatives inspire leaders from around the state."

The 2018 Arkansas Digital Government Transformation Award winners and finalists in each category and their initiatives are listed below.

Citizen Service Award

This award recognizes government offices that have used technology to provide improved service to citizens.

* City Winner: City of Rogers (PulsePoint App)
* County Winner: Saline County Circuit Clerk (Free Fraud Protection Program)

Finalists:

City of Haskell (social media outreach efforts)
City of Jonesboro (GIS/ESRI enterprise-level mapping)
Faulkner County Clerk (using technology to improve citizens' lives)
Saline County Circuit Clerk (honor reward program for local veterans)

Photo courtesy INA.

The City of Hope was the city winner of the Governor's Digital Transformation Award for its innovative mobile workforce management system. From left, Mayor Steve Montgomery, GIS and Technology Coordinator Darrell Allen, League Executive Director Mark Hayes, City Manager Catherine Cook, and Police Chief J.R. Wilson.

Business Service Award

This award recognizes government offices that have used technology to provide improved service to businesses.

* City Winner: City of Bryant (#ShopBryant campaign)
* County Winner: Faulkner County Circuit Clerk (E-recording of land records)

Finalists:

City of Siloam Springs (DiscoverSiloamSprings.com)
City of Fayetteville (online claims forms and special event permits)
Saline County Circuit Clerk (E-recording of land records)
Benton County Circuit Clerk (use of technology to improve services and launch new ones)

Digital Pioneer Award

This award recognizes government offices that have used the latest technologies to drive innovation and positive change.

* City Winner: City of Jonesboro (Opticom deployment at street intersections)
* County Winner: Pulaski County Treasurer (Live Chat)

Finalists:

City of West Memphis (Explore Bike Share App)
Benton County Judge (modernized county website)
Craighead County Clerk (transparency improvements at CraigheadClerk.com)

Efficiency Award

This award recognizes government offices that have used technology to drive down costs or make more efficient use of agency resources.

* City Winner: City of Clarksville Light & Water Company (solar power plant)
* County Winner: Saline County Collector (eNotify)

Finalists:

City of West Memphis (RUBICON SmartCity Platform)
City of Paragould (Emergency Services 911 Center)
Faulkner County Circuit Clerk (E-transcripts)
Washington County Assessor (CAMA scanners)

Governor's Digital Transformation Award

Chosen and presented by the governor, this award recognizes government offices that have used technology to make the greatest impact on Arkansans, whether through improved service, lowered costs, or new service channels.

* City Winner: City of Hope (Mobile Workforce Management System)
* County Winner: Baxter County Sheriff (Sheriff's website free mobile app)

Finalists:

City of Fayetteville (Speak Up Fayetteville!)
Baxter County Sheriff, AAC (Justice Bridge)

The Information Network of Arkansas (INA) is a public-private partnership between the State of Arkansas and the Arkansas Information Consortium (AIC) that helps state government entities web-enable their information and services. More information is available at www.egov.com.

MHBF Health Tip

Positive changes for MHBF

New Arkansas Municipal League Executive Director Mark Hayes is working diligently to move the League forward. In order to fulfill his commitment to provide members with the best possible service, he is making a few changes in the staff's leadership.

The League is growing and the time has come to implement a dedicated human resources department. Tracey Pew, who has worked as the director of the Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF) for the past three years, has vast experience in this field and is a certified human resources professional. Hayes has asked her to head the new department.

Pew

The new MHBF general manager is Katie Bodenhamer, former League benefits counsel. She has been with the League almost three years and will do an outstanding job in her new role. Katie brings both a broad understanding of the benefit program and legal expertise to the Fund. Katie and Tracey will be working together over the next several months to ensure a seamless transition.

"While I am proud of all that the Municipal Health Benefit Fund team has accomplished during the past three years, I am excited about this new opportunity," Pew said. "I am looking forward to watching MHBF grow and develop under Katie's leadership."

While there may be changes occurring at the League, our dedication to the cities and towns we serve remains strong. It is our collective goal to provide our membership with quality programs and the best representation possible. Thank you all for allowing the Arkansas Municipal League to serve you.

Bodenhamer

Time to levy property taxes

City and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (Ark. Const. art. 12 § 4; A.C.A. §§ 26-25-102 and 103). In order to implement this millage, the governing body of the city or town must certify the rate of taxation levied to the county clerk. (A.C.A. § 26-73-202). This must be done prior to the time fixed by law for the Quorum Court to levy county taxes. *Id.* Arkansas Code section 14-14-904(b) establishes the November or December meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes.

Accordingly, municipal officials should check with the Quorum Court to determine whether its levying meeting will be in November or December. It is important also to bear in mind that the city council must levy and certify its taxes annually, as failure to levy by the required date will result in a millage of zero for the following year (*See* Ark. Ops. Atty. Gen. No. 91-044 and 85-5).

The bottom line: If your city or town wishes to collect property taxes for the following year, make sure that council approval and certification to the county clerk occur prior to the meeting of the Quorum Court at which county taxes are levied.

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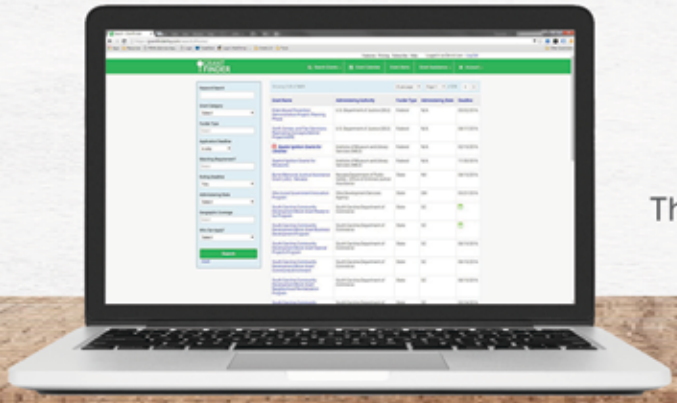

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Many cities regard residential structures connected by a covered walkway as one structure.

Zoning for that backyard workshop not as simple as it seems

By Jim von Tungeln

The planning function in local government provides some strange and complex challenges. Just when an issue seems simple, it unravels and we face a huge ball of interconnected threads. The tangle becomes more acute when the legal framework of zoning comes along for the ride.

Consider, for example, the matter of an accessory building in zoning.

Yes, an accessory building. That's the building in the back yard where one stores one's lawnmower and gardening supplies. Isn't that simple?

Not really. Are we talking about accessory buildings or structures? A building serves as a shelter, as a living space, or a place of privacy. It may also store belongings or provide a place to work. A structure may be a component of a building or a stand-alone affair such as a pole, tower, sign, or solar collector.

To complicate things further, some zoning codes speak of accessory "uses." This broadened term may include both buildings and structures. In addition to those already mentioned, they may include parking lots, swimming pools, fuel tanks, storage sheds, basketball goals, dish antennas, animal sheds, landscaping, mail boxes, helicopter pads (yes, one Arkansas city had to pass a regulation governing the location of those), stormwater detention facilities, and recreational facilities.

Oh, and don't forget the legal nightmare involving "yard art."

A few simple regulations can't cover the expanding complexity. Add to it the issue of fenced front yards. They are quite common in certain parts of the country. In fact, white picket fences were a standard addition to front yards of homes in older times. Many cities in our state chose to prohibit them in recent years. Now, within the so-called "neo-traditional" movement, we find them gaining in popularity once more. What's a planning commission to do? As with many aspects of zoning, the first question to be asked is whether fences in front yards is a matter that deserves municipal regulation.

For now let's narrow the discussion here to accessory buildings on residential property. Typical definitions define them as clearly incidental to the primary residence and subordinate in size, height, and importance of use. Cities typically concern themselves with back and side yards in regulating accessory buildings. Many, however, prohibit them entirely in front yards and on side yards facing a street.

This brings the discussion to that of required setbacks. The Arkansas Fire Code requires a 10-foot spacing between structures without the use of special fire-rated walls. This translates into a minimum setback of five feet from property lines and 10 feet from the primary residence for accessory buildings. But wait. Codes typically state that any accessory building connected to the primary residence by a covered walkway or similar structure is considered part of the primary residence. See the accompanying photo.

Since fairly substantial accessory buildings could be built within the setbacks thus described, cities often place a maximum size on accessory buildings. Likewise, in order to avoid overpowering adjacent properties, zoning

codes may mandate the maximum height of an accessory building.

More complicated considerations await. The one-size-fits-all maximums for the size and height of accessory buildings may suffice for subdivisions with a narrow range of lot sizes. Owners of large residential lots, though, may feel penalized if held to the same standard. The solution mandates a sliding scale of allowable sizes based on some defensible figures. In addition, oversized accessory buildings may require a conditional use permit. This allows a case-by-case review but requires a clear set of standards for evaluation. It could also clog the planning commission's schedule.

Few if any city zoning codes or ordinances place design restrictions on accessory buildings. Private covenants can and do control appearance, but municipal government typically doesn't.

On the other hand, the Arkansas State Fire Code does, to some degree. Structures placed on residential lots within a city must meet that code. This restricts property owners from utilizing structures such as storage containers or empty crates as makeshift accessory buildings.

Further complicating this are federal laws that may restrict a city's ability to regulate accessory buildings on religious sites if such uses are deemed essential to the organization's mission. Prudent administrators will seek sound legal advice in such regulations.

Accessory buildings create much confusion to cities in the matter of variance requests. A survey of professional planners reveals that the vast majority of variance requests coming before a city's board of zoning adjustment involve accessory buildings. Such requests include reduced setbacks, proximity to other structures, size, and height. In the overwhelming majority of these cases, the request for a variance results from the fact that the current zoning code provides an inconvenience to the property owner.

What is the problem with this? Variances from the code should be based on a unique hardship caused by that code and not from an inconvenience. The exact language from the planning statutes reads: "[The Board of Adjustment shall] … hear requests for variances from the literal provisions of the zoning ordinance in instances where strict enforcement of the ordinance would cause undue hardship due to circumstances unique to the individual property under consideration, and grant such variances only when it is demonstrated that such action will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the provisions of the ordinance."

The reader will notice that the word "inconvenience" doesn't appear in this portion of the statutes. Considering that the planning function and its supporting regulations should serve to protect the health, safety, welfare, and morals of the community, inconvenience might not be a good policy standard. In fact, the entire matter of regulating accessory buildings should meet the standard of protecting the community.

Many cities require greater side-yard setbacks than the one pictured here.

Rather than grant variances for inconvenience, a municipality might use a different approach. If one provision in a zoning code is creating multiple variance requests because property owners find it onerous and unworkable, rethink the regulation. Is it really a rational tool for protecting the public interest? If not, eliminate or revise it.

One final point about accessory uses on residential properties. The future may bring about more issues concerned with their placement. Last month's column dealt with the coming flood of small cell towers for improved internet service. As a last resort, providers may be requesting that they be placed on private property as—one might guess—accessory structures.

The foregoing doesn't cover all the details of regulating accessory buildings, uses, and structures. Rather, it points out that even what seems like a simple regulatory task can become a highly complicated urban issue in this day and time. The discussion didn't mention accessory buildings used for affordable housing. That matter deserves its own treatment in the future.

Prudent municipal leaders will recognize these complexities and remain abreast of new issues and new changes that require training and expertise. They will also rely upon the services available in such matters from the Arkansas Municipal League.

Jim von Tungeln is staff planning consultant and available for consultation as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Persons having comments or questions may reach him at (501) 944-3649. His email is uplan@swbell.net.

Mayor Harold Perrin, center, with the inaugural Jonesboro Neighborhood Leadership class.

School in session for Jonesboro's civic-engagement class

The City of Jonesboro has launched a civic-engagement class to help develop future leaders and provide them with important education about city government. Jonesboro Neighborhood Leadership's inaugural class met for the first time Sept. 6 and included 18 members of the community selected from a pool of more than 50 applicants. The class will run for two hours over eight Thursday evenings this fall. Mayor Harold Perrin planned the class because he wanted a larger pool of candidates for boards and commissions.

"I think [North Little Rock] Mayor Joe Smith drove it home for me last summer, when he asked everyone at the AML convention under age 40 to stand," Perrin said. "And it was apparent we don't have enough young people or enough diversity in our civic governments."

Director of Community Development Tiffny Calloway is managing the class and introduced Perrin to the participants, a diverse group in age, race, and work experience.

"We tried to make sure we touched every corner of the city, by any definition," Calloway said. "I think we found a fantastic group, and they were eager to participate in our first session so I'm excited about its potential.

"We're going to introduce them to every department of the city," she said. "They will engage departmental directors and council members, and tour city facilities. From these classes, they will learn processes and considerations involved when serving residents."

Jonesboro recently passed a resolution to recognize diversity as a key ingredient in every board and commission formed by the city.

"I think that resolution and this class go hand in hand," Perrin said.

In their applications, participants explained what they hope to achieve and learn from Jonesboro Neighborhood Leadership.

"It will grant me the opportunity to better understand the community I serve, as I learn about the agencies which govern the social entities that affect the community," said Dr. Brook Laurent, a doctor of osteopathic medicine and educator at Arkansas State University's New York Institute of Technology.

Ernesto Saucedo, a Jonesboro businessman, said he wants to "find ways to contribute to making the community a better one.

"Also, as a Mexican immigrant, I always try to find ways to give back to this community that has given me everything and is my home."

The class will accomplish a group project during the eight sessions, and members discussed possible goals. One focused on a neighborhood database for active neighborhood associations.

Class sponsors include The Medicine Shoppe and First National Bank.

"We couldn't do this without our private partners, and we are grateful for their support," Perrin said.

Calloway said she is confident this class will be the first of many, as response was strong, and that it's important for those not selected to know they can still participate in future classes.

"We had a great response, and it tells us a lot about how much the people of this city want to get involved," Calloway said. "With these classes, we hope to create new and more diverse generations of future leaders for Jonesboro."

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2019 Winter Conference

Marriott Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center, January 16-18, 2019

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Monday, December 31, 2018, to qualify for Pre-registration rates.

Pre-registration for municipal officials	$150
Registration fee after **December 31, 2018**, and on-site registration for municipal officials	$175
Pre-registration for guests	$75
Registration fee after **December 31, 2018**, and on-site registration for guests	$100
Other registrants	$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of ***Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials, 2017-2018***.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after December 31, 2018**.
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **December 31, 2018**.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

Marriott Hotel (headquarters hotel)		
Single/Double SOLD OUT	~~$139~~	Check-in 3 p.m.
Capital Hotel		
Single/Double	$189	Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel		
Single/Double SOLD OUT	~~$144~~	Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double	$114	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **December 31, 2018**.
- Rooms in Little Rock/North Little Rock are subject to a 13-15 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel as penalties for cancellation can apply.

Two ways to register

1 Register online at www.arml.org and pay by credit card.

OR

2 Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:
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Attn: 2019 Winter Conference
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Title: ..... City of: .....

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Step 2: Payment Information

• **What is your total?** (see opposite page for fees)

☐ Pre-registration for Delegate $150	☐ Pre-registration for Guest $75	☐ Other Registrants $200	Pre-registration Total $_____
☐ Regular Registration for Delegate $175	☐ Regular Registration for Guest $100	☐ Other Registrants $200	Reg. Registration Total $_____

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Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

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To obtain hotel reservations, registered delegates must directly contact participating hotels listed below. Please mention that you are with the Arkansas Municipal League to get the negotiated hotel rate.

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Hot Springs and Hanamaki celebrate silver anniversary

By Sherman Banks

This year the cities of Hot Springs and Hanamaki, Japan, celebrate 25 years as sister cities, their silver anniversary. The sister city relationship between the cities began officially on January 15, 1993, after a group of Hanamaki residents researched U.S. cities and found Hot Springs to be a perfect match. Their populations are similar, and Hanamaki is also a city that relies heavily on tourism as a primary revenue source. Both cities feature bathhouses and thermal waters from nearby hot springs. Rolling hills and low mountain ranges surround both cities.

On September 1, a delegation of 26 people from Hot Springs left for their sister city in Japan to celebrate the anniversary. Former Hot Springs Mayor Melinda Baran, who signed the official sister agreement in 1993 and who now lives in North Carolina, accompanied the delegation to Hanamaki. Current Mayor Pat McCabe was a member of the board of directors when the sister city agreement was signed, and he also made the trip.

A delegation of 26 from Hot Springs were able to make the trip to Japan to mark the silver anniversary.

During the delegation's visit to Hanamaki, they attended a banquet that included prefecture (county) representatives and city leaders. There were letters of welcome from the governor and from the U.S. Embassy in Japan. As part of the silver celebration the delegation had the opportunity to participate in the Hanamaki Matsuri Festival, an elaborate cultural celebration dating back more than 425 years. The festival featured glowing floats, traditional dancers, and *mikoshi* (shrines) hand carried through the streets to the ancient rhythm of portable drums. As part of this incredible event the delegation was presented with *hanten*, or Japanese festival jackets.

Artist Takuya Onozaki, who recently spent a month-long artist exchange in Hot Springs, unveiled a large artwork as a gift to the city. Mayor McCabe and Sister City Coordinator Mary Zunick presented engraved clocks to Mayor Toichi Ueda of Hanamaki and president of the International Exchange Association, Fumiaki Sasaki.

Throughout the month of October, a special exhibit of photos and artifacts documenting the growth of the Sister City Program will be on display at the Cultural Affairs Office, 108 Pleasant Street in Hot Springs. Also on exhibit will be photos and writings by Erin Holliday, a local artist and executive director of Emergent Arts. She spent a month in Hanamaki this past June as part of the sister cities artist exchange.

From left, Hanamaki Mayor Toichi Ueda and Hot Springs Mayor Pat McCabe celebrate the 25th anniversary of the two cities' sister city relationship during a September visit to the Japanese city.

To continue this historic silver 25th anniversary, a Japanese delegation will arrive in Hot Springs this month led by Mayor Ueda and Mr. Sasaki. Their visit will include elementary schools, ASMSA, CHI St. Vincent, Baxley Equipment, and Garvan Woodland Gardens. They will also cruise Lake Hamilton, sing in the choir during the Sunday service at First Presbyterian Church, and be treated to a Native American dance performance.

When President Eisenhower in 1956 created the sister cities initiative to further citizen diplomacy, he envisioned that city-to-city relationships could be a hub of peace and prosperity by strengthening the bonds between people across the globe. Let's further the dream and continue to establish sister city relationships in Arkansas.

For more information contact Sherman Banks at (501) 786-2639; email sbanks@aristotle.net; or write to P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216.

Initiative focused on local food builds economy, protects environment

By Shelby Fiegel

In 2014 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) partnered together to sponsor a program called Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP). LFLP helps cities and towns across the country protect the environment and human health by engaging with local partners to reinvest in existing neighborhoods as they develop local food systems.

Over the past four years, LFLP has worked with nearly 100 communities across the United States to support locally led, community-driven efforts to protect air and water quality, preserve open space and farmland, boost economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, improve access to healthy local food, and promote childhood wellness. Six cities in Arkansas—Flippin, North Little Rock, Osceola, Lake Village, McCrory, and Helena-West Helena—have participated in the program.

Lake Village hosted a pop-up Main Street event as part of the Local Food, Local Places initiative, which featured a pedal-powered smoothie maker run by local youth entrepreneurs.

In Flippin, citizens came together to create a new school garden, launch a farmers market, and plan a new sidewalk connecting the city's school complex, downtown, and park. With its new action plan, the city is working toward forming a local growers' co-op and establishing a Whole Farm Conference to better connect farmers with one another.

North Little Rock, in coordination with the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub, developed an action plan focused on creating a new food hub, enhancing the services of regional food bank efforts, and linking emerging food-related activities to boosting walkability, livability, and economic vibrancy in the Argenta neighborhood.

Osceola, the University of Arkansas, and the local school district used their new action plan to coordinate and enhance healthy foods education, including development of a new healthy foods cooking curriculum in the school district. The city is also creating a farmers market downtown, where it is working on infrastructure improvements, cleanup efforts, and establishing policies to attract investment in the area.

Lake Village explored strategies to expand the city's community garden, increase worksite wellness programs for local businesses, connect its parks with new trails to improve local food access and increase walkability, and stimulate economic development.

In Helena-West Helena, the Helena-West Helena/Philips County Port Authority will explore a potential farmers market and events space in a long-abandoned building near downtown now that underground storage tanks have been removed. The Port Authority (the local economic development entity) has acquired the site and begun cleaning up contamination from its past use as a school bus repair facility.

The city of McCrory plans to comprehensively address barriers to good nutrition and physical activity by strategically connecting and integrating multiple efforts, including a new community/school garden; a new "healthy hub" that brings clinical screening services, nutrition education classes, cooking demonstrations, prescription assistance, and food pantry distribution under one roof; and a potential farmers market and culinary incubator.

McCrory city leaders, citizens, and LFLP partners workshop the city's community action plan.

Dr. Jennifer Conner, regional program associate with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, believes it is important for communities to participate in programs such as Local Foods, Local Places.

"LFLP is a great technical assistance program that really helps communities explore their entire local food system—from production to consumption—and helps local leaders build on their current assets to create a better sense of place," Conner said. "At the end of the LFLP strategic planning process, communities have a solid plan of action to not only enhance food outlets and food availability, but also improve quality of life for their community members."

McCrory Mayor Doyle Fowler said, "After creating a community action plan through the Local Foods, Local Places process, our city continues to gain momentum to achieve the initiatives we identified to make McCrory a happier and healthier community. Some of the ideas we are implementing include providing healthy food options by opening a farmers market and hosting a farm-to table-event that our whole community is invited to attend. We are also planning on making our community more walkable by replacing sidewalks in our downtown and creating a walking trail from our city core to our sports complex located on the fringes of our city. None of this would be possible without the strong partnerships we have between our city, school district, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, and ARcare."

For more information and to apply to become a part of Local Foods, Local Places, please visit: www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places.

Shelby Fiegel is the managing director of the Center for Community and Economic Development at the University of Central Arkansas. Contact her at sfiegel@uca.edu or (501) 450-5269.

From left, League staff members Tricia Zello, Amber Oyemola, Tracey Pew, Mark Potter, Karen Mitchell, Matt Parker, Elizabeth Milam, and (not pictured) Rebecca Williamson have lost more than 470 pounds among them over the past year.

League staff members get their *#AMLMoves* on

Several members of the League staff have made great strides in their wellness goals in the past year. Eight staff members—Elizabeth Milam, Karen Mitchell, Amber Oyemola, Matt Parker, Tracey Pew, Mark Potter, Rebecca Williamson, and Tricia Zello—have taken the **#AMLMoves** initiative to heart, and among them have lost a total of 473 pounds, and they're still going.

For the staff members, losing the excess weight has had numerous benefits so far, including having more energy, making exercise easier, lowering blood pressure, reducing stress, and generally improving their quality of life. For some it's even meant taking less medication.

Wellness in our cities and towns is a priority for the League, and **#AMLMoves** can help municipal officials, employees, and citizens improve their quality of life and help keep health care costs down. To learn how to become part of the movement, contact the League's Health/Safety and Operations Manager David Baxter at (501) 374-3484 Ext. 110 or email dbaxter@arml.org.

David Baxter is the League's Health and Safety and Operations Manager. Email David at dbaxter@arml.org, or call (501) 374-3484 Ext. 110.

ACCRTA scholarship honors Zimmerman

The 2018-2019 ACCRTA officers present Barling City Clerk Florene Brown, center, with the first Don Zimmerman Scholarship to the Municipal Clerks Institute. Pictured are, from left, Clinton Recorder/Treasurer Dena Malone, Mansfield Recorder/Treasurer Becky Walker, Brown, Paragould City Clerk Andrea Williams, and Batesville City Clerk/Treasurer Denise Johnston.

The Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) has created a scholarship in memory of Don Zimmerman, the longtime leader of the Arkansas Municipal League who died June 24. This new annual scholarship is awarded to an Arkansas municipal city clerk, recorder, or treasurer to attend the Municipal Clerks Institute in Fayetteville, held in September. The Institute is a week-ling training session for city clerks, recorders, and treasurers to further their education and receive updated information regarding their jobs.

Barling City Clerk Florene Brown is the inaugural recipient of the new scholarship.

The ACCRTA created the scholarship honoring Zimmerman at the August meeting of its executive committee. The ACCRTA is also making a donation to the Governor's Mansion in his memory, according to this year's association president, Paragould City Clerk Andrea Williams.

"Mr. Zimmerman was always a huge supporter of ACCRTA and strived to make sure that all elected municipal officials were trained and educated on the ever changing municipal law," Williams said. "The committee felt that a memorial scholarship would be a wonderful way to honor his legacy and voted unanimously to fund this scholarship."

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Oct. 19-20

5th Founder's Day Fall Festival & Back Yard BBQ

White Hall

(870) 247-2399; whitehallfoundersday.com

Oct. 20

5th Fall Festival & Car Show

Osceola

(870) 563-2281; osceolasmcchamber.com

Oct. 20

Fall Festival

Powhatan

(870) 878-6595

Oct. 20

Fall Fest

Smackover

(870) 725-2877

Oct. 26

36th Bean Fest & Championship Outhouse Races

Mountain View

(870) 269-8068; yourplaceinthemountains.com

Oct. 27

4th Shannon Hills Fall Festival

Shannon Hills

(501) 455-2003

MEETING CALENDAR

November 7-10, 2018

National League of Cities City Summit

Los Angeles, CA

January 16-18, 2019

Arkansas Municipal League 2019 Winter Conference

Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, AR

June 12-14, 2019

Arkansas Municipal League 85th Annual Convention

Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, AR

Getting the most from your pharmacist

By Schwanda Flowers, Pharm.D.

We are always interested in getting the most out of things—whether it's our jobs, our relationships, our free time, or something else. What if there was a way to get more out of a relationship most people take for granted and it could benefit your health?

I'm talking about the relationship you have with your pharmacist.

Many times our interactions with the pharmacist are brief and hurried. We've just left a doctor's appointment and need to rush the kids back to school and ourselves to work. Or, it's the end of the day and we have to pick up the kids from school and a quick dinner before we rush off to other activities.

For some people, just a quick hello and a few pleasantries while getting their prescription filled may be all that's needed. But for others, a quality relationship with their pharmacist can have a positive impact on their health.

Strong, trustworthy relationships with your health care providers are a worthwhile investment. Just like your doctors and nurses, your pharmacist can have a great impact on your personal health and adherence to a personal care plan.

Pharmacists can do more than fill your prescription

Sure, filling and processing your prescriptions is a vital part of the job, but pharmacists are trained for and capable of much more.

Because the backbone of their training is in medication, whether that is learning how they work, what works best with a certain condition or disease, or identifying benefits and side effects, pharmacists are living, breathing encyclopedias of knowledge when it comes to all things medicine.

Whenever you have questions about side effects or the effectiveness of a prescription, your pharmacist is there and ready to help. Likewise, whenever you go in for a new prescription, your pharmacist should offer you counseling to answer any questions or concerns you have.

If this is not your experience, or your pharmacist seems distant and non-accessible when you visit, it might be time to seek a pharmacy that can better meet your needs. Patients should never feel their pharmacist does not have time to listen and help.

More pharmacists now offer enhanced services

You've probably noticed several pharmacies in your community now offer more than they used to. It's becoming common for pharmacies to offer immunizations as well as blood pressure checks and some assistance with chronic conditions or diseases.

In a rural state like Arkansas where access is key, this has the potential to provide an incredible benefit. A patient could be able to walk into a pharmacy and receive counsel, stay up-to-date on shots, check their blood pressure, or ask questions about the state of their chronic disease or condition without having to travel a long distance for a physician's appointment.

This means pharmacists can play a key, front-line role in identifying if this is an issue that can be solved at the pharmacy or if further medical attention is needed. Adding this layer of support can increase patient health and adherence.

Pharmacists are here to help

It seems clichéd, but it is true: Pharmacists just want to help. A common refrain I hear when asking students why they want to become pharmacists is "I just want to help people."

More times than not, pharmacists are leaders and a vital part of the community. We know our patients from our kids' schools or sports team or our place of worship or community group. Because of these relationships, we have a vested interest in making sure our patients and our communities are taken care of properly. We want to be approachable and accessible when our patients have questions or concerns.

Schwanda Flowers, Pharm.D., is Associate Dean for Administrative and Academic Affairs, College of Pharmacy. University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Changes to the Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

Submit changes to Tricia Zello, tzello@arml.org.

Arkadelphia

Delete	DR	Delton Simpson
Add	DR	(Vacant)

Augusta

Delete	T	James Miller
Add	T	Jessica Tidwell

Barling

Delete	CEO	Dee Wayne Norbury
Add	CEO	James Griffin

Bethel Heights

Delete	PD	Lisa Gibson
Add	PD	(Vacant)

Barling

Delete	C/T	Fran Edwards
Add	C/T	(Vacant)

Corning

Delete	C/T	(Vacant)
Add	C/T	Suzy Parks

Daisy

Delete	CM	Lisa Cogburn
Add	CM	(Vacant)
Delete	R/T	(Vacant)
Add	/A/R/T	Lisa Cogburn
Delete	FC	Scott Frazier
Add	FC	Kenneth Crow

Decatur

Delete	CM	Bill Montgomery
Add	CM	(Vacant)

Dell

Delete	R/T	Regina Lorren
Add	R/T	Gaye Moody

DeValls Bluff

Delete	R/T	Thelma Gray
Add	R/T	Pamela DelGiorno

Elm Springs

Add	AM	Connie Newman

Gassville

Delete	E-Mail	cog@suddenlinkmail.com
Add	E-Mail	cog@yelcot.net

Gillham

Delete	CM	(Vacant)
Add	CM	Shanna Newberry

Gum Springs

Delete	R/T	Diane Majors
Add	/A/R/T	Toni Beard

Heber Springs

Delete	FC	Linc Cothern
Add	FC	Jason Robitaille
Add	DPW	Scott Habbley

Jacksonville

Delete	PD	Jill Ross
Add	/A/PD	Charlette Nelson

Judsonia

Delete	CM	Joe Newman
Add	CM	(Vacant)

Lamar

Add	AM	Johnessa Boze

Marshall

Delete	R/T	Gail Cypert
Add	R/T	Vickie Fountain

Mayflower

Delete	CM	Pat Hinson
Add	CM	Stacin Dawson

Mountain Home

Delete	T	Debbie Throasch
Add	T	Rita Murray

Prescott

Add	CEO	Robbie Franks

Rector

Delete	CM	Ryan Lawrence
Add	CM	Anthony Dowdy

Rogers

Delete	PD	Thomas Dunlap
Add	PD	Jamaikhan Dickey

Vilonia

Delete	FC	K.C. Williams
Add	FC	Keith Hillman

Winslow

Delete	R/T	Mary Bromley
Add	R/T	Ann Malkie

Campaign asks us to imagine a day without water

By Danny Hernandez

Most of us take water for granted. We turn on a faucet and clean water rushes out—as much as we want, any time we want. Each day we wake up, brush our teeth, take a shower, and maybe have a cup of coffee. While at work or school there are clean restroom facilities, possibly a filtered water dispenser. At the end of the day we go home, have dinner, wash the dishes, and perhaps do a load of laundry.

By the end of each day we have each individually used more than 100 gallons of water per person. Compare that to someone living in an impoverished country who must ration anywhere between five and 20 gallons per day.

Many Americans hardly think twice about the infrastructure that brings water to their homes and safely returns water to our environment, but we should because our water infrastructure is aging and failing.

The quest for clean water has been one of the defining struggles of human history. Civilizations that harnessed water thrived. The ones that failed, fell. Today, seven in every 10 people on Earth can count on having running water in their homes, but roughly 840 million people around the world lack basic water services, and of that number more than 250 million must travel in excess of 30 minutes just to reach an improved source. Even in the United States, millions of people are at risk of losing access to clean water. Mid-century treatment plants and thousands of miles of distribution lines are reaching the end of their useful lives. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that nearly $385 billion must be invested into our water infrastructure just to maintain what already exists.

On Oct. 12, 2017, we joined over 750 different organizations to participate in a campaign called Imagine a Day Without Water, and we will be participating again this year on Oct. 10. Engineering firms, water authorities, watch groups, manufacturers, and universities are just some of the groups to sign a pledge to take some time out of their day and reflect on the importance of water in our everyday lives. The initiative, started by the Value of Water Campaign, is spread each year by way of social media, print and broadcast, school curricula, blogs, contests, and lectures.

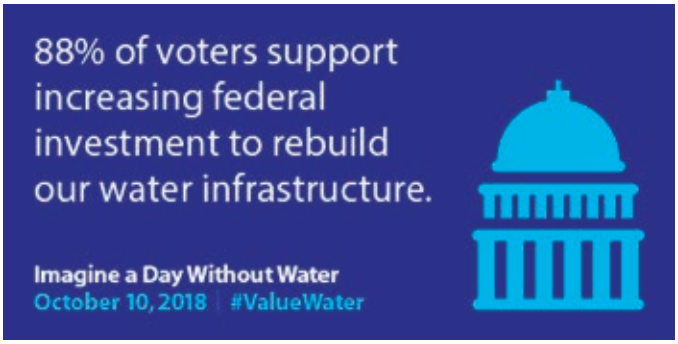
According to a study published in 2015 by the U.S. Geological Survey, Arkansans use more than 11 billion gallons of water a day. Of that volume, 69 percent came from four aquifers, with the remainder drawn from surface water. More than 70 percent of all current water usage in Arkansas goes to agriculture, while industries use up another 22 percent.

Those findings were the focus of a recent presentation at the Heifer Learning Center at Heifer Ranch in Perryville. The topic of discussion was water usage within the property in three different sectors. Farm Manager Paul Casey talked about the facilities available at the farm. Thousands of visitors come to Perryville each year to learn how people in other countries live and what issues and struggles they face on a daily basis. Through their learning program, visitors can spend the night in housing built to replicate and immerse students in the lives of people from countries such as Zambia or Thailand.

Livestock Coordinator Christine Hernandez discussed livestock water usage. Some of the animals raised on farms include cattle, sheep and goats, pigs, and chickens, all of which require fresh water that is free of debris and manure. Farms need an average of 2,200 gallons of water per day just to keep livestock healthy.

Garden Coordinator Sean Pessarra discussed the farm's certified organic garden. The garden not only provides vegetables for the on-site kitchen to be used for meals for visitors, it is also used to research in water conservation techniques. Pessarra shared various irrigation techniques as well as ideas to reduce water usage by utilizing new technology available to farmers.

If you've never experienced it before, it's difficult to imagine a day without water. However, most Americans recognize that water is essential to our quality of life. Data shows that 88 percent of us support increasing federal investment to rebuild water infrastructure, and 75 percent want Congress to be proactive and invest in our nation's water infrastructure before our systems fail. Renewed investment in our water infrastructure isn't just



about personal use. A day without water would mean havoc for businesses and our economy. A single day without water service nationwide would put $43.5 billion in economic activity at risk.

When you break it down, it's easy to see just how much water we use. For example: It takes 28 liters of water to make a single bottle of Coca-Cola (seven liters just for the packaging); 74 liters goes into every glass of beer made; 130 liters goes into each and every cup of coffee we make; 2,500 liters is what it takes to make a single T-shirt; one quarter-pound hamburger takes around 1,650 liters of water to produce; and bread takes roughly 1,608 liters per kilogram to craft.

Unfortunately, investments in water infrastructure have not been a priority for decades. The federal government's investment in the infrastructure has declined precipitously leaving states, municipalities, water utilities, and individual citizens to make up the difference. Meanwhile, our systems are crumbling. The U.S. government is currently funding $82 billion less than what is needed to maintain our existing water infrastructure, putting our health, safety, economy, and environment at risk.

The national Imagine A Day Without Water is designed to be a day of action and to educate people about the essential role that water plays in all of our lives every day, and the threat that aging and underfunded water infrastructure poses to our communities and economy.

There is no substitute for water. Each of us needs it to survive. So, please join us this October, along with the Value of Water Campaign, in educating and inspiring others about the value of water and the need for investment in our infrastructure. Visit imagineadaywithoutwater.org for more information on the Imagine A Day Without Water campaign and how you can participate.

Danny Hernandez is a project designer with MCE's Water/Wastewater Department. Contact Danny at (501) 371-0272 or email him at dhernandez@mce.us.com.

U.S. Senate questions hair-testing guidelines

The U.S. Senate has recently passed legislation with a requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide an explanation for a 21-month delay in issuing mandatory federal hair-testing guidance for safety-sensitive transportation employees such as truck drivers.

Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), chair of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, introduced a bill in May that would require HHS to report progress on hair testing within 30 days of passage. He also noted a requirement for a lay out schedule, including benchmarks, for completion of hair-testing guidelines.

On Sept. 17 the bill passed the Senate by a 99-1 margin. The Senate Commerce Committee is asking the House to work with the Senate to create a final bill. The House has not voted on the bill, and it appears not to be scheduled for action.

According to Thune's comments, the bill is one step closer to the president's desk and one step closer to providing much-needed assistance to those who need it the most. The hair-testing provision is part of the bill intended to provide opioid disorder prevention, recovery, and treatment. Dec. 31 is the deadline for federal drug testing guidelines to be issued. Adding a drug-testing panel for Fentanyl and expanded opiate testing is expected for certain railroad employees.

The American Trucking Association supports hair testing and believes that hair testing is the most reliable, accurate, and failsafe drug-testing method available. It has been proven that hair samples have a longer detection window (up to 90 days) and it is an observed test. The downside is that hair testing does not show recent drug use (under 7 days), and that could limit the accuracy of a required post-accident test.

The anticipated reduction of costs for hair testing versus urine drug screening is an issue being considered. A major concern at this time is that many specimen collection sites do not collect hair specimens. The limited access to collection sites could mean a driver might have to drive additional miles to find a site to collect the sample. Another issue is that test fees are higher at the labs. Additionally, collection sites can charge more for taking the hair specimen.

The hair-testing bill was introduced originally in 2016 and, due to concerns from HHS, SAMHSA, and professionals in the drug/alcohol-testing industry, the bill has failed to move forward. It is very likely that delays will continue. We will keep you posted as information is available.

Smaller labs being bought by conglomerates

More and more drug-testing labs are being bought by major conglomerates, and this is not good for consumers. We have diligently monitored the "gobbling up" of small, independent labs. The smaller labs pay more attention to client services and are very careful. It is very expensive to be a SAMHSA Certified Laboratory, both in meeting the stringent facility requirements and in clinical services. For a conglomerate with many locations, the costs are distributed and individualized care and concerns are not a priority. In a smaller laboratory, costs for the required guidelines impact the bottom line more significantly.

As a TPA (third-party administrator), we monitor the services of labs that we use for our clients. We make changes when issues arise (quality control issues, erroneous test results, delayed testing, reporting errors, etc.). One concern that has arisen is labs providing their own collection sites. If the specimen collection personnel make an error and send the specimen to their own lab, who is monitoring the situation? We prefer an arm's length between the collector and the lab. Some labs have contracted with their own MRO (medical review officer) to review the test. That becomes an issue because they are all in the same pocket.

If you are concerned about any lab we use or have questions about their services, please contact a'TEST for assistance.

a'TEST CONSULTANTS, Inc., provides drug and alcohol testing as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League Legal Defense Program. The program helps cities and towns comply with the U. S. Department of Transportation's required drug testing for all holders of commercial drivers' licenses.

Volunteers participate in a vegetation removal effort.

Be Firewise during this year's Fire Prevention Week

By Leslie Foster

Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9. Proclaimed by President Coolidge in 1925, Fire Prevention Week is the longest-running public health observance in the United States and commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, one of the most famous and destructive fires in our history. It burned more than 2,000 acres of land. The blaze spread quickly from a farm (legend says it was started by a cow kicking a lantern over, though the official cause was never determined) to the inner city, burning nearly one-third of Chicago in about a day and a half.

The Great Chicago Fire changed the entire structure of firefighting, which is why it still holds such importance in the world of fire prevention. New technology, building requirements, and firefighting methods have made tremendous improvements in fire protection since that time, but there are still plenty of things citizens can do on an individual level to help strengthen their homes, particularly from the threat of wildfire.

Firewise USA is a national wildfire risk reduction program through the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) that highlights simple steps homeowners can take to help protect their home in the event of a wildfire. In Arkansas, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) partners with local fire departments to participate in program efforts and in turn earn grant opportunities to help strengthen mitigation activities in the community.

To participate, fire department personnel establish a Firewise USA site (typically the area within their fire district) of eight to 2,500 dwelling units. The site is then outlined in a Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP), which lists primary department contacts, nearest locations to find fuel, food, and lodging, and other information that would be useful for distribution in an emergency situation. Once a site boundary is established and a CWPP is created, risk assessments must be conducted on at least 80 percent of the homes in the site that fall in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). These assessments are used to rate various aspects of the home and its surroundings for fire danger, which are then averaged together to give the site an overall fire danger rating. Departments are then required to participate in at least one vegetation removal project and one educational outreach project within their site. The time invested in these projects must be equal to at least one volunteer hour per dwelling unit in their site boundaries.

During 2017, 174 Firewise sites across Arkansas invested more than $12 million worth of volunteer time helping strengthen their defenses against wildfire by

Norman is one of four Firewise USA sites in Arkansas that has participated in the program for more than 15 years.

participating in various vegetation removal and educational outreach efforts. These ranged from picking up limbs in a disabled citizen's yard and assisting with storm cleanups to hosting an emergency preparedness day and distributing informative newsletters to local residents. As 2018 draws to a close, participating sites have already invested hundreds of hours toward this year's projects, some even receiving additional grants and recognition for outstanding community efforts.

While fire departments around the state participate in Arkansas's program, many homeowners like to know what they can do to protect their homes. So, what are the primary wildfire concerns for residents, and what can Arkansas homeowners do to help firefighters make homes safer?

- **Spacing between vegetation and homes**—The area up to 300 feet from homes should contain lean, clean, and green vegetation of all kinds, including landscaping, grass, trees, and shrubbery. Homeowners' primary focus should be directed to the "immediate zone" within five feet of the home. Keep grass mowed and watered to make it resistant to fire embers. Trim trees so limbs do not touch the roof, windows, or deck areas. Also keep limbs trimmed at least six feet up from the ground so that a small surface fire is not transferred to treetops. Finally, keep dead vegetation like leaves, twigs, and pine needles cleared from the roof, porches, vents, and structure walls.
- **Think of the yard as the primary defense against wildfire**—Any debris, trees, vehicles, fences, workshops, doghouses, RVs, barns, or anything else that could carry wildfire from the surrounding area to your home should be considered a hazard. Any cleared area that could be used to stop a fire is helpful.
- **Wildfire always runs quicker uphill**—Wildfire will use slopes to build energy and burn through fuel faster. This doesn't mean people should fear living on hills; it means more effort should be focused on maintaining lean, clean, and green space on slopes, as these are the areas most prone to rapid wildfire behavior.
- **Be mindful of burn bans and high fire weather**—Though they're not always convenient for homeowners, burn bans are declared by county judges when conditions are too dangerous to burn. Firefighters encourage residents to stay informed about burn bans via radio announcements, television, or by visiting arkfireinfo.org for an up-to-date statewide map of burn bans. Additionally, it's important to remember that even without burn bans, when winds are high and humidity is low, burning is still very dangerous. The leading causes of wildfire in Arkansas are burning debris and arson. Debris fires include accidents related to burning trash, leaves, or brush piles, while arson fires are those lit intentionally. Don't leave debris unattended while burning at any time, but especially when the weather is ripe for wildfire danger.
- **Mailbox lettering**—It's easy enough for firefighters to find a home when smoke is billowing from all sides, but it can be much more difficult in the middle of the night or during rain. Firefighters encourage everyone to get correct addresses posted in four-inch, reflective letters to allow for the quickest possible response time.

For more information on Arkansas Firewise, as well as program requirements and benefits, please visit www.aad.arkansas.gov/arkansas-firewise1.

Leslie Foster is the Firewise public information specialist for the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Contact Leslie at (501) 813-2554 or leslie.foster@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

2018 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita

	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	**2017**	**2018**	**2017**	**2018**	**2017**	**2018**
January	$5.3276	$5.3807	$0.3041	$0.2314	$2.1473	$2.1460
February	$5.5378	$5.7121	$0.1894	$0.2181	$1.0884	$1.0867
March	$4.7222	$4.9583	$0.3450	$0.2452	$1.0886	$1.0870
April	$5.3517	$5.3609	$0.3611	$0.2342	$1.0886	$1.0854
May	$5.4824	$5.6871	$0.2602	$0.2369	$1.0864	$1.0859
June	$5.5686	$5.6422	$0.1858	$0.1786	$1.0881	$1.0872
July	$5.5610	$5.9048	$0.2628	$0.1625	$2.9480	$2.9589
August	$5.5557	$5.5464	$0.2711	$0.1504	$0.9499	$0.9368
September	$5.4801	$5.5992	$0.2230	$0.1999	$1.0881	$1.0873
October	$5.5047		$0.2508		$1.0888	
November	$5.1475		$0.2377		$1.0875	
December	$5.1764		$0.1561		$1.0882	
Total Year	**$64.4157**	**$49.7917**	**$3.0471**	**$1.8572**	**$15.8379**	**$12.5613**

Actual Totals Per Month

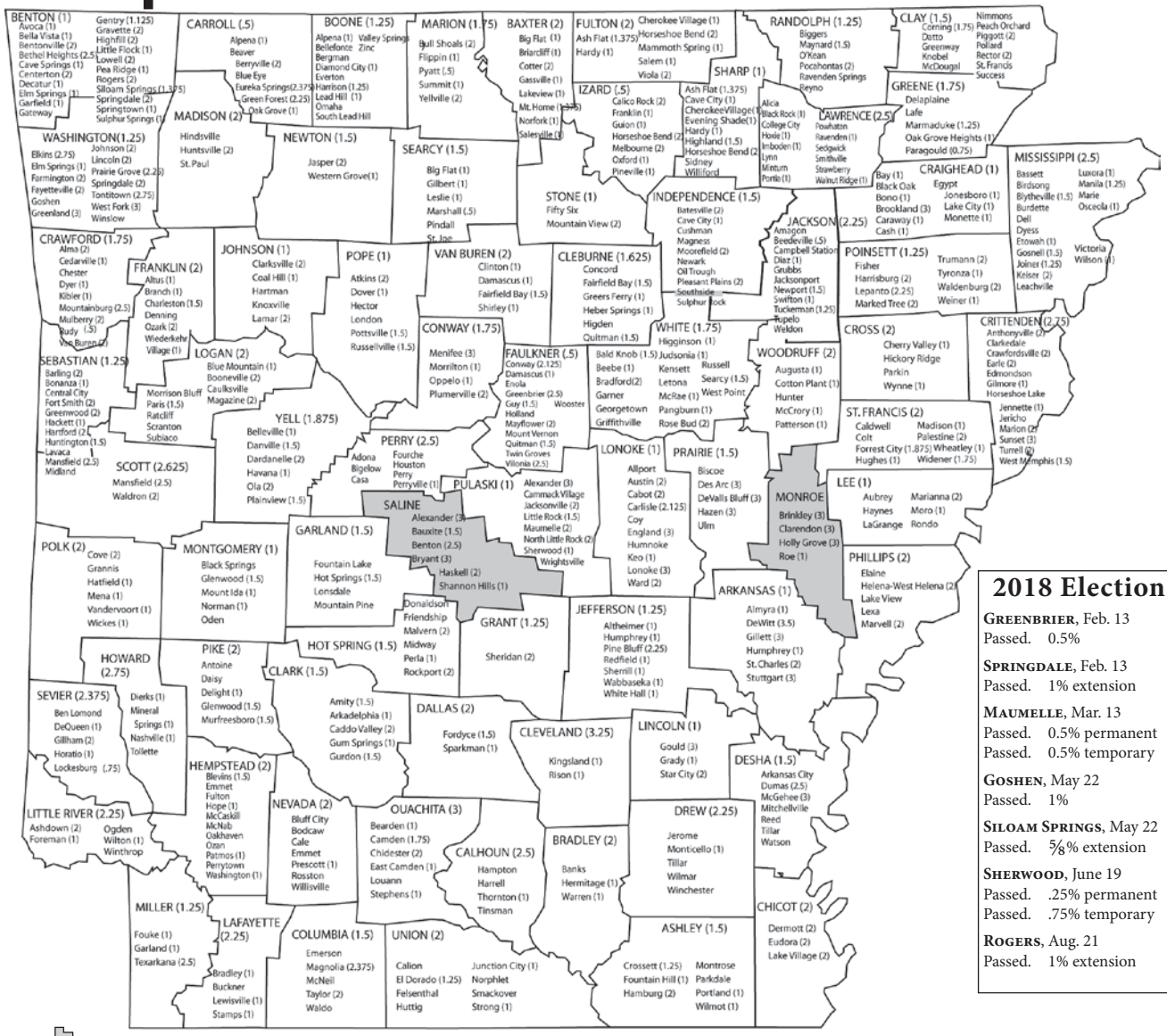
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	**2017**	**2018**	**2017**	**2018**	**2017**	**2018**
January	$10,065,525.00	$10,171,403.10	$574,575.98	$437,461.72	*$4,056,819.92	*$4,056,771.18
February	$10,462,690.50	$10,797,904.69	$357,751.63	$412,277.48	$2,056,417.62	$2,054,332.65
March	$8,921,686.11	$9,372,912.56	$651,783.55	$463,496.06	$2,056,718.50	$2,054,888.05
April	$10,110,987.00	$10,133,933.55	$682,243.26	$442,746.74	$2,056,718.50	$2,051,743.46
May	$10,363,642.30	$10,750,634.53	$491,893.79	$447,755.63	$2,053,761.87	$2,052,679.36
June	$10,526,632.40	$10,665,832.80	$351,199.83	$337,582.28	2,056,937.75	$2,055,168.34
July	$10,512,280.90	$11,162,170.00	$496,864.92	$307,247.09	** $5,572,710.46	*** $5,593,456.00
August	$10,502,217.40	$10,484,657.00	$512,555.17	$284,348.41	$1,795,649.71	$1,770,842.80
September	$10,359,333.50	$10,584,484.30	$421,562.72	$377,800.40	$2,056,885.50	$2,055,387.11
October	$10,405,765.80		$474,027.01		$2,058,156.39	
November	$9,730,523.28		$449,423.80		$2,055,750.30	
December	$9,785,275.08		$295,172.64		$2,056,989.97	
Total Year	**$121,746,559.27**	**$94,123,932.53**	**$5,759,054.30**	**$3,510,715.81**	**$29,933,516.49**	**$23,745,268.95**

* Includes $2 million appropriation from the Property Tax Relief Fund

** Includes $3,515,747.46 supplemental for July 2017

***Includes $3,514,066.32 supplemental for July 2018

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



2018 Elections

Greenbrier, Feb. 13
Passed. 0.5%

Springdale, Feb. 13
Passed. 1% extension

Maumelle, Mar. 13
Passed. 0.5% permanent
Passed. 0.5% temporary

Goshen, May 22
Passed. 1%

Siloam Springs, May 22
Passed. 5/8% extension

Sherwood, June 19
Passed. .25% permanent
Passed. .75% temporary

Rogers, Aug. 21
Passed. 1% extension

KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer **See also:** www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2018 with 2017 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	$59,272,899	$51,749,675	$50,925,990	$46,139,133	$110,198,889	$97,888,807	$68,417	$15,903
February	$63,961,892	$60,007,416	$56,034,012	$52,583,090	$119,995,904	$112,590,506	$76,180	$17,386
March	$51,260,662	$48,225,282	$44,932,987	$42,723,485	$96,193,649	$90,948,767	$79,235	$18,863
April	$51,354,831	$50,349,075	$45,689,403	$44,591,728	$97,044,234	$94,940,803	$79,564	$15,747
May	$60,844,519	$55,441,606	$53,613,192	$48,861,910	$114,457,712	$104,303,516	$75,253	$17,059
June	$56,373,987	$50,977,784	$48,955,855	$45,261,893	$105,329,842	$96,239,677	$71,501	$17,534
July	$59,973,977	$55,472,881	$52,379,093	$49,248,601	$112,353,069	$104,721,482	$84,551	$18,995
August	$60,174,400	$54,840,523	$52,922,077	$49,357,901	$113,096,478	$104,198,425	$79,558	$15,982
September	$58,128,177	$53,692,981	$51,260,076	$48,991,616	$109,388,253	$102,684,597	$111,033	$45,866
October		$53,796,257		$49,299,660		$103,095,917		$79,279
November		$53,815,854		$49,290,527		$103,106,380		$78,491
December		$52,730,085		$48,086,258		$100,816,343		$72,999
Total	**$521,345,345**	**$641,099,418**	**$456,712,685**	**$574,435,802**	**$978,058,030**	**$1,215,535,220**	**$725,292**	**$414,105**
Averages	$57,927,261	$53,424,951	$50,745,854	$47,869,650	$108,673,114	$101,294,602	$80,588	$34,509

September 2018 Municipal Levy Receipts and September 2018 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2017 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR
Alexander	116,479.58	76,291.28
Alma	218,646.00	258,227.74
Almyra	2,342.08	10,181.13
Alpena	5,104.58	5,265.17
Altheimer	2,573.03	2,132.91
Altus	6,648.09	6,448.89
Amity	10,392.09	10,936.70
Anthonyville	820.65	864.33
Arkadelphia	171,491.64	158,117.14
Ash Flat	98,301.79	95,442.33
Ashdown	133,911.54	120,611.82
Atkins	55,390.84	55,631.44
Augusta	27,787.00	24,079.04
Austin	33,617.94	31,687.33
Avoca	7,543.51	7,408.14
Bald Knob	52,891.11	52,479.46
Barling	61,365.36	59,698.86
Batesville	650,917.30	630,678.67
Bauxite	12,522.60	15,730.81
Bay	8,559.30	8,577.32
Bearden	10,627.75	13,042.20
Beebe	120,834.02	121,490.46
Beedeville	118.52	99.03
Bella Vista	174,909.96	171,592.79
Belleville	2,272.76	2,729.28
Benton	1,463,997.81	1,483,373.98
Bentonville	1,923,154.72	2,172,281.82
Berryville	251,311.45	240,201.69
Bethel Heights	73,871.25	81,385.29
Big Flat	269.77	274.64
Black Rock	9,748.12	13,809.44
Blevins	3,300.32	2,314.93
Blue Mountain	122.86	203.75
Blytheville	347,814.25	224,755.66
Bonanza	5,072.26	2,777.47
Bono	16,545.74	15,054.53
Booneville	113,194.76	107,386.08
Bradford	10,256.92	15,388.75
Bradley	3,820.71	2,998.32
Branch	1,969.77	1,807.65
Briarcliff	1,051.84	1,640.80
Brinkley	158,164.48	111,014.40
Brookland	67,783.48	51,606.94
Bryant	1,179,113.34	1,088,135.16
Bull Shoals	35,037.29	17,312.61
Cabot	823,639.17	759,443.78
Caddo Valley	60,037.19	63,132.33
Calico Rock	28,354.82	25,271.69
Camden	283,584.80	296,913.54
Caraway	5,362.84	4,629.41
Carlisle	54,899.08	53,864.56
Cash	2,024.36	2,260.17
Cave City	19,153.13	18,403.06
Cave Springs	34,250.80	33,682.14
Cedarville	4,966.03	5,136.69
Centerton	246,864.77	195,156.28
Charleston	29,663.20	34,399.13
Cherokee Village	16,486.86	16,390.30
Cherry Valley	4,892.86	4,642.91
Chidester	2,700.40	2,980.99
Clarendon	41,900.23	40,462.63
Clarksville	347,974.88	369,686.54
Clinton	90,670.67	88,843.46
Coal Hill	3,962.13	4,848.26
Conway	2,543,487.67	2,029,169.22
Corning	64,560.15	79,696.46
Cotter	14,689.38	13,244.02
Cotton Plant	1,348.71	1,753.58
Cove	11,347.39	14,351.49
Crawfordsville	7,872.77	9,663.12
Crossett	162,703.10	279,549.51
Damascus	10,695.99	17,891.72
Danville	39,046.16	33,423.62
Dardanelle	157,033.17	157,535.37
Decatur	24,713.33	22,102.28
Delight	3,846.75	4,128.34
De Queen	120,147.91	119,021.44
Dermott	22,194.45	32,883.46
Des Arc	63,926.84	19,365.64
DeValls Bluff	20,917.04	13,342.35
DeWitt	163,812.62	160,081.93
Diamond City	3,215.31	2,934.22
Diaz	20,366.98	3,964.70
Dierks	14,093.18	15,851.35
Dover	22,583.84	24,420.30
Dumas	134,732.17	136,876.69
Dyer	2,520.13	2,318.97
Earle	19,097.62	17,420.11
East Camden	6,529.08	4,966.53
El Dorado	713,973.87	535,496.93
Elkins	109,576.40	88,971.28
Elm Springs	9,065.12	8,672.34
England	68,683.08	49,698.97
Etowah	517.99	761.26
Eudora	25,349.54	31,013.01
Eureka Springs	271,625.27	251,691.61
Evening Shade	4,028.63	4,523.57
Fairfield Bay	38,320.92	35,876.94
Farmington	154,175.44	131,384.13
Fayetteville	3,644,459.23	3,458,024.75
Flippin	46,369.65	51,602.15
Fordyce	78,524.42	76,373.15
Foreman	10,515.73	10,079.62
Forrest City	328,601.42	316,633.65
Fort Smith	3,599,391.96	3,596,259.54
Fouke	10,376.87	10,344.89
Fountain Hill	1,949.70	1,679.46
Brinkley	1.78	2,379.86
Franklin	2,735.25	11,669.39
Garfield	11,788.75	1,998.22
Garland	3,251.21	17,457.56
Gassville	19,311.12	48,361.82
Gentry	69,234.65	1,554.17
Gilbert	1,184.02	12,179.52
Gillett	10,288.89	3,219.43
Gillham	4,722.35	312.45
Gilmore	229.08	75,331.57
Glenwood	71,813.31	14,854.16
Gosnell	15,631.71	12,237.11
Gould	13,187.02	4,577.29
Grady	4,504.37	78,250.66
Gravette	89,026.45	108,145.31
Green Forest	76,497.57	162,757.30
Greenbrier	238,337.33	19,195.37
Greenland	31,564.90	222,458.57
Greenwood	220,037.98	22,360.41
Greers Ferry	29,409.83	5,638.51
Gum Springs	338.66	270.21
Gurdon	24,482.66	41,654.03
Guy	6,386.89	6,318.96
Hackett	6,595.78	5,270.61
Hamburg	65,343.29	30,098.25
Hardy	22,952.96	25,499.72
Harrisburg	53,424.77	57,323.49
Harrison	478,675.92	486,352.29
Hartford	4,156.45	4,559.17
Haskell	44,925.90	48,847.28
Hatfield	4,115.59	3,969.23
Havana	3,631.67	3,334.95
Hazen	58,336.41	57,325.87
Heber Springs	159,714.20	158,908.77
Helena-West Helena	231,980.64	221,111.06
Hermitage	5,362.28	4,983.95
Higginson	1,554.85	1,335.74
Highfill	56,773.45	57,031.73
Highland	24,931.47	28,910.92
Holly Grove	6,703.24	4,898.41
Hope	183,376.46	191,094.46
Horatio	6,312.30	6,547.89
Horseshoe Bend	26,268.15	23,455.17
Hot Springs	1,687,173.74	1,741,619.56
Hoxie	15,653.80	18,127.49
Hughes	5,071.60	5,595.60
Humphrey	2,532.02	1,941.17
Huntington	2,921.24	3,068.75
Huntsville	132,869.60	137,401.77
Imboden	8,370.29	7,669.73
Jacksonville	642,349.17	672,361.78
Jasper	31,189.33	31,207.10
Jennette	153.61	119.87
Johnson	57,139.56	58,832.98
Joiner	2,693.05	2,054.26
Jonesboro	1,504,409.02	1,396,993.94
Judsonia	12,856.89	11,531.40
Junction City	6,102.92	5,524.03
Keiser	4,377.52	4,139.05
Keo	1,503.77	4,541.72
Kibler	2,945.17	3,145.77
Kingsland	2,127.81	2,020.48
Lake City	11,972.87	12,029.97
Lake Village	80,874.41	63,672.22
Lakeview	4,751.67	5,996.34
Lamar	23,208.47	22,208.54
Lead Hill	5,749.85	5,645.21
Lepanto	29,240.10	26,695.55
Leslie	4,821.14	5,322.10
Lewisville	9,295.83	9,317.35
Lincoln	44,313.04	47,843.34
Little Flock	14,847.18	11,251.18
Little Rock	6,245,992.63	6,196,058.28
Lockesburg	5,639.81	6,399.96
Lonoke	208,884.17	126,573.48
Lowell	318,051.50	318,237.34
Luxora	3,600.14	2,435.00
Madison	1,490.66	1,289.46
Magazine	11,690.26	10,143.53
Magnolia	406,950.81	459,489.18
Malvern	322,173.48	175,807.00
Mammoth Spring	8,801.57	9,649.76
Manila	36,833.75	36,158.94
Mansfield	35,821.57	31,386.25
Marianna	69,677.82	69,714.39
Marion	237,352.09	229,477.21
Marked Tree	55,954.56	53,585.39
Marmaduke	18,394.10	12,393.79
Marshall	15,565.88	15,557.07
Marvell	21,114.40	16,971.29
Maumelle	392,999.97	206,686.19
Mayflower	63,122.06	60,172.01
Maynard	4,987.90	5,448.64
McCrory	19,642.92	18,502.92
McGehee	163,556.95	162,829.15
McRae	3,732.23	3,364.65
Melbourne	67,358.05	64,535.88
Mena	130,254.71	130,161.56
Menifee	9,342.85	7,229.86
Mineral Springs	7,577.18	4,878.52
Monette	18,436.41	15,364.29
Monticello	199,475.36	190,201.50
Moorefield	8,499.91	5,971.19
Moro	2,844.19	2,643.65
Morrilton	144,496.00	148,972.37
Mount Ida	20,004.04	22,159.47
Mountain Home	578,410.15	416,608.02
Mountain View	183,791.60	183,306.77
Mountainburg	13,631.31	11,627.55
Mulberry	27,713.21	32,077.57
Murfreesboro	34,528.77	38,648.73
Nashville	119,033.86	114,586.92
Newport	166,981.53	183,698.37
Norfork	5,735.27	5,881.93
Norman	4,016.97	2,115.19
North Little Rock	2,789,869.51	1,395,954.54
Oak Grove	797.35	822.18
Oak Grove Heights	5,543.12	5,275.84
Ola	16,861.40	16,473.80
Oppelo	3,802.01	3,881.48
Osceola	90,382.77	89,509.03
Oxford	1,602.92	2,020.33
Ozark	179,837.42	160,912.35
Palestine	27,126.17	23,040.13
Pangburn	7,758.22	7,992.20
Paragould	323,656.39	305,533.94
Paris	88,216.37	73,925.12
Patmos	92.27	538.94
Patterson	1,214.56	1,438.89
Pea Ridge	62,875.08	60,444.02
Perla	2,741.05	3,008.41
Perryville	23,016.01	21,485.18
Piggott	74,369.60	68,646.08
Pine Bluff	1,295,752.68	886,956.09
Pineville	1,815.91	1,678.66
Plainview	4,419.91	3,627.02
Pleasant Plains	8,891.71	8,765.16
Plumerville	11,452.96	6,464.37
Pocahontas	280,439.80	251,333.07
Portia	4,488.79	2,534.97
Portland	2,226.96	4,697.78
Pottsville	33,226.86	27,052.86
Prairie Grove	111,113.70	100,946.08
Prescott	66,969.05	55,126.29
Pyatt	1,017.69	638.83
Quitman	23,269.36	22,481.41
Ravenden	2,437.68	2,364.98
Rector	28,605.36	32,244.61
Redfield	17,349.36	16,636.27
Rison	13,873.65	18,019.27
Rockport	43,493.53	17,487.29
Roe	797.77	454.72
Rogers	3,294,195.33	3,040,620.26
Rose Bud	21,995.18	22,080.98
Rudy	7,887.51	9,471.87
Russellville	1,058,607.84	906,940.41
Salem	20,974.20	20,824.52
Salesville	4,427.59	4,757.22
Searcy	779,799.62	762,879.14
Shannon Hills	9,998.82	9,607.64
Sheridan	203,008.33	190,613.61
Sherrill	690.58	974.46
Sherwood	449,377.86	430,774.20
Shirley	2,623.96	2,566.15
Siloam Springs	490,850.66	637,116.79
Sparkman	3,683.99	3,344.32
Springdale	2,513,403.81	2,531,222.08
Springtown	197.27	527.63
St. Charles	2,548.06	1,727.76
Stamps	13,092.64	12,026.55
Star City	75,784.65	68,082.89
Stephens	5,501.52	4,926.46
Strong	9,102.10	9,557.22
Stuttgart	564,387.67	517,227.01
Sulphur Springs	2,260.21	1,534.47
Summit	4,703.73	4,407.53
Sunset	3,301.55	3,978.63
Swifton	3,307.70	3,316.98
Taylor	7,373.55	7,606.69
Texarkana	467,498.54	375,546.80
Texarkana Special	196,998.62	184,870.65
Thornton	1,084.32	1,241.35
Tontitown	251,565.50	131,086.67
Trumann	161,400.36	154,480.71
Tuckerman	12,493.16	15,414.20
Turrell	4,571.45	2,363.67
Tyronza	3,251.99	3,705.26
Van Buren	694,458.68	634,686.50
Vandervoort	381.74	337.13
Vilonia	106,992.81	108,609.18
Viola	7,493.67	6,258.90
Wabbaseka	857.69	637.65
Waldenburg	8,881.41	11,860.93
Waldron	81,757.87	85,208.08
Walnut Ridge	81,647.51	74,503.20
Ward	37,068.90	42,873.72
Warren	77,237.99	73,089.34
Washington	1,635.52	2,014.06
Weiner	10,327.72	9,333.10
West Fork	69,449.71	63,121.28
West Memphis	567,021.03	564,011.67
Western Grove	3,774.98	3,662.83
Wheatley	5,039.70	4,949.27
White Hall	77,200.53	66,974.06
Wickes	5,202.04	4,029.02
Widener	3,018.97	2,195.17
Wiederkehr Village	2,167.41	2,220.33
Wilmot	2,005.50	1,601.58
Wilson	5,822.97	6,196.69
Wilton	693.48	980.77
Wynne	135,876.81	134,730.13
Yellville	53,654.66	45,586.45

COUNTY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR
Arkansas County	305,719.40	283,291.11
Ashley County	236,037.81	220,478.43
Crossett	57,440.96	53,654.51
Fountain Hill	1,825.34	1,705.02
Hamburg	29,800.04	27,835.65
Montrose	3,692.41	3,449.01
Parkdale	2,889.26	2,698.80
Portland	4,485.13	4,189.47
Wilmot	5,736.79	5,358.63
Baxter County	980,975.45	359,227.94
Big Flat	1,557.86	1,558.28
Briarcliff	3,535.15	3,536.09
Cotter	14,530.08	14,533.94
Gassville	31,127.34	31,135.59
Lakeview	11,099.79	11,102.73
Mountain Home	186,464.43	186,513.84
Norfork	7,654.51	7,656.54
Salesville	6,740.76	6,742.54
Benton County	775,687.05	754,947.74
Avoca	8,910.28	8,672.05
Bella Vista	484,331.96	471,382.52
Bentonville	644,552.61	627,319.40
Bethel Heights	43,309.79	42,151.83
Cave Springs	35,257.67	34,315.00
Centerton	173,732.13	169,087.11
Decatur	31,021.64	30,192.22
Elm Springs	2,501.45	2,434.57
Garfield	9,165.90	8,920.83
Gateway	7,394.80	7,197.09
Gentry	62,536.26	60,864.25
Gravette	56,839.53	55,319.83
Highfill	10,644.86	10,360.25
Little Flock	47,198.90	45,936.96
Lowell	133,781.96	130,205.07
Pea Ridge	87,532.51	85,192.18
Rogers	1,021,833.44	994,512.99
Siloam Springs	274,593.54	267,251.82
Springdale	119,631.42	116,432.87
Springtown	1,588.51	1,546.04
Sulphur Springs	9,330.23	9,080.76
Boone County	394,142.04	410,436.49
Alpena	4,159.05	4,331.00
Bellefonte	5,919.15	6,163.86
Bergman	5,723.59	5,960.21
Diamond City	10,195.55	10,617.05
Everton	1,734.03	1,805.71
Harrison	168,748.06	175,724.37
Lead Hill	3,533.24	3,679.31
Omaha	2,203.39	2,294.48
South Lead Hill	1,329.85	1,384.83
Valley Springs	2,385.91	2,484.55
Zinc	1,342.89	1,398.41
Bradley County	131,934.29	131,489.11
Banks	1,018.73	1,015.30
Hermitage	6,818.95	6,795.94
Warren	49,318.23	49,151.82
Calhoun County	93,835.28	96,100.84
Hampton	26,597.71	27,239.88
Harrell	5,102.58	5,225.78
Thornton	8,176.18	8,373.58
Tinsman	1,084.81	1,111.00
Carroll County	184,378.72	188,930.60
Beaver	674.98	691.65
Blue Eye	202.5	207.49
Chicot County	134,364.93	132,918.41
Dermott	24,464.63	24,201.25
Eudora	19,214.35	19,007.49
Lake Village	21,805.62	21,570.87
Clark County	423,142.43	410,422.52
Clay County	97,353.71	98,083.51
Corning	26,277.95	26,474.95
Datto	1,167.21	1,175.97
Greenway	2,439.48	2,457.77
Knobel	3,349.92	3,375.03
McDougal	2,171.02	2,187.30
Nimmons	805.38	811.41
Peach Orchard	1,575.75	1,587.56
Piggott	29,950.80	30,175.32
Pollard	2,591.22	2,610.65
Rector	15,383.93	15,499.25
St. Francis	2,918.04	2,939.92
Success	1,739.17	1,752.19
Cleburne County	431,712.76	391,261.61
Concord	3,205.05	2,904.74
Fairfield Bay	2,403.79	2,178.55
Greers Ferry	11,703.68	10,607.05
Heber Springs	94,115.45	85,296.91
Higden	1,576.25	1,428.56
Quitman	9,615.14	8,714.21
Cleveland County	116,135.96	132,569.99
Kingsland	1,962.81	2,240.56
Rison	5,901.59	6,736.70
Columbia County	383,490.21	375,360.79
Emerson	683.18	668.70
Magnolia	21,492.39	21,036.78
McNeil	957.94	937.63
Taylor	1,050.76	1,028.49
Waldo	2,547.09	2,493.09
Conway County	328,792.58	331,354.88
Menifee	3,477.73	3,504.84
Morrilton	77,926.55	78,533.84
Oppelo	8,993.74	9,063.83
Plumerville	9,511.95	9,586.07
Craighead County	310,131.55	285,497.72
Bay	31,554.54	29,048.16
Black Oak	4,590.39	4,225.77
Bono	37,336.33	34,370.69
Brookland	34,498.00	31,757.81
Caraway	22,408.81	20,628.87
Cash	5,992.03	5,516.09

Egypt	1,962.30	1,806.44
Jonesboro	1,178,485.89	1,084,878.45
Lake City	36,477.82	33,580.38
Monette	26,298.37	24,209.48
Crawford County	739,491.05	725,407.07
Alma	53,816.74	52,791.77
Cedarville	13,843.98	13,580.32
Chester	1,579.05	1,548.97
Dyer	8,699.66	8,533.97
Kibler	9,543.81	9,362.04
Mountainburg	6,266.54	6,147.19
Mulberry	16,436.00	16,122.97
Rudy	.605.8	594.26
Van Buren	226,340.15	222,029.39
Crittenden County	1,281,934.27	1,278,072.51
Anthonyville	1,040.71	1,037.58
Clarkedale	2,398.17	2,390.94
Crawfordsville	3,096.29	3,086.96
Earle	15,604.25	15,557.24
Edmondson	2,760.15	2,751.84
Gilmore	1,530.05	1,525.44
Horseshoe Lake	1,887.51	1,881.82
Jennette	.669.03	667.02
Jericho	.769.22	766.91
Marion	79,798.86	79,558.47
Sunset	1,151.89	1,148.43
Turrell	3,577.86	3,567.08
West Memphis	169,649.34	169,138.28
Cross County	288,292.65	275,918.38
Cherry Valley	7,404.95	7,087.11
Hickory Ridge	3,093.93	2,961.13
Parkin	12,569.08	12,029.58
Wynne	95,172.41	91,087.37
Dallas County	150,172.92	131,404.34
Desha County	112,331.45	104,337.59
Arkansas City	4,347.39	4,038.02
Dumas	55,898.47	51,920.55
McGehee	50,113.82	46,547.56
Mitchellville	4,276.13	3,971.82
Reed	2,043.04	1,897.65
Tillar	.249.44	231.69
Watson	2,506.28	2,327.94
Drew County	426,203.12	384,269.95
Jerome	.531.78	479.46
Monticello	129,085.73	116,385.27
Tillar	2,781.61	2,507.93
Wilmar	6,967.66	6,282.12
Winchester	2,277.09	2,053.07
Faulkner County	764,122.09	720,903.78
Enola	2,326.74	2,195.14
Holland	3,834.31	3,617.44
Mount Vernon	.998.16	941.70
Twin Groves	2,306.09	2,175.66
Wooster	5,920.12	5,585.29
Franklin County	233,326.89	160,631.30
Altus	7,248.53	6,293.24
Branch	3,509.52	3,046.99
Charleston	24,117.15	20,938.73
Denning	4,337.22	3,910.44
Ozark	35,229.01	30,586.16
Wiederkehr Village	363.38	315.50
Fulton County	114,401.90	115,617.08
Ash Flat	452.6	457.41
Cherokee Village	3,518.78	3,556.16
Hardy	.186.37	188.35
Horseshoe Bend	.75.43	76.24
Mammoth Spring	4,335.25	4,381.29
Salem	7,254.99	7,332.05
Viola	1,495.38	1,511.26
Garland County	2,226,205.56	2,050,591.33
Fountain Lake	7,557.78	6,961.58
Hot Springs	226,623.75	208,746.54
Lonsdale	1,412.39	1,300.97
Mountain Pine	11,569.55	10,656.89
Grant County	187,610.13	190,926.81
Greene County	547,425.30	507,744.32
Delaplaine	1,412.07	1,309.71
Lafe	5,575.23	5,171.10
Marmaduke	13,524.19	12,543.87
Oak Grove Heights	10,821.79	10,037.35
Paragould	317,873.19	294,831.65
Hempstead County	372,391.26	376,444.34
Blevins	3,477.09	3,514.94
Emmet	.474.65	479.82
Fulton	2,218.72	2,242.87
Hope	111,432.59	112,645.42
McCaskill	1,059.69	1,071.22
McNab	.750.61	758.78
Oakhaven	.695.42	702.99
Ozan	.938.26	948.48
Patmos	.706.46	714.15
Perrytown	3,002.44	3,035.12
Washington	1,986.91	2,008.52
Hot Spring County	291,144.04	304,454.71
Donaldson	2,355.48	2,463.17
Friendship	1,377.29	1,440.26
Malvern	80,743.57	84,435.05
Midway	3,044.12	3,183.29
Perla	1,885.95	1,972.17
Rockport	5,908.26	6,178.37
Howard County	368,701.80	359,435.36
Dierks	18,062.21	17,608.26
Mineral Springs	19,257.85	18,773.85
Nashville	73,763.32	71,909.45
Tollette	3,826.07	3,729.91
Independence County	510,201.87	609,768.99
Batesville	138,955.52	133,554.45
Cave City	2,196.60	2,111.22
Cushman	6,128.80	5,890.57
Magness	2,738.97	2,632.51
Moorefield	1,857.62	1,785.42
Newark	15,945.72	15,325.92
Oil Trough	3,525.41	3,388.38
Pleasant Plains	4,732.19	4,548.25
Southside	52,894.76	50,838.79
Sulphur Rock	6,183.03	5,942.72
Izard County	49,498.85	46,294.78
Jackson County	305,333.85	276,176.01
Amagon	1,095.14	990.56
Beedeville	1,195.71	1,081.53
Campbell Station	2,849.59	2,577.47
Diaz	14,728.48	13,321.99
Grubbs	4,313.50	3,901.58
Jacksonport	2,369.07	2,142.84
Newport	88,046.82	79,638.80
Swifton	8,917.55	8,065.97
Tuckerman	20,807.61	18,820.59
Tupelo	2,011.48	1,819.39
Weldon	.838.13	758.07
Jefferson County	411,342.08	657,592.20
Altheimer	10,310.60	9,474.66
Humphrey	3,227.30	2,965.65
Pine Bluff	514,304.00	472,606.44
Redfield	13,590.29	12,488.45
Sherrill	.880.17	808.81
Wabbaseka	2,671.95	2,455.32
White Hall	57,902.83	53,208.31
Johnson County	115,475.52	122,477.30
Clarksville	84,820.68	89,963.72
Coal Hill	9,352.64	9,919.73
Hartman	4,796.46	5,087.29
Knoxville	6,755.71	7,165.34
Lamar	14,832.99	15,732.38
Lafayette County	78,871.13	75,344.64
Bradley	3,717.08	3,550.89
Buckner	1,627.70	1,554.93
Lewisville	7,576.22	7,237.47
Stamps	10,020.74	9,572.68
Lawrence County	319,838.13	307,439.60
Alicia	863	829.54
Black Rock	4,607.29	4,428.69
Hoxie	19,347.85	18,597.83
Imboden	4,711.69	4,529.04
Lynn	2,004.38	1,926.68
Minturn	.758.6	729.20
Portia	3,041.37	2,923.47
Powhatan	.501.1	481.67
Ravenden	3,271.04	3,144.24
Sedgwick	1,057.87	1,016.86
Smithville	.542.85	521.81
Strawberry	2,101.82	2,020.34
Walnut Ridge	37,150.67	35,710.53
Lee County	39,281.59	32,633.86
Aubrey	1,217.26	1,011.26
Haynes	1,074.05	892.29
LaGrange	.637.27	529.42
Marianna	29,464.77	24,478.37
Moro	1,546.63	1,284.89
Rondo	1,417.75	1,177.81
Lincoln County	61,404.09	54,206.42
Gould	4,860.53	4,290.79
Grady	2,607.38	2,301.75
Star City	13,205.30	11,657.40
Little River County	189,158.60	202,683.38
Ashdown	38,583.70	41,342.43
Foreman	8,259.18	8,849.71
Ogden	1,470.48	1,575.62
Wilton	3,055.33	3,273.78
Winthrop	1,568.51	1,680.66
Logan County	328,162.28	289,830.96
Blue Mountain	1,164.70	1,028.65
Booneville	37,476.89	33,099.36
Caulksville	2,000.65	1,766.96
Magazine	7,955.62	7,026.36
Morrison Bluff	.601.13	530.92
Paris	33,175.03	29,299.99
Ratcliff	1,897.33	1,675.71
Scranton	2,103.97	1,858.21
Subiaco	5,372.61	4,745.07
Lonoke County	298,165.64	278,508.32
Allport	1,205.66	1,126.18
Austin	21,366.44	19,957.80
Cabot	249,268.15	232,834.52
Carlisle	23,211.63	21,681.34
Coy	1,006.47	940.11
England	29,617.37	27,664.77
Humnoke	2,977.46	2,781.17
Keo	2,683.91	2,506.97
Lonoke	44,504.68	41,570.60
Ward	42,638.52	39,827.47
Madison County	215,063.07	216,986.58
Hindsville	.453.72	457.78
Huntsville	17,449.61	17,605.68
St. Paul	.840.49	848.01
Marion County	211,192.50	201,322.97
Bull Shoals	17,297.23	16,488.89
Flippin	12,019.36	11,457.66
Pyatt	1,960.35	1,868.74
Summit	5,357.71	5,107.33
Yellville	10,679.92	10,180.83
Miller County	345,338.78	323,322.63
Fouke	9,087.86	8,508.49
Garland	9,087.86	8,508.49
Texarkana	204,476.91	191,441.03
Mississippi County	937,071.64	877,165.03
Bassett	2,051.70	1,920.54
Birdsong	.486.24	455.16
Blytheville	185,246.40	173,403.67
Burdette	2,265.18	2,120.37
Dell	2,644.68	2,475.61
Dyess	4,862.42	4,551.57
Etowah	4,162.71	3,896.59
Gosnell	42,077.74	39,387.72
Joiner	6,831.11	6,394.40
Keiser	9,001.41	8,425.95
Leachville	23,636.11	22,125.07
Luxora	13,970.57	13,077.43
Manila	39,634.66	37,100.84
Marie	.996.2	932.52
Osceola	91,994.64	86,113.46
Victoria	.438.8	410.75
Wilson	10,709.20	10,024.54
Monroe County	NA	NA
Montgomery County	58,826.08	57,952.06
Black Springs	.760.28	748.99
Glenwood	.322.55	317.75
Mount Ida	8,263.30	8,140.52
Norman	2,902.91	2,859.78
Oden	1,781.67	1,755.21
Nevada County	122,353.48	108,477.04
Bluff City	1,126.43	998.67
Bodcaw	1,253.60	1,111.43
Cale	.717.64	636.25
Emmet	4,314.94	3,825.57
Prescott	29,941.13	26,545.42
Rosston	2,370.94	2,102.05
Willisville	1,380.78	1,224.19
Newton County	64,572.47	61,092.89
Jasper	2,584.01	2,444.77
Western Grove	2,129.31	2,014.57
Ouachita County	582,619.40	576,634.43
Bearden	8,942.16	8,850.30
Camden	112,776.69	111,618.19
Chidester	2,675.24	2,647.76
East Camden	8,618.16	8,529.63
Louann	1,518.13	1,502.53
Stephens	8,247.89	8,163.17
Perry County	122,652.38	112,454.42
Adona	1,093.03	1,002.15
Bigelow	1,647.39	1,510.42
Casa	.894.3	819.94
Fourche	.324.25	297.29
Houston	.904.76	829.53
Perry	1,412.05	1,294.65
Perryville	7,635.54	7,000.68
Phillips County	108,942.84	103,795.09
Elaine	12,195.26	11,619.02
Helena-West Helena	193,246.11	184,114.87
Lake View	8,494.50	8,093.11
Lexa	5,484.03	5,224.90
Marvell	22,741.49	21,666.91
Pike County	173,552.94	184,450.22
Antoine	1,113.01	1,182.89
Daisy	1,093.98	1,162.67
Delight	2,654.09	2,820.74
Glenwood	20,795.15	22,100.86
Murfreesboro	15,610.63	16,590.81
Poinsett County	132,257.38	123,303.80
Fisher	1,978.13	1,844.21
Harrisburg	20,419.96	19,037.57
Lepanto	16,791.91	15,655.13
Marked Tree	22,761.78	21,220.85
Trumann	64,719.38	60,338.01
Tyronza	6,759.34	6,301.75
Waldenburg	.541.1	504.47
Weiner	6,351.31	5,921.33
Polk County	248,380.62	243,893.92
Cove	7,450.44	7,315.86
Grannis	10,805.10	10,609.92
Hatfield	8,055.06	7,909.56
Mena	111,893.18	109,871.96
Vandervoort	1,696.82	1,666.18
Wickes	14,705.85	14,440.18
Pope County	359,123.83	317,079.67
Atkins	43,129.75	38,080.37
Dover	19,705.84	17,398.79
Hector	6,435.14	5,681.75
London	14,858.03	13,118.54
Pottsville	40,584.30	35,832.92
Russellville	399,264.82	352,521.17
Prairie County	81,494.77	82,056.45
Biscoe	3,386.48	3,409.82
Des Arc	16,018.15	16,128.55
DeValls Bluff	5,774.74	5,814.54
Hazen	13,695.19	13,789.58
Ulm	1,585.96	1,596.88
Pulaski County	879,850.43	866,413.55
Alexander	4,259.20	4,194.16
Cammack Village	13,860.46	13,648.79
Jacksonville	511,898.54	504,080.94
Little Rock	3,492,619.26	3,439,280.75
Maumelle	309,748.79	305,018.37
North Little Rock	1,124,429.79	1,107,257.74
Sherwood	532,815.56	524,678.52
Wrightsville	38,152.35	37,569.69
Randolph County	168,749.93	144,811.59
Biggers	4,091.34	3,510.95
Maynard	5,022.79	4,310.28
O'Kean	2,287.38	1,962.90
Pocahontas	77,912.24	66,859.86
Ravenden Springs	1,391.29	1,193.93
Reyno	5,376.51	4,613.81
Saline County	NA	NA
Scott County	142,907.77	148,529.71
Mansfield	6,725.07	6,989.63
Waldron	26,900.29	27,958.54
Searcy County	80,123.67	75,308.88
Big Flat	7.84	7.37
Gilbert	.219.44	206.26
Leslie	3,456.21	3,248.52
Marshall	10,619.41	9,981.27
Pindall	.877.77	825.02
St. Joe	1,034.51	972.33
Sebastian County	845,515.30	843,037.08
Barling	77,276.05	77,049.55
Bonanza	9,557.70	9,529.68
Central City	8,344.28	8,319.83
Fort Smith	1,432,972.85	1,428,772.75
Greenwood	148,800.86	148,364.71
Hackett	13,497.13	13,457.57
Hartford	10,671.38	10,640.10
Huntington	10,555.02	10,524.08
Lavaca	38,047.94	37,936.42
Mansfield	12,017.76	11,982.54
Midland	5,402.18	5,386.34
Sevier County	307,460.93	295,857.54
Ben Lomond	1,400.59	1,347.73
DeQueen	63,693.05	61,289.30
Gillham	1,545.48	1,487.15
Horatio	10,084.25	9,703.68
Lockesburg	7,138.18	6,868.79
Sharp County	83,869.51	85,243.33
Ash Flat	10,031.99	10,196.32
Cave City	17,832.38	18,124.48
Cherokee Village	39,698.03	40,348.30
Evening Shade	4,422.27	4,494.71
Hardy	7,472.81	7,595.22
Highland	10,697.38	10,872.61
Horseshoe Bend	.81.89	83.24
Sidney	1,852.85	1,883.20
Williford	.767.75	780.32
St. Francis County	154,928.76	283,510.27
Caldwell	10,193.88	10,151.82
Colt	6,942.86	6,914.22
Forrest City	282,324.82	281,159.80
Hughes	26,467.38	26,358.16
Madison	14,124.50	14,066.22
Palestine	12,508.18	12,456.56
Wheatley	6,520.42	6,493.50
Widener	5,014.30	4,993.62
Stone County	94,700.41	92,258.73
Fifty Six	1,729.46	1,684.87
Mountain View	27,471.42	26,763.11
Union County	600,365.32	504,906.18
Calion	17,502.59	14,719.64
El Dorado	745,239.67	626,745.25
Felsenthal	4,288.71	3,606.79
Huttig	23,989.26	20,174.93
Junction City	21,398.58	17,996.17
Norphlet	26,999.22	22,706.29
Smackover	71,031.72	59,737.55
Strong	20,210.22	16,996.76
Van Buren County	289,835.49	293,824.02
Clinton	25,746.01	26,100.30
Damascus	2,473.67	2,507.72
Fairfield Bay	21,323.08	21,616.51
Shirley	2,879.36	2,918.98
Washington County	1,534,715.71	1,459,301.47
Elkins	46,120.07	43,853.78
Elm Springs	30,584.15	29,081.28
Farmington	104,048.82	98,935.97
Fayetteville	1,281,538.67	1,218,565.27
Goshen	18,653.55	17,736.93
Greenland	22,537.52	21,430.06
Johnson	58,416.43	55,545.91
Lincoln	39,170.70	37,245.90
Prairie Grove	77,087.39	73,299.40
Springdale	1,118,080.66	1,063,139.41
Tontitown	42,845.68	40,740.29
West Fork	40,355.06	38,372.05
Winslow	6,810.02	6,475.39
White County	1,098,173.47	1,064,330.36
Bald Knob	33,948.78	32,902.56
Beebe	85,721.56	83,079.82
Bradford	8,894.42	8,620.31
Garner	3,328.08	3,225.52
Georgetown	1,453.11	1,408.33
Griffithville	2,636.69	2,555.43
Higginson	7,277.25	7,052.98
Judsonia	23,659.85	22,930.71
Kensett	19,312.25	18,717.10
Letona	2,988.24	2,896.15
McRae	7,992.09	7,745.79
Pangburn	7,042.88	6,825.83
Rose Bud	5,648.37	5,474.30
Russell	2,531.22	2,453.21
Searcy	267,863.76	259,608.84
West Point	2,167.94	2,101.13
Woodruff County	96,214.55	16,567.53
Augusta	22,541.64	17,136.41
Cotton Plant	6,652.81	5,057.54
Hunter	1,076.34	818.25
McCrory	17,723.74	13,473.79
Patterson	4,633.39	3,522.35
Yell County	240,885.14	234,150.49
Belleville	2,819.26	2,740.43
Danville	15,400.42	14,969.86
Dardanelle	30,334.17	29,486.08
Havana	2,397.33	2,330.30
Ola	8,189.27	7,960.31
Plainview	3,886.86	3,778.20

$10.3 million grant award set to boost state prevention, treatment services

A division of the Arkansas Department of Human Services has been awarded a two-year federal grant totaling $10,342,752 to focus on improving prevention and treatment services throughout Arkansas, the agency announced Sept. 19. The Division of Adult, Aging and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS) received the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

"This grant award allows Arkansas to increase the ability to improve substance abuse, education, and treatment programs," said Arkansas Drug Director Kirk Lane. "In addition, it will allow the expansion of additional programs that have a proven track record of saving lives. We are eager to pursue the abilities that this grant award provides to the citizens of Arkansas."

The SOR grant will positively impact current prevention and treatment service programs, including the opioid antagonist Naloxone program, prescriber education program, senior education programs, and model programs for peer recovery.

Key programs that will be continued with include Community-level opioid prevention activities conducted by the Criminal Justice Institute; The UAMS MAT Recovery Initiative for Arkansas Rural Communities (MATRIARC) and Project ECHO programs to provide primary care physicians, general psychiatrists, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and mental health professionals with access to addiction psychiatry services for management; The UAMS Arkansas Maternal Opioid Rural Expansion (AR MORE) program to addresses the needs of pregnant and parenting women abusing opioids; The UAMS Arkansas Improving Multidisciplinary Pain Care and Treatment (AR IMPACT) education program; The Arkansas Community Corrections MAT Re-entry Project, which provides individuals re-entering of extended release injectable Naltrexone (Vivitrol) prior to release, with referral to a MAT provider in the community.

New programs that will be created with the SOR grant are the Peers Achieving Collaborative Treatment (PACT) Program and a UAMS outreach program to educate the Medicare population about the dangers of opioids.

ASBTDC hosts webinar for city leaders to boost local business

The Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center (ASBTDC) is hosting a new webinar series to help local elected officials build their communities' small business base, the organization has announced. Mayors and city managers, along with city directors and council members, are invited to participate in "Boost Business in Your Community," a webinar series aimed at municipal leaders.

Starting in November, ASBTDC will offer a free "Boost" program online every other month. Each 30-minute session will focus on a different small business topic and end with a question-and-answer period. The schedule is:

- Nov. 14–Helping First-Time Business Owners Start Smart
- Jan. 23–Using Market Research Tools to Make Better Business Decisions
- March 20–Encouraging Existing Businesses and Helping Them Grow
- May 22–Turning Innovative Ideas into Tech Companies

All the webinars begin at 11 a.m. To register, visit asbtdc.org/webinars.

Through a network of seven offices, ASBTDC services are available statewide. Current or prospective business owners can get one-on-one consulting plus cutting-edge market research at no cost. In addition to the lead office at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, regional offices are located at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello. See asbtdc.org to learn more.

The Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration through a partnership with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock College of Business and other institutions of higher education. All programs are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

Time names Rogers one of 20 best cities in the nation

Time Magazine's website has ranked Rogers as one of the nation's top 20 best cities to live in, KFTA Fox 24 reported Sept. 17. Time.com's money section ranked Rogers as the 14th best city in the nation. Fifty cities were featured in the list.

"Located in Northwest Arkansas in a fast-growing metro area, Rogers maintains the feel of small-town America: You can find trendy shops and restaurants alongside natural scenery," the website states. "Activities for residents abound, and jobs are plentiful, with 7.8% job growth forecast by 2022. Beyond its quaint brick-paved streets and old-fashioned storefronts, the town offers shopping at the Scottsdale Center, Pinnacle Hills Promenade and Village on the Creeks."

The website also noted Rogers' natural offerings, such as the Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area on Beaver Lake, and outdoor recreational opportunities, including hiking, fishing, water sports, camping, and off-road cycling.

Frisco, Texas, was ranked number one.

Bentonville named among best small cities nationwide

List-making website alot (alot.com) has named Bentonville among the 30 best cities with populations under 100,000 in the nation. Here's what the site has to say about Bentonville: "Bentonville might be the smallest of the four major cities in Northwest Arkansas, but it punches well above its weight, partially thanks to the Walton family. As the headquarters of Walmart, Bentonville sees a larger chunk of business visitors than other towns of its size. Plus, the new Crystal Bridges museum, built with Walmart money, has brought world-class art to the region, as well as a service industry boom (upscale restaurants and hotels) to support it."

Some of the other small cities to make the list include Newport, R.I.; Aspen, Colo., Santa Fe, N.M.; and Asheville, N.C.

Obituaries

JERRY BARLING, 73, who served the City of Barling for over 47 years, first as recorder/treasurer, and then for numerous terms as its mayor, died Oct. 4.

HAROLD "BUD" CARMON, 84, a Gosnell City Council member from 1991-1994, died Sept. 17.

PATRICIA ANN HINSON, 81, a Mayflower City Council member since 2006, and a member of the planning commission from 2001-2015, died Aug. 5.

WILLIAM R. MONTGOMERY, 62, former mayor of Decatur and a council member since 2016, died Aug. 30.

WILLIAM EVERETT SONGER, 77, who served on the Maynard City Council for more than 30 years, died July 20.

MUNICIPAL MART

To place a classified ad in City & Town, please email the League at citytown@arml.org or call (501) 374-3484. Ads are FREE to League members and available at the low rate of $.70 per word to non-members. For members, ads will run for two consecutive months from the date of receipt unless we are notified to continue or discontinue. For non-members, ads will run for one month only unless otherwise notified.

BUILDING OFFICIAL—Franklin County, Kan., seeks a building official. Under the supervision of the planning director, the building official is responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of all codes related to building construction, structural installation and demolition as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners for the unincorporated areas of the county. The building official shall have authority to render interpretations of the codes, and adopt policies and procedures in order to clarify the application of the codes provided such are in conformance with the intent and purpose of the codes and do not have the effect of waiving requirements provided in the codes. Franklin County participates in the Kansas Public Employees Retirement. Complete online application at www.franklincoks.org or at www.HRePartners.com. Base rate: $21.69 per hour depending on qualifications. Date to close: Nov. 4. Questions regarding this job announcement shall be directed to the Human Resources Department at (785) 229-3444 or via email at humanresources@franklincoks.org. EOE.

CITY ENGINEER—The City of Monticello is currently taking applications for a full-time engineer. Applicant must possess an Arkansas DL, a plumbing inspector license, a Waste Water Treatment Operator License Class 3 with an emphasis in Industrial, Distribution and Treatment Water Operator Licensing Class 4, a minimum of a HS diploma and have the ability to adapt to various environmental conditions. An acceptable applicant should have at least 3 years or more of experience working within a water or public works department. At least 2 years of experience taking water samplings and carryout out treatment. Experience and training in building inspections and permits. At least 1 year of experience supervising others in the area of water, sewer, solid waste or mechanics. The city is seeking an energetic individual who has the capability and knowledge of communicating with the Department of Health, ADEQ, as well as various other organizations in order to maintain city compliance with all required standards set forth by these entities. The engineer will be expected to communicate effectively with the public works superintendent, mayor, and water office director on a daily basis. On-the-job training provided. Salary range is $43,919.59–$52,442.29. Full benefits package included. Interested applicants can pick up application from Monticello City Hall, 203 West Gaines St., Monticello, AR 71655, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F.; or email Patty Burchett at montcitypatty@att.net. For more information please contact Patty Burchett at (870) 367-4400. Deadline to apply is Nov. 30.

CITY MANAGER—The City of El Reno, Okla., is currently accepting applications for the position of city manager. El Reno is a rapidly growing community in industrial and urban development while still offering a small town feel and rural living. This position reports directly to the city council comprised of the mayor and four council members. The ideal candidate should possess the following qualifications: a bachelor's degree from a four-year accredited college or university in Public Administration, Political Science, Business Management, or a closely related field, and have 5 years of progressive experience as a municipal administrator. The compensation package will depend on the candidate's qualifications. Candidates not living within the area must be willing to relocate to a residence that satisfies the statutory requirement. The successful candidate must pass a post-employment drug screen, physical, and extensive background check. Interested applicants can submit their resume in confidence to: Roger Rinehart, City Attorney, 115 S Rock Island, El Reno, OK 73036. EOE.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR—The City of Arkadelphia is accepting applications for a communications director. Applicants must have a college degree in Communications, Marketing, Public Relations, or related field. Applicants must have strong written and verbal communication skills, be well organized in thought and execution, and work well under pressure. Please visit cityofarkadelphia.com for full details of qualifications and applications. Salary range is DOQ. Offer and acceptance contingent upon passing a drug test and background check. Send applications and resumes to Human Resources Department, 700 Clay St, Arkadelphia, AR 71923. EOE.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT—The City of Benton is currently taking applications for a director of community development. Job function is to provide expertise and guidance in planning, developing, and administering various capital improvement projects and supervise activities, policies and procedures and personnel of the Community Development Department. Bachelor's degree plus management experience required. Complete job description and application for employment available at www.bentonar.org. Deadline for applications is Oct. 17. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF—The City of Gillett (Arkansas County) is accepting applications for the position of police chief. Resumes may be sent to City of Gillett, P.O. Box 367, Gillett, AR 72055; email to gillett003@centurytel.net; or fax to (870) 548-3121. For more information, please call (870) 548-2541.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR—Franklin County, Kan., seeks a public works director. Under the supervision of the county administrator, the public works director plans, manages, and oversees the activities and operations of public works, noxious weeds, and solid waste, including recycling and household hazardous waste. The public works director directs and manages personnel through effective planning, staff management and resource allocation, the development and completion of capital improvement projects, the implementation of employee and job site safety, staff development, and compliance with local, state, and federal regulations, as well as county policies and goals. The public works director exercises supervision over a number of unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and supervisory employees. This employee is responsible for the preparation and monitoring of multiple budgets, implementing and adhering to procedures, and department personnel functions. Responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining appropriate work relationships with county and municipal officials, peers and subordinates, state and local organizations, and with the public. This employee must also exercise considerable independent judgment and technical expertise in order to meet departmental objectives. Franklin County participates in the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System. Apply online at www.HRePartners.com and send a Letter of Interest including accomplishments and projects to: Public Works Director Opening c/o Human Resources, 1428 S Main St, Suite 2, Ottawa, KS 66067. Base rate: $80,000-$100,000 annually depending on qualifications. Date to close: Oct. 14. Questions regarding this job announcement shall be directed to the Human Resources Department at (785) 229-3444 or via email at humanresources@franklincoks.org. EOE.

RECREATION COORDINATOR—The City of Siloam Springs Parks and Recreation Department is seeking a recreation coordinator. This position will supervise all recreation programs, adult sports, and special events. The recreation coordinator will plan, organize, supervise, market, and evaluate recreational programs, adult sports, and special events. Establish and manage approved budget for all recreational programming. Applicants should have a BS/BA in Recreation or equivalent, or three years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. This position requires a valid DL. The city offers a generous benefit package including, but not limited to medical, dental, vision, LTD, 457 deferred compensation, vacation and sick leave. Salary range: $38,000 - $57,000. The city requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, AR; or online at www.siloamsprings.com. For further information, please call (479) 524-5136 or email humanresources@siloamsprings.com. EOE. Open until filled.

STREET OPERATOR—The City of Monticello is taking applications for a full-time street operator. Applicant must possess an Arkansas CDL, 2 years' experience operating heavy equipment, general knowledge of public works, and have a minimum of a HS diploma. Must be 21 years of age and be able to pass a pre-employment background check, motor vehicle check, and drug screen. Some job responsibilities include assisting daily with the upkeep of all city streets including asphalt repair, replacement and repair of culverts, limb removal, general maintenance of city grounds and buildings, lawn care around wells, sewer ponds and City of Monticello Lake, operation of heavy equipment as needed, assist with driving the solid waste disposal trucks as needed, and communicating with the public works superintendent and assistant public works superintendent on daily issues that may arise. On-the-job training provided. Hours may vary depending on daily tasks. Salary DOE. Full benefits package included. To apply please come by Monticello City Hall in person for an application, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F. For more information please contact Patty Burchett at (870) 367-4400. Deadline to apply is Oct. 14.

WATER AND WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT —The City of Redfield Water Department is accepting applications for the position of Water and Wastewater Superintendent. The superintendent is responsible for the management and administration of all aspects of the water treatment and distribution, wastewater, and business operations. Administrative and management duties include personnel, budgeting, planning, report writing, public relations, implementing and enforcing policies and procedures, regulatory compliance, and other duties as assigned. Must have a minimum of T2, D2, and WW1. Supervisor experience is preferred. Salary will be based on experience and qualifications. Applications can be found at www.redfieldar.com. Applications and resumes should be sent to dfults@redfieldar.com or delivered to Redfield City Hall.

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