STATE OF ARKANSAS
House of Representatives

Newsletter From Rep. Rebecca Burkes

District 11

April 3, 2026

Fiscal Session to Begin April 8

As we prepare for the upcoming Fiscal Session, activity is already underway at the Capitol. This week, more than 70 budget bills were filed in the House, marking an important first step in the state's formal budgeting process. Each bill is filed through the Clerk's Office, where it is assigned a number and scanned so Arkansans can easily access it online.

Lawmakers will return to the Capitol on April 8 at noon to officially begin the Fiscal Session of the Arkansas General Assembly. After the House convenes, members will briefly recess before joining the Senate in the House Chamber for the Governor's address, which traditionally outlines priorities for the year ahead.

Fiscal Sessions are unique in that they are focused entirely on the state's budget. Under Amendment 86 of the Arkansas Constitution, lawmakers are limited to budget matters unless a separate resolution is adopted by a two-thirds majority in both chambers. This ensures our attention remains on responsible planning and funding of the state government.

Arkansas continues to be in a strong financial position. The most recent general revenue report shows net available general revenues totaling just over $5 billion, up 4.6 percent from this time last year and exceeding forecast expectations. The Department of Finance and Administration currently anticipates a surplus of $334 million.

The Governor's proposed budget reflects modest growth, increasing overall state spending by about 3 percent while making targeted investments. These include additional funding for education, state employee pay, public safety efforts, workforce initiatives, and higher education. In recent discussions with lawmakers, she emphasized the state's strong financial position and the goal of continuing to reduce the income tax.

House leadership expects the session to last around three weeks, as members work to finalize a balanced budget that supports Arkansas families and keeps our state moving forward. You can watch the Governor's address and all House meetings at arkansashouse.org.