THIRD FLOOR

Arkansas Senate

Suite 320

501-682-2902 (In Session)
501-682-6107 (Out of Session)

The Arkansas Senate is located at the south end of the third floor. The Senate gallery, generally available to the public, is located on the fourth floor. Guides are stationed outside the Senate chamber during session.

While Senators are often in the Senate chamber, their offices are scattered throughout the south end of the Capitol.

If you'd like to speak with a senator, ask a guide to send a note into the chamber. If the senator is inside and is free to speak, they should step outside to visit with you.

The Senate generally convenes at 1:00 PM each afternoon unless otherwise specified. A live video stream is available on the Senate website.

Learn more at **senate.arkansas.gov**.

SENATE MAKEUP AND LEADERSHIP

- **35 Members:** 29 Republicans, 6 Democrats
- **President Pro Tem:** Senator Bart Hester (R-Cave Springs)
- **Majority Leader:** Senator Blake Johnson (R-Corning)
- **Majority Whip:** Senator Ricky Hill (R-Cabot)
- **Minority Leader:** Senator Greg Leding (D-Fayetteville)
- **Minority Whip:** Senator Linda Chesterfield (D-Little Rock)

CONTACT GOVERNOR SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS

The governor's office is on the north end of the second floor. You can also call the office at (501) 682-2345, tweet at her (@SarahHuckabee), or use the contact form found at **governor.arkansas.gov**. **Always be polite.**

Social media can be a powerful tool.

BE POLITE, BRIEF, AND TO THE POINT

Keys to Connecting

Fiscal sessions are generally calmer than regular sessions, but legislators can still be very busy. If the legislator with whom you want to speak isn't free, don't worry; just be patient. **Here are a few tips for connecting:**

• **Let them know you're coming** with a phone call or email (or both) in advance. Include your name, phone number, and the reason you're coming.

• **Be aware of the times committees and the House and Senate meet.** You might catch legislators on their way in or out of a meeting. These times are also great opportunities to watch them in action.

• **Be polite, be brief, and to the point.** Legislators are more likely to listen, and they'll appreciate your respect for their time.

• If you're concerned about a specific bill, know the bill number (ex. HB1001, SB1). If possible, have a copy of the bill with you.

• **Leave them with something**: a card, a note, a one-page brief about your position. Include your contact information.

• **Follow up.** Call, send a note, or email. Restate your name and concern, and thank the legislator for their time. Make sure they know you'll continue to follow their actions on the issue.

• **Stay in frequent, regular contact.** If they vote with you, thank them. If they don't, politely express your disappointment.

• **Always be polite and show respect**. They might not be with you now, but you never know when you might be able to win their support—so keep the relationship going.

Follow all posted guidelines and staff requests.

2024 FISCAL SESSION - FIRST EDITION

Determined Constituent

GUIDE TO THE ARKANSAS STATE CAPITOL

The **2024 Fiscal Session** is scheduled to begin at noon on **Wednesday, April 10**. Fiscal sessions can't last longer than 30 days without lawmakers voting to extend, so the session should end in late April or early May. Lawmakers are scheduled to work Monday through Thursday each week of the session.

The Capitol is located at 500 Woodlane Street, Little Rock, AR, 72201. The Capitol is generally open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM weekdays. Parking and other information is available at **sos.arkansas.gov**.

Finding Your Way Around

All visitors must go through security. **Elevators** are found on the east side of the building. Public Wi-Fi is available throughout most of the Capitol.

Basement: 500 Grill, **restrooms**

First Floor: ATM, Capitol Police, and press offices (east lobby); gift shop, post office, and public seating (rotunda); **restrooms**, House and Senate committee rooms, Commissioner of State Lands Tommy Land

Second Floor: Senate committee rooms, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Secretary of State John Thurston, Auditor Dennis Milligan, Treasurer Larry Walther, Lieutenant Governor Leslie Rutledge, Old Supreme Court Room (OSC)

Third Floor: House and Senate chambers, public seating, snacks, vending

Fourth Floor: House and Senate galleries

Find a schedule and more at www.arkleg.state.ar.us.

THIRD FLOOR

Arkansas House

Suite 350

501-682-6211 (In Session)
501-682-7771 (Out of Session)

The House of Representatives is located on the north end of the third floor. The House gallery, generally available to the public, is on the fourth floor. Visitors must sign in to see staff. During session, look to a "Red Coat" for help.

While House members are often in the House chamber, their individual offices are scattered throughout the Capitol.

If you'd like to speak with a representative, ask a Red Coat to send a note into the chamber. If the legislator is inside and is free to speak, they should step outside to visit with you.

The House generally convenes at 1:00 PM each afternoon unless otherwise specified. A live video stream is available on the House website.

Learn more at **arkansashouse.org**.

HOUSE MAKEUP AND LEADERSHIP

- **100 Members:** 82 Republicans, 18 Democrats
- **Speaker:** Rep. Matthew Shepherd (R-El Dorado)
- **Speaker Pro Tem:** Rep. Jon Eubanks (R-Paris)
- **Majority Leader:** Rep. Marcus Richmond (R-Harvey)
- **Majority Whip:** Rep. Jon Milligan (R-Lake City)
- **Minority Leader:** Rep. Tippi McCullough (D-Little Rock)
- **Minority Whip:** Rep. Vivian Flowers (D-Pine Bluff)

SEND A MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

Call the in-session phone numbers for the chambers to leave a message for a legislator, and a note (called a "pink slip") is left on their desk. A stack of them can send a real message.

Social media can be a powerful tool.

FISCAL SESSIONS - COMMITTEES

Joint Budget Committee

During a fiscal session, the **Joint Budget Committee** and its subcommittees see the most action. Standing committees—like **Education**, **Judiciary**, **Insurance and Commerce**, **State Agencies and Governmental Affairs**—generally don't meet (but always check the schedule at www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) considers appropriations and budget proposals submitted by the General Assembly. The committee's work begins weeks in advance of a session, giving legislators an opportunity to hear and learn from agency staff as to their budget needs and requests.

JBC's standing committees include the JBC **Administrative Rule Review** Subcommittee; the JBC **Claims** Subcommittee; the JBC **Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review** (PEER) Subcommittee; the JBC **Personnel** Subcommittee; and the JBC **Special Language** Subcommittee.

It's good to keep an eye on the Special Language Subcommittee. This subcommittee makes recommendations to JBC as to any "special language" included in an appropriation to address the fiscal and programmatic operations of state agencies, boards, commissions, and higher education institutions. Special language can be used to allow transfers of appropriation, funds, positions, and programs. This language discusses the General Assembly's intent and can put restrictions on certain actions, as well as require review, reporting, or both.

JBC meets in Room A of the "Big MAC" building directly west of the Capitol. Its meetings generally begin early in the morning (and most always at the call of the chairs).

Always check the schedule before traveling.

FISCAL SESSIONS - KEY FIGURES

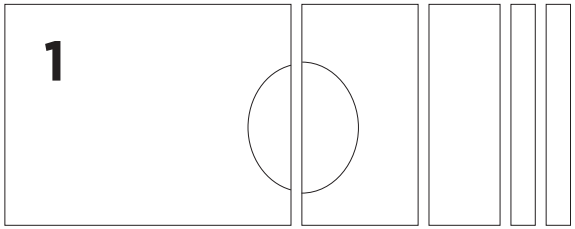
JBC Leadership

The Joint Budget Committee is a **joint committee**, which means its memberships includes legislators from both the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas Senate. This means its leadership is made up of representatives and senators.

JBC is chaired by **Senator Jonathan Dismang** (R-Beebe) and **Representative Lane Jean** (R-Magnolia). Its vice chairs are **Senator Ricky Hill** (R-Cabot) and **Representative Frances Cavenaugh** (R-Walnut Ridge).

Find committee rosters, schedules, and more at **www.arkleg.state.ar.us**.

Where our tax dollars go



Here in Arkansas, about $.44 of every tax dollar goes to education (K-12). The **Department of Human Services** and the **Department of Health** receive about $.27. Higher education institutions receive about $.14, while the **Department of Corrections** receives about $.08. The remaining $.07 goes to general government and local aid.

Arkansas's fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. Lawmakers set the biennial budget in regular sessions and use fiscal sessions to make adjustments.

Find a schedule and more at www.arkleg.state.ar.us.