

Arkansas General Assembly

94<sup>th</sup> Session

2023 - 2024



<u>President Pro Tempore</u> Sen. Bart Hester

Senator Bart Hester of Cave Springs represents Senate District 33, which includes the cities of Cave Springs, Highfill, and parts of Bentonville & Rogers in Benton County. Senator Hester was elected to the Senate in 2012 and took the oath of office on the first day of the 2013 session.

Senator Hester is serving as Senate President Pro Tempore of the 94th General Assembly, and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Interim Committee on Children & Youth, the Joint Interim Committee on Legislative Facilities, the Senate Efficiency Committee, the Arkansas Legislative Council, Legislative Joint Auditing Committee, and the Joint Budget Committee.

In 2021, Senator Hester co-sponsored legislation that requires public schools to teach about the Holocaust. Other bills amended eligibility for scholarships and change the process of getting a driver's permit. Senator Hester co-sponsored bills on public health directives and property rights.

A native of Green Forest, he is a 2001 graduate of the Sam Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas with a bachelor's degree in Business Management. While working on his degree in Fayetteville, he lettered for three years for the Razorbacks' varsity baseball team. His business interests are in real estate and construction.



Speaker of the House Rep. Matthew J. Shepherd

Matthew J. Shepherd is the Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas State Representative for District 97 serving his seventh term in the House.

Born & raised in El Dorado, Rep. Shepherd graduated from El Dorado High School in 1994. He went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in History and Political Science from Ouachita Baptist University in 1998 & received his J.D. from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 2001. He is a member of the Union County, Arkansas, Louisiana, and American Bar Associations, and is licensed to practice in the state courts of Arkansas and Louisiana; the United States District Courts for the Western & Eastern Districts of Arkansas, & the Western District of Louisiana; and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Shepherd is the former two-term Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and is a member of the Joint Budget Committee, the House Public Transportation Committee the House Agriculture, Forestry & Economic Development Committee, and the House Management Committee. Additionally, he serves as Chairman of the Arkansas Code Revision Commission.

Shepherd is active in his community & church, & has received a number of awards and recognitions for his legislative service. Shepherd lives & practices law in El Dorado at the law firm of Shepherd & Shepherd, P.A. He and his wife, Alie, have three children.

# Message to our Constituents

Public participation is a vital part of our democracy. You can actively participate in the legislative process in a variety of ways. We encourage you to begin by making contact with your state legislators.

This booklet was designed to provide you with contact information for your legislators & to answer frequently asked questions about the law making process.

We also invite Arkansans to watch their legislature at work either in person at the Capitol or on their mobile device.

The House and Senate live-stream and archive all committee meetings and floor proceedings.

You can find links to agendas, bills, & the live-stream of meetings at www.arkleg.state.ar.us.

SENATOR BART HESTER

President Pro Tempore, Arkansas Senate

REPRESENTATIVE MATTHEW J. SHEPHERD

Speaker of the House,
Arkansas House of Representatives



# **Table of Contents**

Constitutional Officers & Congressional Delegation 6		
Officers of the 94 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly		
Arkansas General Assembly		
Senate		
Who Makes up the 94 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly Senate? 10		
•		
District Map		
Senator Contact Information		
Senate Standing Committees		
Senate Select Committees		
House		
Who Makes up the 94 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly House? 18		
District Map		
Representative Contact Information		
•		
House Standing Committees		
House Select Committees		
Joint Committees		
Interim Activities		
Legislative Staff		
How a Bill Becomes a Law		
Arkansas Facts		
How to Contact your Legislator		

# **Constitutional Officers**

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Lt. Governor Leslie Rutledge State Capitol 500 Woodlane Street, Ste 270 Little Rock, AR 72201 501-682-2144

Attorney General Tim Griffin 323 Center Street, Suite 200 Little Rock, AR 72201 501-682-2007

Treasurer Mark Lowery State Capitol 500 Woodlane Street, Ste 200 Little Rock, AR 72201 501-682-5888 Secretary of State John Thurston State Capitol 500 Woodlane Street, Ste 256 Little Rock, AR 72201 501-682-1010

Land Commissioner Tommy Land State Capitol 500 Woodlane Street, Ste 109 Little Rock, AR 72201 501-324-9422

Auditor Dennis Milligan State Capitol 500 Woodlane Street, Ste 230 Little Rock, AR 72201 501-682-6000

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2<sup>nd</sup> District- French Hill 1501 N. University Ave., Suite 630 Little Rock, AR 72207 501-324-5941 or

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4<sup>th</sup> District- Bruce Westerman 101 Reserve Street, Suite 200 Hot Springs, AR 71901 501-609-9796

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# Officers of the 94th General Assembly

# Senate



Leslie Rutledge Lieutenant Governor



Bart Hester Senate President Pro Tempore

# **Assistant Pro Tempore**



Jim Dotson



Dan Sullivan



Clarke Tucker



Breanne Davis

# House



Matthew J. Shepherd Speaker of the House



Jon S. Eubanks Speaker Pro Tempore

# **Assistant Speakers Pro Tempore**



Charlene Fite



Fred Allen



Jack Ladyman



DeAnn Vaught

# ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Arkansas General Assembly is made up of two houses, the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives has 100 members and the Senate has 35 members. All members of the General Assembly are elected by voters from their respective districts. The primary duties of the General Assembly are to make, amend, and pass laws.

# Senate

35

House of Representatives

100
MEMBERS

The House Speaker is elected by the House members at the beginning of each regular session.

MEMBERS

The Lieutenant Governor serves as President of the Senate.

In his/her absence, the Senate President Pro Tempore takes their place.

The Arkansas General Assembly convenes on the second Monday in January of odd number years for regular session. Fiscal Sessions are held in even-numbered years. Fiscal Sessions begin the second Monday in February in years in which the preferential primary election is held in May or the second Wednesday in April in which the preferential primary is held in March. The Governor can issue a "call" for a special session any time in the interim. The Arkansas General Assembly meets at the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock.

# TO BE A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ONE MUST...

- Be at least 25 years old.
- Be a resident of Arkansas for at least 2 years.
- Be a resident of his/her district for at least 1 year.
- Serve a 4 year term.

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Be a resident of Arkansas for at least 2 years.
- Be a resident of his/her district for at least 1 year.
- Serve a 2 year term.

# NOTES

# WHO MAKES UP THE 94<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SENATE?

35 MEMBERS

5 WOMEN 30 MEN

EACH MEMBER REPRESENTS APPROX

83,300 ARKANSANS

29 REPUBLICANS

6 DEMOCRATS

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON THE SENATE, VISIT THE
ARKANSAS SENATE'S WEBSITE AT:

WWW.SENATE.ARKANSAS.GOV/

IN ORDER TO RUN FOR A HOUSE SEAT, A PERSON MUST BE:

A U.S. CITIZEN

A RESIDENT OF ARKANSAS FOR

A RESIDENT OF HIS/HER DISTRICT

AT LEAST 25 YEARS OLD

AT LEAST 2 YEARS FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR.

ARKANSAS' LEGISLATURE IS CONSIDERED A PART-TIME CITIZEN LEGISLATURE. MOST SENATE MEMBERS HAVE FULL-TIME CAREERS IN ADDITION TO THEIR LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS. MEMBERS COME FROM A WIDE RANGE OF PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS. HAVING A DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP HELPS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MORE EFFECTIVELY SERVE THE PEOPLE OF ARKANSAS.

# 5 are Farmers,



or have Agriculture backgrounds.

Have banking experience
One is still active
& one is retired.



**7** in Real Estate

Development, Construction & Property Management.



2 Attorneys





Have been in the Timber business.

# SENATE DISTRICTS 94<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY



- 1. BEN GILMORE
- 2. MATT STONE
- 3. STEVE CROWELL
- 4. JIMMY HICKEY, JR.
- 5. TERRY RICE
- 6. MATT MCKEE
- 7. ALAN CLARK
- 8. STEPHANIE FLOWERS
- 9. REGINALD MURDOCK
- 10. RONALD CALDWELL
- 11. RICKY HILL
- 12. LINDA CHESTERFIELD

- 13. JANE ENGLISH
- 14. CLARKE TUCKER
  - 15. FRED LOVE
- 16. KIM HAMMER
- 17. MARK JOHNSON
- 18. JONATHAN DISMANG
- DAVID WALLACE
- 20. DAN SULLIVAN
- 21. BLAKE JOHNSON
- 22. JOHN PAYTON
- 23. SCOTT FLIPPO

- 24. MISSY IRVIN
- 25. BREANNE DAVIS
- 26. GARY STUBBLEFIELD
- 27. JUSTIN BOYD
- 28. BRYAN KING
- 29. JIM PETTY
- 30. GREG LANDING
- 31. CLINT PENZO
- 32. JOSHUA BRYANT
- 33. BART HESTER
- 34. JIM DOTSON
- 35. TYLER DEES



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Matt McKee



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# **Senate Standing Committees**



Missy Irvin, Chair

## <u>Public Health, Welfare,</u> and Labor

Missy Irvin, **Chair**Dan Sullivan, **Vice-Chair**Justin Boyd
Scott Flippo
Bryan King
Fredrick J. Love
Clint Penzo
David Wallace



Jimmy Hickey Jr., Chair

### Revenue and Tax

Jimmy Hickey Jr., Chair
Jim Petty, Vice-Chair
Ronald Caldwell
Steve Crowell
Tyler Dees
Jonathan Dismang
Blake Johnson
John Payton



Jane English, Chair

### **Education**

Jane English, **Chair**Linda Chesterfield, **Vice-Chair**Joshua Bryant
Breanne Davis
Jim Dotson
Kim Hammer
Greg Leding
Matt Stone



Gary Stubblefield, **Chair** 

## **Judiciary**

Gary Stubblefield, **Chair**Stephanie Flowers, **Vice-Chair**Alan Clark
Ben Gilmore
Bart Hester
Matt McKee
Terry Rice
Clark Tucker



Ronald Caldwell, **Chair** 

## Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development

Ronald Caldwell, Chair Matt Stone, Vice-Chair Breanne Davis Tyler Dees Ben Gilmore Greg Leding Fredrick J. Love David Wallace



Ricky Hill,

## Insurance and Commerce

Ricky Hill, **Chair** Reginald Murdock, **Vice-Chair** Justin Boyd Jonathan Dismang Jimmy Hickey Jr. Missy Irvin Mark Johnson Clint Penzo



Scott Flippo,

# City, County and Local Affairs

Scott Flippo, Chair
Terry Rice, Vice-Chair
Joshua Bryant
Kim Hammer
Matt McKee
Jim Petty
Gary Stubblefield
Dan Sullivan



Blake Johnson, Chair

# State Agencies and Governmental Affairs

Blake Johnson, **Chair**Clarke Tucker, **Vice-Chair**Steve Crowell
Jim Dotson
Stephanie Flowers
Bart Hester
Bryan King
John Payton

# **Senate Standing Committees**



Mark Johnson, **Chair** 

# Transportation, Technology & Legislative Affairs

Mark Johnson, Chair Justin Boyd, Vice-Chair Linda Chesterfield Alan Clark Jane English Ricky Hill Reginald Murdock Terry Rice



Bryan King, Chair

# Children and Youth Committee

Bryan King, **Chair**Alan Clark, **Vice-Chair**Justin Boyd
Jane English
Ben Gilmore
Bart Hester
Greg Leding
Matt McKee
Clint Penzo
Dan Sullivan

# **Senate Select Committees**



Breanne Davis, **Chair** 

## **Efficiency**

Breanne Davis, Chair
Tyler Dees, Vice-Chair
Linda Chesterfield
Steve Crowell
Jim Dotson
Bart Hester
Jimmy Hickey Jr.
Missy Irvin
Matt Stone
Clarke Tucker



Clint Penzo, Chair

# Rules, Resolutions Memorials

Clint Penzo, Chair
Fredrick J. Love, Vice-Chair
Ronald Caldwell
Jonathan Dismang
Scott Flippo
Stephanie Flowers
Ricky Hill
Blake Johnson
Gary Stubblefield
David Wallace

# WHO MAKES UP THE 94<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES?



26 WOMEN 74 MEN

EACH MEMBER REPRESENTS APPROX

30,000 ARKANSANS

82 REPUBLICANS
18 DEMOCRATS

26 FRESHMEN

14

2<sup>ND</sup> TERM

SERVING
3RD TERM

SERVING 4<sup>TH</sup> TERM SERVING 5<sup>TH</sup> TERM

10 serving  $6^{\text{th}}$  term

6 SERVING 7<sup>TH</sup> TERM

# IN ORDER TO RUN FOR A HOUSE SEAT, A PERSON MUST BE:

A U.S. CITIZEN •

A RESIDENT OF ARKANSAS FOR

A RESIDENT OF HIS/HER DISTRICT

AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD

AT LEAST 2 YEARS FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR.

ARKANSAS' LEGISLATURE IS CONSIDERED A PART-TIME CITIZEN LEGISLATURE. MOST HOUSE MEMBERS HAVE FULL-TIME CAREERS IN ADDITION TO THEIR LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS. MEMBERS COME FROM A WIDE RANGE OF PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS. HAVING A DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP HELPS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MORE EFFECTIVELY SERVE THE PEOPLE OF ARKANSAS.

# 9 are Farmers,



or have Agriculture backgrounds.

4 Health Care Professionals



dentist, nurses, & pharmacists. 10 Educators or retired Educators.



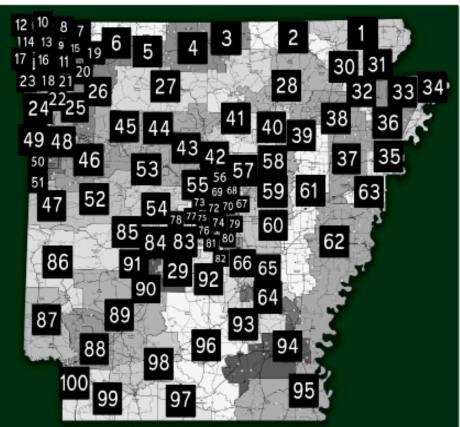
9 Attorneys or former Attorneys.



**9** Veterans



# House Districts 94<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY



2. TREY STEIMEL 3. STETSON PAINTER 4. JACK FORTNER 5. RON MCNAIR 6. HARLAN BREAUX BRIT MCKENZIE AUSTIN MCCOLLUM 9. DEANNA HODGES 10. MINDY MCALINDON 11 REBECCA BURKES 12. HOPE DUKE 13. R. SCOTT RICHARDSON

1. JEREMY WOOLDRIDGE

- 14. GRANT HODGES 15. JOHN CARR
- 16. KENDON UNDERWOOD 17. DELIA HAAK 18. ROBIN LUNDSTRUM
- 19. STEVEN UNCER 20. DEMISE GARNER 21. NICOLE CLOWNEY
- 22. DAVID WHITAKER 23 KENDRA MOORE
- 24. CHARLENE FITE 25. CHAD PURYEAR

- 26. MARK H. BERRY
- 27. STEVEN WALKER 28. BART C. SCHULZ
- 29. RICK MCCLURE
- 30. FRANCES CAVENAUGH
- 31, JIMMY GAZAWAY 32. JACK LADYMAN
- 33 JON MILLIGAN 34. JOEY L. CARR
- 35. MILTON NICKS, JR.
- 36. JOHNNY RYE 37. STEVE HOLLOWELL
- 38 DWIGHT TOSH 39. WAYNE LONG
- 40. SHAD PEARCE
- 41, JOSH MILLER **42. STEPHEN MEEKS**
- 43 RICK BECK 44. STAN BERRY
- 45. AARON PILKINGTON 46. JON S. EUBANKS
- 47. LEE JOHNSON 48. RYAN A. ROSE
- 49. JAY RICHARDSON
- 50. ZACHARY GRAMLICH

- 51 CINDY CRAWFORD
- 52. MARCUS E. RICHMOND **53. MATT DUFFIELD**
- **54. MARY BENTLEY**
- 55. MATTHEW BROWN
- 56. STEPHEN MACIE
- 57. CAMERON COOPER
- 58. LES EAVES
- 59. JIM WOOTEN
- 60. ROGER D. LYNCH 61. JEREMIAH MOORE
- 62 MARK D. MCELROY
- **63. DEBORAH FERGUSON**
- 64. KENNETH B. FERGUSON
- 65. VIVIAN FLOWERS 66. MARK PERRY
- **67. KARILYN BROWN** 68. BRIAN S. EVANS
- 69. DAVID RAY
- 70. CARLTON WING 71. BRANDON C. ACHOR
- 72. JAMIE SCOTT
- 73. ANDREW COLLINS 74. TIPPIE MCCULLOUGH
- 75. ASHLEY HUDSON

- 76. JOY C. SPRINGER
- 77. FRED ALLEN
- 78. KEITH BROOKS
- 79. TARA SHEPHARD
- 80. DENISE ENNETT
- 81 RJ HAWK
- 82. TONY FURMAN 83. LANNY FITE
- 84. LES WARREN
- 85. RICHARD MCGREW
- 86. JOHN MADDOX
- **87. DEANN VAUCHT**
- 88. DANNY WATSON
- 89. JUSTIN GONZALES
- 90 RICHARD WOMACK
- 91 BRUCE COZART 92. JUILIE MAYBERRY
- 93. MIKE HOLOCOMB
- 94. JEFFREY WARDLAW
- 95. HOWARD M. BEATEY
- 96. SONIA EUBANKS BARKER
- 97. MATTHEW J. SHEPHERD
- 98. WADE ANDREWS 99. LANE JEAN
- 100, CAROL DALBY



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## **Education**

Brian S. Evans, **Chair** Keith Brooks, **Vice-Chair** 

Sonia E. Barker Rick Beck Bruce Cozart Hope Duke Charlene Fite Lanny Fite Vivan Flowers Denise Garner Grant Hodges Wayne Long John Maddox Brit McKenzie Ron McNair Stephen Meeks Stetson Painter DeAnn Vaught Steven Walker Carlton Wing



Carol Dalby Chair

## **Judiciary**

Carol Dalby, Chair Stan Berry, Vice-Chair Nicole Clowney Andrew Collins Cameron Cooper Cindy Crawford Matt Duffield Jimmy Gazaway Ashley Hudson Tippi McCullough Jon Milligan Ieremiah Moore Milton Nicks, Ir. Shad Pearce Jay Richardson Marcus E. Richmond **Jamie Scott** Kendon Underwood Steven Unger Danny Watson

Lee Johnson, **Chair** 

# Public Health, Welfare and Labor

Lee Johnson, Chair Josh Miller, Vice-Chair Fred Allen Mary Bentley John S. Eubanks Deborah Ferguson Kenneth Ferguson **Justin Gonzales** Zachary Gramlich Jack Ladyman Stephen Magie Kendra Moore Mark Perry Aaron Pilkington R. Scott Richardson Rvan A. Rose Bart Schulz Jeffrey Wardlaw Richard Womack Jeremy Wooldridge



Mike Holcomb, Chair

## **Public Transportation**

Mike Holcomb, Chair Rick McClure, Vice-Chair Brandon C. Achor Wade Andrews Mark H. Berry Harlan Breaux Matthew Brown Joev L. Carr Denise Ennett RI Hawk DeAnna Hodges Austin McCollum Mark D. McElrov Chad Puryear Tara Shephard Matthew J. Shepherd Joy C. Springer Trey Steimel Dwight Tosh David Whitaker

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Les Eaves, **Chair** 

#### Revenue and Taxation

Les Eaves, Chair Howard M. Beaty, Vice-Chair Karilyn Brown Rebecca Burkes John P. Carr Frances Cavenaugh **Jack Fortner** Tony Furman Delia J. Haak Steve Hollowell Lane Jean Robin Lundstrum Roger D. Lynch Julie Mayberry Mindy McAlindon Richard McGrew David Rav Johnny Rye Les Warren Iim Wooten



Sonia Eubanks Barker, **Chair** 

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Jack Fortner, **Chair** 

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DeAnn Vaught

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Lanny Fite, **Chair** 

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Dwight Tosh, Chair

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Carlton Wing, Chair

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## Senate

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Clarke Tucker

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# Ben Gillmore, (



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# **Interim Activities**



## **EVERY PIECE OF LEGISLATION STARTS WITH AN IDEA**

Lo<del>rem Ipsum</del>

The work of the General Assembly does not end with final adjournment.

The interim period between sessions allows legislators to devote their time to research major issues.

Committees may conduct public hearings and research at a much less hectic pace than while in session, and their recommendations are submitted to the entire General Assemby at the next session. It is during this time that the Legislative Council and Legislative Joint Auditing Committee conduct hearings.

# Legislative Council

Performs legislative, fiscal oversight and budgeting.

# Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

Audits each department, institution, board, commission, office and agency of state government, as well as counties.

# Joint Budget Committee

Reviews budgets for each state agency, institution, and department.

Beginning in October of even-numbered years, the Council joins the Joint Budget Committee for budget hearings.

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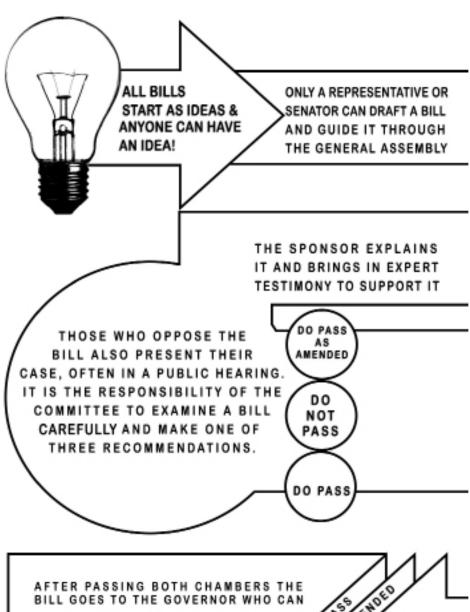
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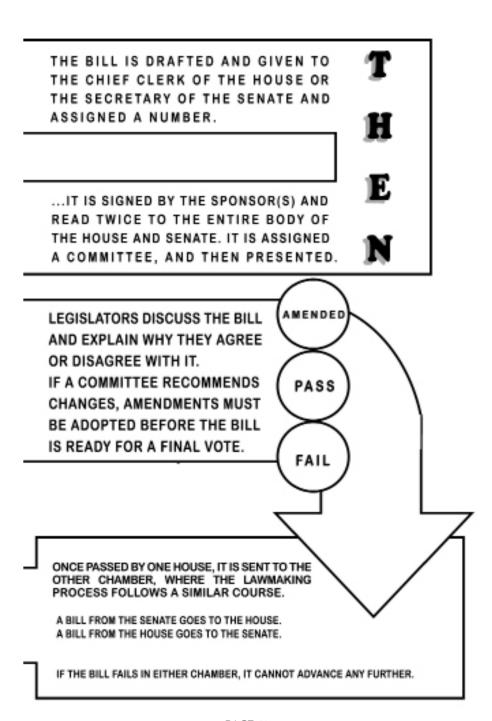


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# **NOTES**









The word "Arkansas" means "downstream people," deriving from a Native American tribe called Quapaw, or Oogaq-pa. Pronounced Oo-ka-na-sa by the Algonquin.

Pronounced Oo-ka-na-sa by the Algonquin tribe, it was labeled "Arkansoa"

by Jacques Marquette, and eventually called "Arkansas" by Bernard de la Harpe.

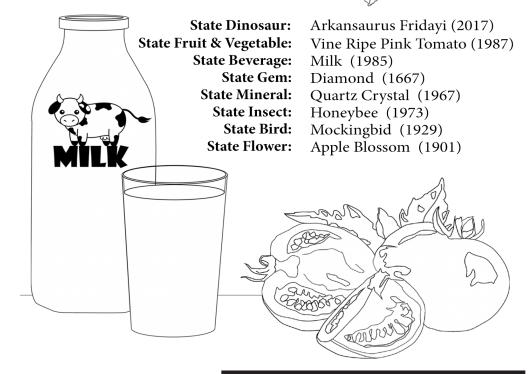
Arkansas was admitted to the Union on June 15, 1836.

In 1881, the General Assembly passed a resolution that officially named the state with it's current spelling.

Capitol: Little Rock

**Motto:** *Regnat Populus*- The People Rule

**Nickname:** The Natural State (1995)



Use the Arkansas House "Find Your Rep" tool:

www.arkansashouse.org

The Arkansas Senate has a "Search for MY Senator" tool: www.arkansas.gov/senate

Simply enter your address and it will provide you with the person to contact.

Legislators are elected to represent their district. Whether you like or dislike a bill, your voice will have the biggest impact when you are communicating directly to those who are held accountable at your voting precinct.

Use the search tools before calling so we can ensure your message is delivered.

Where?





# Find Your Legislator

# What?

Arkansas legislators work to pass bills and resolutions for the benefit of their district and the state.

To search archived videos and meetings:

www.arkansashouse.org/ watch-live

Search all bills, legislators, meetings and more at www.arkleg.state.ar.us

# When?

There are **135 legislators** who receive thousands of calls and emails during every session.

To be contacted sooner:

**Email:** put the bill number on the subject line.

**Call:** tell the operator your senator or representative.

Look through this directory for phone numbers and email addresses for every legislator.

My State Senator is:

My State Representative is: