



Arkansas House Newsletter

October 3, 2024

Budget Hearings to Begin October 8



The state budget profoundly influences our daily lives, affecting everything from education to healthcare. As the legislative session approaches, the General Assembly takes the time to assess the state's current fiscal situation and evaluate budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year.

This year's budget hearings are scheduled to commence on October 8 and will run through November 21. Held in the MAC building behind the Capitol, these hearings are open to the public and will be live-streamed on our website, ensuring transparency and accessibility for all.

During these hearings, budget requests will be presented by various licensing boards, commissions, and state agencies. Additionally, the executive branch will unveil its balanced budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2026. Historically, education and human services have received the bulk of funding, alongside priorities such as higher education, public safety, and health.

The most recent general revenue report indicated a 2.3% decrease in net available general revenue compared to last year. However, after three months into the fiscal year, net available revenue has surpassed

forecasts by \$17.7 million, or 1.0%.

The insights gained during this process are instrumental in shaping appropriation bills that will directly affect our communities. Engaging in these hearings fosters a sense of accountability and ensures that the budget reflects the priorities and necessities of our citizens.

Members can begin pre-filing bills on November 15, with the Arkansas General Assembly set to convene for the 2025 Regular Session at noon on January 13, 2025.

You can watch the meetings and find the daily agendas at www.arkansashouse.org.