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Ready to Run!

Running, Winning, and
Serving
in Carroll County

About the Presenter

- Obama for America '08
- Independent political consultant
 - More than two dozen campaigns – but who's counting?
- Nonprofit digital media director
- Nonprofit fundraising officer

Our goals today

- **Discuss all the partisan offices**
- **Cover what it takes to run**
- **Answer questions about the offices and deciding to run**

The Lay of the Land

- **Democrats are resilient in Carroll County at the county level**
- **State legislature is more bleak – no legislative seats held by Dems**
- **Our goal today is to lay the groundwork to add more Democrats!**

Down-Ballot Offices

- **Examples of non-partisan offices**
 - **Water districts**
 - **School boards**
 - **City councils**
 - **Mayors and other city officials**
 - **Judicial races (judges, justices, prosecutors)**

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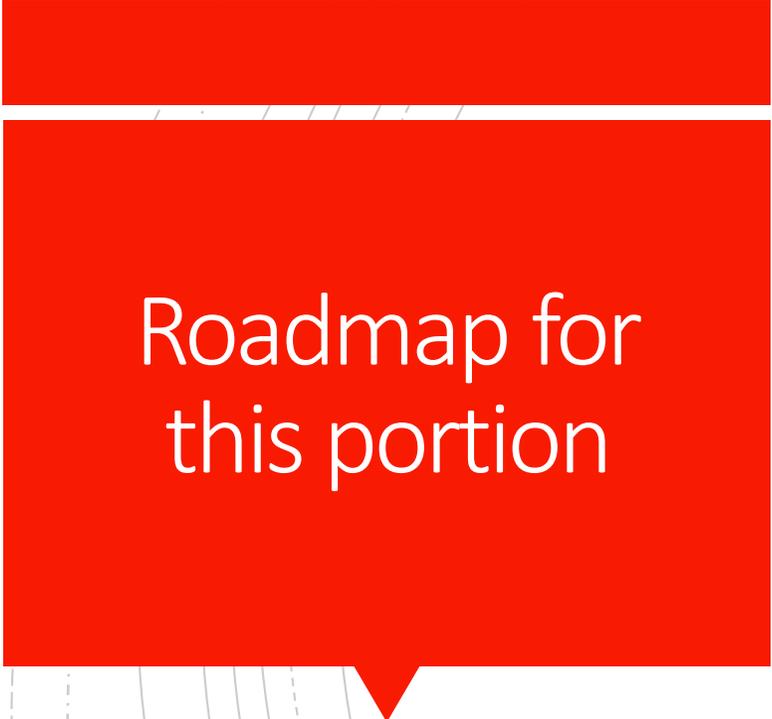
Other opportunities to serve

- **Community groups**
- **Church and service organizations**
- **City and county volunteer boards**
- **Nonprofit groups**
- **Any opportunity to network and build leadership skills**

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Partisan Elected Offices

A Primer

A red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, containing the text "Roadmap for this portion".

Roadmap for this portion

- **The most common question we have gotten is “What can people run for?”**
- **Answer: There are more than 40 offices in Carroll County to run for in 2018**
- **Let’s answer the questions:**
 - **What are they?**
 - **What do they do?**
 - **Can I run for them?**

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Levels of partisan government

- When we think about partisan offices in Carroll County, we have five levels to think about:
 1. County District Offices
 2. Countywide Offices
 3. State Legislative Districts
 4. Statewide Offices
 5. Federal Offices



County district
offices

- These are county officials who are elected to represent a specific district
- Two levels of county offices are the most direct form of government:
 - Constable
 - Justice of the Peace

An important
note on county
government in
Arkansas

- **Arkansas county government uses archaic phraseology for our elected officials**
- **We call our county executive “county judge” though they retain no judicial duties**
- **We call our county legislature a “quorum court” though they don’t hold trials**
- **We call our county legislators “justices of the peace” though they do not have peacekeeping duties**
- **We still elect constables**

CONSTABLE

- There are fifteen constables in Carroll County, elected by township
- Constables are rather archaic elected law enforcement positions that predate the ability of sheriff's offices to police their entire counties
- Must pay for all equipment, badges, training themselves
- Can be licensed to carry firearm and enforce law

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

- **Justices of the Peace, or JPs are the legislative branch of the county government**
- **11 JP districts in Carroll County**
- **JP districts are comprised of precincts that are also in House and Senate districts and contribute to countywide elections**

Holding office as a JP

- **Two-year terms for part-time position**
- **Responsible for passing county ordinances, levying taxes, and maintaining county services like the jails, roads, and other infrastructure.**
- **Average of 2-3 meetings per month (based on Washington County)**

Dist.	Name	Voting Precinct
1	Jack Deaton	Holiday Island
2	Charles (Chuck) Olson	Beaver, Packard Springs, Johnson Springs (partial)
3	Lamont Richie	Eureka Springs Ward 1,2,3, Johnson Springs (partial)
4	Marty Johnson	Polo, Kings River, Winona
5	Matt Phillips	Berryville Ward 1
6	Craig Hicks	Berryville Ward 2
7	Noreen Watson	NW/SW Prairie, NE/SE Prairie, Cabanal
8	Don McNeely	Green Forest Ward 1, NE/NW Hickory
9	Roger Hall	Green Forest Ward 2, SE/SW Hickory
10	Larry Swofford	North & South Yocum, Long Creek, Coin
11	John Howerton	Liberty, Carrollton, Omega, Osage, Piney, Dry Fork

Countywide offices

- Eight elected officials who fulfill duties for the entire county.
- These positions are full-time and the compensation is appropriate for these professional, administrative responsibilities.
- Countywide elected officials responsible for the administrative functions of the county-level judicial courts
- Assessment, collection, and administration of public taxes
- Management of county business and election registration and conduction

COUNTY JUDGE

- The county judge is the chief executive officer of county government.
- Authorize and approve disbursement of all appropriated county funds
- Operating the system of county roads
- Administering ordinances enacted by the quorum court
- Maintaining custody of county property

COUNTY JUDGE CONTINUED

- **Managing grants from federal, state, public, and private sources**
- **Hiring county employees except those employed by other elected officials of the county**
- **Presiding over the quorum court without a vote, but with the power of veto.**

COUNTY SHERIFF

- The official duties of the office of county sheriff in Arkansas are divided into three major areas:
 - The sheriff is the chief enforcement officer of the courts
 - Conservator of the peace in the county,
 - Custody of the county jail

COUNTY CLERK

- The county clerk is the official bookkeeper of the county government.
- Responsibilities of the office include:
 - maintaining the county's voter registration, as well as conducting absentee and early voting at the courthouse
 - issuing marriage licenses, DBA certificates, and ministers' certificates of record, as well as nurses and physicians credentials and all fictitious business names
 - The clerk serves as the clerk for the county court

COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK

- The primary duties of the circuit clerk revolve around filing, docketing, attending court, issuing of notices, records management for civil, domestic relations, criminal, and juvenile cases. The office maintains those records and all appeals.
- Recording all deeds, mortgages, and conveyances of lands
- Recording of powers of attorney, liens on real property, soldiers' discharges, leases, real estate fixture filing statements, performance bonds and public official bonds.

COUNTY TREASURER

- **The county treasurer is the disbursement officer of the county. Duties include:**
 - receiving revenue from local, state, and federal agencies
 - distributing money to Carroll County taxing entities
 - accurately accounting for all receipts and disbursements
 - preparing and signing checks for employees and creditors of the county
 - projecting revenue for upcoming year during annual budget process
 - presenting monthly financial reports to the quorum court on the county's fiscal condition

COUNTY ASSESESOR

- **The assessor is responsible for valuing all the property in Carroll County.**
- **These values are part of the funding formula that generates revenue to support our public schools, roads, emergency services and other government departments.**
- **The assessor assesses property values, including real property and personal property; maintains property records for the county; and performs various administrative duties related to property valuation.**

COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

- The collector's office collects property taxes to help support schools, cities, roads, jails, and county expenses based on millage rates set by local governments and voters.

COUNTY CORONER

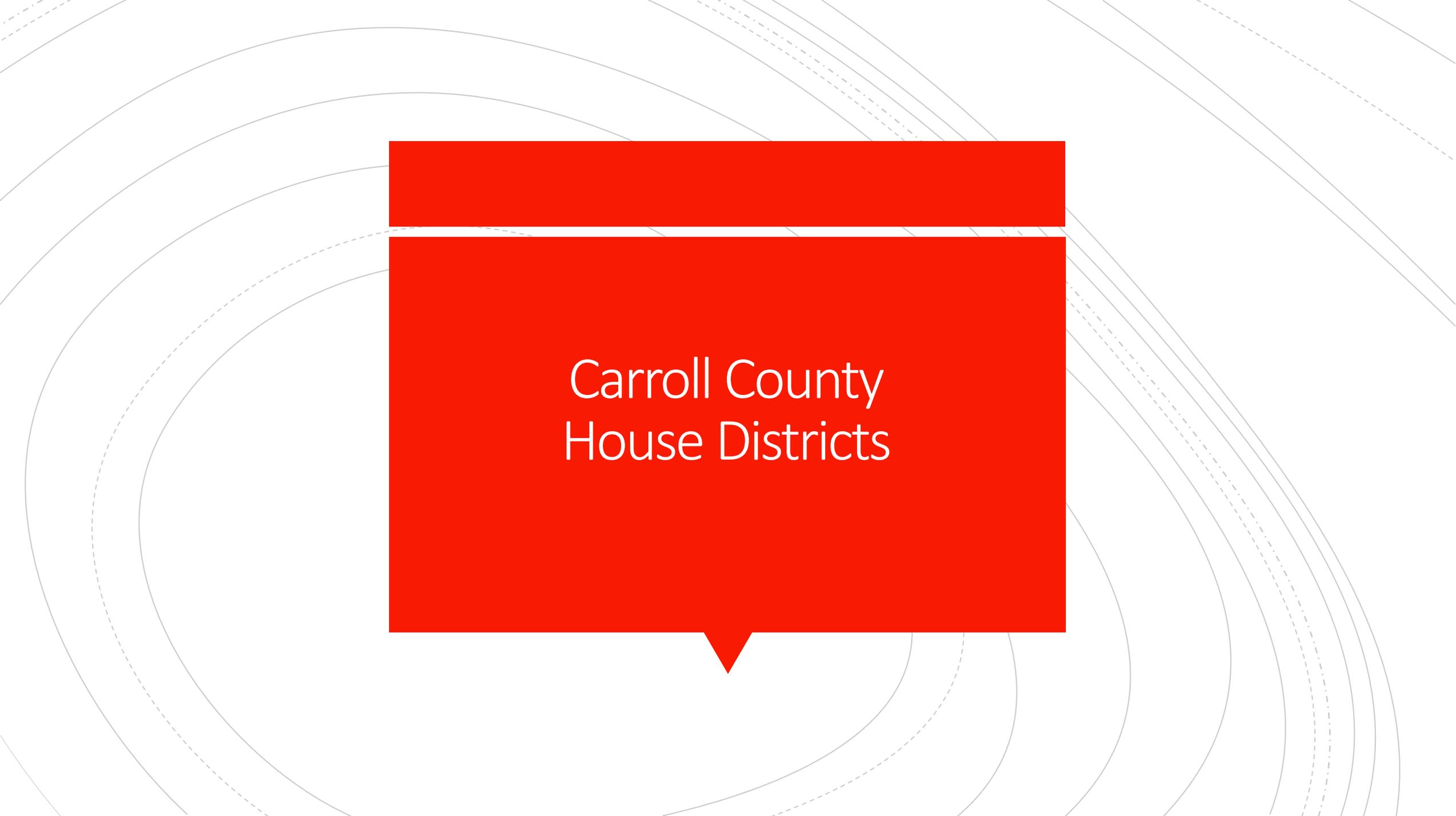
- The coroner's office determines the cause and manner of deaths in Carroll County
- This process includes: identifying the circumstances surrounding the death; obtaining medical records and toxicology; communicating with the Arkansas Crime Lab; and gathering information from families and friends of the deceased to assist in the investigation.

State legislative districts

- The state of Arkansas has a bicameral legislature consisting of a lower house, the State House of Representatives, and an upper house, the State Senate.
- State legislative terms are two years in the House and four years in the Senate.
- Elections for the Arkansas State House are held every two years, while only half of the State Senate is chosen each election.
- For example, all House districts in Carroll County are up for election in 2018, while only one Senate district is up (Senate District 5)

The State House of Representatives

- The Arkansas State House of Representatives is composed of 100 members representing districts across the state.
- Members of the lower chamber serve on committees, write and sponsor legislation, and serve as the most direct and localized form of state government to the voters.
- Base compensation for State House members is \$39,400 and they are elected to two-year terms in each biennial election.
- There are three State House districts (HDs) that are contained in or include parts of Carroll County.

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Carroll County
House Districts

- **House District 83 (open)** - David Branscum - Carrollton, Compton, Jasper, Marshall, most of BNR
- **House District 97 (open)** - Bob Ballinger - Eureka Springs, Berryville, Hindsville, Goshen
- **House District 98** - Ron McNair - Grandview, Urbanette, Oak Grove, Alpena, Green Forest, most of Harrison)

State Senate

- **The Arkansas State Senate is composed of 35 members representing large districts across the state.**
- **Members of the upper chamber serve on committees, write and sponsor legislation, and serve as more tenured members of the state legislature.**
- **They are elected to four-year terms and are staggered into two classes so that only half of the body is up in each biennial election.**
- **Base compensation for State Senate is \$39,400 per year.**
- **There are two State Senate districts that are contained in or include parts of Carroll County, one of which (SD 5) is up for election**

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Carroll County
Senate Districts

- **Senate District 5** (up in 2018) – Bryan King, very large district
 - Bob Ballinger running in primary
- **Senate District 16** (up again in 2020) – Greg Standridge

Statewide offices

- Arkansas has seven statewide executive branch officers described in the state constitution.
- With the exception of Lieutenant Governor, all statewide positions in Arkansas are full-time, executive branch administrative positions that oversee significant portions of state government.
- Responsible for collecting taxes, maintaining the business and license registries of the state, adjudicating legal cases on behalf of Arkansans, and maintaining the functioning of state government all the way down to the local level.

Statewide offices continued

- These positions serve four-year terms and are elected in the off-years of Presidential elections. (2014, 2018, 2022, etc.).
- Officials are limited to two terms (eight years) in each position.
- Historically, constitutional officers serve one or two terms and attempt to run for higher constitutional office.
- The duties and annual compensation of the various constitutional officer positions are highly varied.

Governor

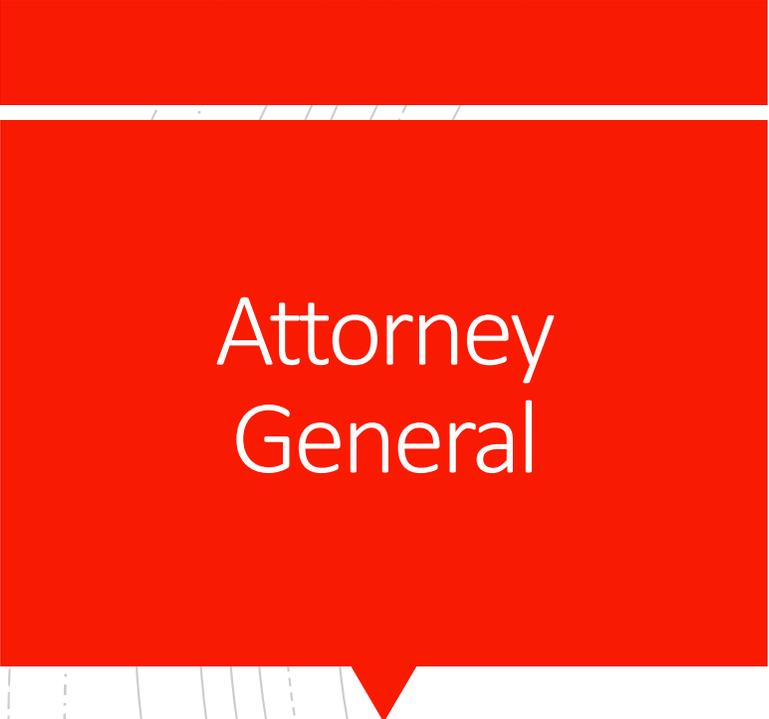
- The governor is the chief executive officer of the state of Arkansas and the commander-in-chief of all the state's military and naval forces except when either force is already under federal command.
- The governor has many administrative duties that interact with executive agencies, the judiciary, and the legislature:
 - The governor has veto power over all legislative actions, including appropriation bills, concurrent orders and resolutions.
 - Judicially, the governor has the "power to grant reprieves, commutations of sentence, and pardons, after conviction; and to remit fines and forfeitures, under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by law."

Governor continued

- Other duties and privileges of the office include:
 - issuing and authorizing all commissions and grants made by the state
 - calling extraordinary sessions of the legislature
 - adjourning either regular or extraordinary sessions of the legislature when the two houses are unable to pass a concurrent resolution to adjourn
 - filling vacancies in the offices of treasurer of state, secretary of state, auditor of state, and attorney general, as well as other offices without specific vacancy procedure
- Annual compensation for governor is \$141,000 and the incumbent is first-term **Republican Asa Hutchinson.**

Lieutenant Governor

- The official duties of the lieutenant governor are:
 - to preside over the Senate with a tie-breaking vote
 - to serve as governor when the governor is out of the state (this duty was removed in 2016)
 - to serve as governor if the governor is impeached, removed from office, dies, or is otherwise unable to discharge the office's duties.
- The incumbent is first-term **Republican Tim Griffin** and the annual salary is \$42,315.



Attorney General

- The attorney general (AG) is the chief attorney for the state of Arkansas and is the attorney for all state officials, departments, institutions.
- The AG also has the authority to initiate civil lawsuits under all environmental protection statutes, maintain and defend the interest of the state in the federal courts and be the legal representative of all state parties in litigation where the interests of the state are involved.
- The AG also attends and defends the state before the Supreme Court.

Attorney General continued

- The AG also has several duties that interface with other branches/levels of government:
 - Give her opinion to the governor and heads of executive departments on any constitutional or legal questions concerning the official actions of such officers. The AG is also empowered to bring suit against state officials who have collected or received state monies and not accounted for them according to the law.
 - The AG also has broad responsibilities that have been assigned by statute:
 - *Consumer Protection*
 - *Medicaid Fraud*
 - *Crime Victims Reparations*
 - *Public Utilities*
- The annual salary is \$130,000 and the incumbent is first-term **Republican Leslie Rutledge.**

Secretary of State

- The secretary of state has a large portfolio of responsibilities and official duties. The main areas of responsibility are:
 - *Business and Commercial Services Division*
 - *Business Office – run the Capitol*
 - *Capitol Facilities Division – maintain the Capitol*
 - *Communications and Education Division*
 - *Elections Division*
 - The Elections Division also serves as a clearinghouse for campaign finance reports that are filed with the Arkansas Ethics Commission.
- The annual salary of the secretary of state is \$90,000 and the incumbent is term-limited **Republican Mark Martin. This office will be open in 2018.**

Treasurer of State

- The treasurer of state serves as the state's banker and is responsible for an investment portfolio of approximately \$3 billion.
- The treasurer's office accepts deposits (more than \$70 million per day on average) and credits them to the proper accounts, reconciles accounts, prepare statements and answers customers' questions.
- As the bank for the State, the office provides the same services as private banks.
- The incumbent is first-term **Republican Dennis Milligan** and the annual salary is \$85,000.

Auditor of State

- The auditor of state is the general accountant for the state and serves as the payroll officer for the executive, legislative and judicial branches.
- In addition to these duties, the auditor administers Arkansas's unclaimed property program (UCP), which connects state residents with their unclaimed property and allows current and past residents to collect their property at any time.
- The incumbent is first-term **Republican Andrea Lea** and the annual salary is \$85,000.

Commissioner of State Lands

- The primary responsibility of the land commissioner is the collection of delinquent taxes on real estate.
- If not collected at the county level, the parcels are certified to the and commissioner for public auction.
- The land commissioner's office also has jurisdiction of mineral leasing on state-owned property, including the state's navigable streams and riverbeds for the extraction of sand and gravel.
- The office also houses the state's original land records.
- The incumbent is term-limited **Republican John Thurston** and the annual salary is \$85,000. **This office will be open in 2018.**

Federal offices

- In 2018, Arkansas will elect four members of the United States House of Representatives.
- Carroll County is entirely in the Third Congressional District (AR3 or CD3). There is no election for the U.S. Senate in Arkansas in 2018 and the next presidential election is in 2020.
- U.S. representatives serve in the lower chamber of the federal legislature and are elected every two years.
- They serve on committees and write, sponsor, and co-sponsor federal legislation.
- The base compensation for serving in the United States House of Representatives is \$174,000 per year.
- The incumbent is four-term **Republican Steve Womack** of Rogers.

Playing Your Part

- The simple fact is we will not win every election, but we will not win any elections in which we do not field a candidate to stand for office.
- **It is vital to the success of the Democratic ticket that every office be contested.**
- This means defending historically Democratic seats, challenging historically Republican seats, and picking up swing districts that will be heavily targeted by both parties.
- No matter which of these types of office you run for – likely Democratic, likely Republican, or swing – your candidacy will play a part in a larger strategy that will lead to success for Democrats.



So what's next?
**IT'S TIME TO RUN FOR
SOMETHING!**