

DPBC

Democratic Party of Benton County

Guide to Elected Offices

2024 Election Edition

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How do I use this guide?

This publication is intended to help potential candidates narrow their focus to a specific office. As you review these offices, consider your skill set, how it might relate to the duties of the office, and how your professional and personal constraints might fit the requirements of the position.

Unless otherwise noted, each position listed is up for election in 2024. The maps of various district-level boundaries are linked for each office once available. Please excuse any errors of fact, grammar, or spelling. This edition is current as of Aug. 16, 2023.

Running for Office Common Requirements

Anyone who wants to run for an elected position in Arkansas, must meet the following minimum requirements. Additional unique requirements will be listed under each position description.

- Must possess the qualifications of an elector (live in the applicable district)
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be an Arkansas resident
- Must be lawfully registered to vote
- Must not hold any other state or federal office (state-level positions); nor appointed or elected to any other civil office (below state-level positions) upon election
- Must never have been convicted of embezzlement of public money, bribery, forgery, or other infamous crime

Filing Requirements & Deadline Information

A person may not run for more than one state, county, municipal, district or township office if the elections are to be held on the same date. For all candidates (who currently do not hold public office), a Statement of Financial Interest will need to be completed and returned to the applicable office the first Monday following the end of the filing period.

Federal and State Partisan Positions

- Filing dates: begins noon, Nov. 6, 2023 – ends noon Nov. 14, 2023
- Filing location: Little Rock Capitol Building
- Must pay partisan party filing fee, if any, to the party during the filing period (each estimated filing fee is indicated in the applicable sections below)
- Provide the Secretary of State the following:
 - Signed affidavit of candidate eligibility “Political Practices Pledge”
 - Party certificate (provided by political party)

County Partisan Positions

- Filing dates: begins noon, Nov. 6, 2023 – ends noon Nov. 14, 2023
- Filing location: County Clerk's Office
- Democrats must pay partisan party filing fee of \$50 to the Democratic Party of Benton County (DPBC)
- Provide the County Clerk's Office with the following:
 - Signed affidavit of candidate eligibility "Political Practices Pledge"
 - Party certificate (provided by political party)

Judicial Nonpartisan Offices & Prosecuting Attorneys

- Petition filing dates for candidates to avoid paying a filing fee: begins noon Sept. 14, 2023 - ends noon Sept. 21, 2023
- Filing dates: begins at 3 p.m. Nov. 6, 2023 – ends 3 p.m. Nov. 14, 2023
- Filing location: Little Rock Capitol Building
- Must pay nonpartisan office filing fee, or file applicable signature petition, to the Secretary of State during the filing period (each estimated filing fee is indicated in the applicable sections below)
- Provide the Secretary of State the following:
 - Signed affidavit of candidate eligibility "Political Practices Pledge"

Municipal Nonpartisan Positions

- Filing dates: begins July 31, 2024 – ends Aug. 7, 2024
- Filing location: County Clerk's Office
- Provide the County Clerk the following:
 - Signed affidavit of candidate eligibility "Political Practices Pledge"
 - Applicable signature petition for the position (varies by municipal size)
 - Signature collection period for Nov election can begin May 9, 2024

School Board Nonpartisan Positions (Spring and Nov. 2024)

- May Election Filing dates: begins 3 p.m. Nov. 6, 2023 – ends 3 p.m. Nov. 14, 2023
- Nov. Election Filing dates: begins July 31, 2024 – ends Aug. 7, 2024
- Filing location: County Clerk's Office
- Provide the County Clerk the following:
 - Signed affidavit of candidate eligibility "Political Practices Pledge"
 - Applicable signature petition for the position
 - Signature collection period for spring election can begin July 23, 2023
 - Signature collection period for Nov election can begin May 9, 2024

Federal Offices

United States House of Representatives (3rd Congressional)

The lower chamber of the federal legislature, the U.S. House of Representatives is composed of 435 voting members apportioned among the states by population as determined by each decennial census (each state is entitled to at least one representative, regardless of population size).

- *Responsibilities:* Serve on committees and write, sponsor, and co-sponsor federal legislation.
- *Terms:* Two years
- *Compensation:* \$174,000 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: minimum 25 years old
 - Must have been a U.S. citizen for more than 7 years
 - Filing fee of \$2,500 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Steve Womack**

United States Senate (NO Arkansas election in 2024)

The upper chamber of the federal legislature, the U.S. Senate, is comprised of 100 members, two from each state. Its members are divided into three classes, which are elected to six-year terms every two years.

- *Responsibilities:* Serve on committees and write, sponsor, and co-sponsor federal legislation.
- *Terms:* Six years
- *Compensation:* \$174,000 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: minimum 30 years old
 - Must have been a U.S. citizen for more than 9 years
 - Filing fee of \$5,000 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas
- *Incumbent:* **Republican John Boozman (term ends 2028) and Republican Tom Cotton (term ends 2026)**

Statewide Elected Officials (Only one election in 2024)

Arkansas has seven statewide executive branch officers described in the state constitution. Except for Lieutenant Governor, all statewide positions in Arkansas are full-time, executive branch administrative positions that oversee significant portions of state government.

Governor (no election in 2024)

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.

- *Responsibilities:* Has veto power over all legislative actions, including appropriation bills, concurrent orders, and resolutions. Has the power to grant reprieves, commutations of sentence, and pardons after conviction, and to remit fines and forfeitures under such rules and regulations. Other duties include issuing and authorizing all commissions and grants made by the state, calling extraordinary sessions of the legislature, and filling vacancies in certain offices.
- *Terms:* Four years (term-limited to a total of two four-year terms)
- *Compensation:* \$158,739 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: minimum 30 years old
 - Residency: Arkansas resident for seven years
 - Filing fee of \$5,000 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Sarah Huckabee Sanders** (term limited in 2030)

Lieutenant Governor (no election in 2024)

- *Responsibilities:* The lieutenant governor replaces a governor who has died, become disabled, or was removed from office. The lieutenant governor also serves as president of the Arkansas State Senate, though the lieutenant governor may cast a vote only in the case of a tie.
- *Terms:* Four years (term-limited to a total of two four-year terms)
- *Compensation:* \$46,704 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: minimum 30 years old
 - Residency: Arkansas resident for seven years
 - Filing fee of \$1,500 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Leslie Rutledge** (term limited in 2030)

Attorney General (no election in 2024)

The Attorney General (AG) is the chief attorney for the state of Arkansas and is the attorney for all state officials, departments, and institutions.

- *Responsibilities:* The office of attorney general's duties include representing state agencies and officers in court and providing them with legal advice and opinions related to their official duties. The attorney general also enforces state consumer protection, antitrust and environmental law. He or she pursues fraud cases regarding the state Medicaid program and handles all criminal appeals and habeas corpus cases on behalf of the state.
- *Terms:* Four years (term-limited to a total of two four-year terms)
- *Compensation:* \$146,355 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: minimum 18 years old
 - Residency: Arkansas resident
 - Filing fee of \$5,000 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Tim Griffin** (term limited in 2030)

Secretary of State (no election in 2024)

The Secretary of State is Arkansas' chief election officer; maintains the state's election records, supervises voter registration and electronic voting systems, and collects campaign finance reports from candidates, donors and interest groups.

- *Responsibilities:* Manage the Business and Commercial Services Division (BCS), Business Office, Capitol Facilities Division, Communications and Education Division, and the Elections Division.
- *Terms:* Four years (term-limited to a total of two four-year terms)
- *Compensation:* \$101,322 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: minimum 18 years old
 - Residency: Arkansas resident
 - Filing fee of \$1,500 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas
- *Incumbent:* **Republican John Thurston** (term limited in 2026)

Treasurer of State

The Treasurer of the State of Arkansas is the chief financial officer of the government of Arkansas.

- *Responsibilities:* The Treasurer acts as the state's bank, accepting deposits in the form of taxes and fees, and disbursing funds to state agencies based on warrants from the auditor's office. The office is also responsible for providing state aid to local governments and investing the state's cash funds.

- *Terms:* Four years (term-limited to a total of two four-year terms)
- *Compensation:* \$95,693 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: minimum 18 years old
 - Residency: Arkansas resident
 - Filing fee of \$1,250 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas
- *Incumbent:* None (Governor appointment in 2023)

Auditor of State (no election in 2024)

The Auditor acts as the general accountant for the State.

- *Responsibilities:* Keeping track of all fund and appropriation balances of all state agencies and writing the warrants (checks) in payment of the liabilities of the State. The auditor also manages the state's unclaimed property division.
- *Terms:* Four years (term-limited to a total of two four-year terms)
- *Compensation:* \$95,693 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: minimum 18 years old
 - Residency: Arkansas resident
 - Filing fee of \$1,500 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Dennis Milligan** (term limited in 2030)

Commissioner of State Lands (no election in 2024)

The commissioner has chief authority over Arkansas' landed interests

- *Responsibilities:* The commissioner serves as the chairperson for the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, among other responsibilities.
- *Terms:* Four years (term-limited to a total of two four-year terms)
- *Compensation:* \$95,693 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: minimum 18 years old
 - Residency: Arkansas resident
 - Filing fee of \$1,500 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas
- *Incumbent:* **Tommy Land** (term limited in 2026)

Judicial Nonpartisan Offices & Prosecuting Attorneys

Arkansas judicial elected positions are nonpartisan elections.

Appellate Court Positions (Supreme Court and Court of Appeals)

The Supreme Court has seven justices (one is considered the chief). The Court of Appeals has 13 justices (two justices represent Districts 1 – 6, District 7 has one justice; one of the 13 is considered the chief).

- **Terms:** eight years
- **Compensation:** annual; Supreme Court – Chief Justice \$219,902, Associate Justices \$203,625; Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals \$203,625, Associate Justices \$197,596
- **Filing Requirements:**
 - Arkansas Licensed Attorney: eight years preceding date assuming office
 - Filing fee paid to the state of 6% annual salary of Supreme Court judge (Supreme Court candidates) or 5% of annual salary of Court of Appeals judge (Court of Appeals candidates)
- **Positions up in 2024:**

Position	Incumbent	Previously Elected
Supreme Court, Chief Justice Position 1	John Dan Kemp ¹	2016
Supreme Court, Position 5	Shawn A. Womack	2016
Supreme Court, Position 2	n/a ²	2022

Circuit Court Positions

Circuit courts are general jurisdiction trial courts; consisting of five subject matter divisions: criminal, civil, probate, domestic relations, and juvenile.

- **Terms:** six years
- **Compensation:** annual; \$197,596
- **Filing Requirements:**
 - Arkansas Licensed Attorney: six years preceding date assuming office
 - Filing fee paid to the state of 4% annual salary of Circuit Court judge (Circuit Court candidates)
- **Positions up in 2024:** NONE

¹ Supreme Court Chief Justice Kemp will not be pursuing reelection in 2024.

² Supreme Court Associate Justice Robin Wynne passed away in 2023 and his elected replacement will be elected in 2024 and will serve the remainder of his eight year term (2030).

District Court Positions

State district courts exercise territorial jurisdiction within judicial districts established by the General Assembly. This jurisdiction may be city-wide, countywide, or may combine more than one county into a judicial district.

- *Terms:* four years
- *Compensation:* annual \$168,803
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Arkansas Licensed Attorney: four years preceding date assuming office
 - Filing fee paid to the state of 3% annual salary of District Court judge (District Court candidates)
- *Positions up in 2024:*

Position	Incumbent	Previously Elected
District Judge Division 1	Chris Griffin	2020
District Judge Division 2	Ray Bunch	2020
District Judge Division 3	A.J. Anglin	2020
District Judge Division 4	Jeff Conner	2020

Prosecuting Attorney

The Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for all criminal prosecution of state crimes in Benton County and represents Benton County and the Quorum Court on all civil matters.

- *Terms:* four years
- *Compensation:* annual; \$183,272
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Arkansas Licensed Attorney: four *years* preceding date assuming office
 - Filing fee paid to the state of 3% annual salary of Prosecuting Attorney (Prosecuting Attorney candidates)
- *Incumbent:* **Nathan Smith** (next election is in 2026)

State Legislative Offices

The state of Arkansas has a bicameral legislature consisting of a lower house, the Arkansas House of Representatives, and an upper house, the State Senate.

State House of Representatives

The House is composed of 100 members elected from an equal number of constituencies across the state. Each district has an average population of 30,115 according to the 2020 federal census. Alongside the Arkansas State Senate, the Arkansas State House of Representatives forms the legislative branch of the Arkansas state government and works alongside the governor of Arkansas to create laws and establish a state budget.

- *Responsibilities:* Passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes
- *Terms:* Two years
- *Compensation:* \$44,357 salary/year; Per diem: Legislators residing within 50 miles of the capitol - \$59/day; Legislators residing more than 50 miles from the capitol \$155/day
- *Typical Schedule:* General session (odd years) begins the second Monday in January and typically lasts until April/May. Fiscal session (even years) begins the second Monday in February and typically lasts a month or two. Legislators are assigned to three committees, some of which meet monthly throughout the year.
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 21 or older upon election
 - Residency: resident of Arkansas for two years preceding election and a resident of their district for one year preceding election
 - Filing fee of \$1,000 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas **or** \$0 if there is no Democratic incumbent **and** the candidate obtains 150 signatures from registered voters in their district - signatures must be returned by Oct. 27, 2023
- *Adopted maps:* [LINK](#)

Current State Representatives with all or a portion of district in Benton County:

District	Party	Incumbent	First Term ³
7	Republican	Brit McKenzie	2021
8	Republican	Austin McCollum	2017
10	Republican	Mindy McAlindon	2013
11 ⁴	Republican	Rebecca Burkes	2019
12	Republican	Hope Hendren Duke	2019
13	Republican	R. Scott Richardson	2023
14	Republican	Grant Hodges	2023 ⁵
15	Republican	John Carr	2021
16	Republican	Kendon Underwood	2021
17	Republican	Delia Haak ⁶	2021
18 ⁷	Republican	Robin Lundstrum	2015

³ If first term is prior to 2021, 16 years term limit applies before 4 year break must happen. If first term is after 2021, 12 year term limit applies before a 4 year break must happen. Senate 2 year terms due to apportionment are not counted in the total year calculation.

⁴ District is split between Washington and Benton County; with the majority of precincts in Benton County

⁵ Rep. Hodges previously served as a state representative from 2015 - 2020, likely is term limited in 2034

⁶ Rep. Haak will not be running for reelection in 2024

⁷ District is split between Washington and Benton County; with only one precinct in Benton County

State Senate

The Senate is composed of 35 members elected from an equal number of constituencies across the state. Each district has an average population of 86,044 according to the 2020 federal census. Alongside the Arkansas State House of Representatives, the Arkansas State Senate forms the legislative branch of the Arkansas state government and works alongside the governor of Arkansas to create laws and establish a state budget.

- *Responsibilities:* Passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes
- *Terms:* Two-Four-Four year system (half of the senate is up each even year, all positions are up the election year following the census; e.g., 2022)
- *Compensation:* \$44,357 salary/year; Per diem: Legislators residing within 50 miles of the capitol - \$59/day; Legislators residing more than 50 miles from the capitol \$155/day
- *Typical Schedule:* General session (odd years) begins the second Monday in January and typically lasts until April/May. Fiscal session (even years) begins the second Monday in February and typically lasts a month or two. Legislators are assigned to three committees, some of which meet monthly throughout the year.
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 25 or older upon election
 - Residency: resident of Arkansas for two years preceding election and a resident of their district for one year preceding election
 - Filing fee of \$2,500 paid to the Democratic Party of Arkansas **or** \$0 if there is no Democratic incumbent **and** the candidate obtains 400 signatures from registered voters in their district - signatures must be returned by Oct. 27, 2023
- *Adopted maps:* [LINK](#)

Current State Representatives with all or a portion of district in Benton County:

District	Party	Incumbent	First Term ⁸	Next Election
32⁹	Republican	Joshua Bryant	2021	2026
33	Republican	Bart Hester	2013	2024
34	Republican	Jim Dotson	2013	2024
35¹⁰	Republican	Tyler Dees	2023	2026

⁸ If first term is prior to 2021, 16 years term limit applies before 4 year break must happen. If first term is after 2021, 12 year term limit applies before a 4 year break must happen. Senate 2 year terms due to apportionment are not counted in the total year calculation.

⁹ District is split between Washington and Benton County; with all but two precincts in Benton County

¹⁰ District is split between Washington and Benton County; with about half in Benton County

Countywide Partisan Offices (NO elections in 2024)

Benton County has eight elected officials who fulfill duties for the entire county. These positions are full-time and the compensation reflects these professional, administrative responsibilities. These duties range from overseeing the entire county government executive departments (county judge) to law enforcement and investigation (sheriff and coroner). Countywide elected officials are also responsible for the administrative functions of the county-level judicial courts; assessment, collection, and administration of public taxes; and the management of county business and election registration.

County Judge

The county judge is the chief executive officer of the county government.

- *Responsibilities:* Authorizing and approving the disbursement of all appropriated county funds, operating the system of county roads, administering ordinances enacted by the quorum court, maintaining custody of county property, managing grants from federal, state, public, and private sources; hiring county employees except those employed by other elected officials of the county; and presiding over the quorum court without a vote, but with the power of veto.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* \$113,176 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: At least 25
 - Residency: Must have been a resident of Arkansas for two years prior to election and continue to be a Benton County Resident for entirety of term
 - Must be a person of upright character
 - Must be a person of good business education
 - Filing Fee of \$50 paid to the Democratic Party of Benton County
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Barry Moehring**

County Sheriff

The county sheriff is the chief enforcement officer of the courts, conservator of the peace in the county, and custodian of the county jail.

- *Responsibilities:*
 - Chief enforcement officer of the circuit and chancery court duties: execution of summonses, enforcement of judgments, orders, injunctions, garnishments, attachments, and the making of arrest on warrants issued by the courts.
 - Law enforcement duties include: the preservation of the public peace; the protection of life and property; the prevention, detection, and investigation of criminal activity; the apprehension and confinement of offenders and the recovery of property; the control of crowds at public events; the control of vehicular traffic and the investigation of traffic accidents; and the rendering of services and the protection of property during civil emergencies or natural disasters.
 - County jail duties include: custody of accused felons and some misdemeanors apprehended in the county and is charged with feeding and keeping these accused persons. A log of all prisoners kept in the county jail and those transferred is maintained by the sheriff, as well as a bail bond book.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* \$113,176 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: At least 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the county to be represented
 - Filing Fee of \$50 paid to the Democratic Party of Benton County
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Shawn Holloway**

County Clerk

The county clerk is the official bookkeeper of the county government.

- *Responsibilities:* Maintaining the county's voter registration, as well as conducting absentee and early voting at the courthouse, and issuing marriage licenses, DBA certificates, and ministers' certificates of record. The county clerk also files and maintains nurses' and physicians' credentials and licenses and keeps a record of all fictitious business names in the county. The clerk serves as the clerk for the county court and Circuit Court Probate Division and as secretary to the Equalization Board.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* \$106,537 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: At least 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the county to be represented
 - Filing Fee of \$50 paid to the Democratic Party of Benton County
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Betsy Harrell**

County Circuit Clerk

The county circuit clerk's primary duties revolve around filing, docketing, attending court, issuing of notices, records management, and reporting to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

- *Responsibilities:*
 - Files and processes all the court documents for civil, domestic relations, criminal, and juvenile cases and appeals.
 - Prepares a list of prospective jurors, docket cases of the respective courts, issue summonses, subpoenas, writs and warrants related to each case, attend court and swear witnesses.
 - Recording of all deeds, mortgages, and conveyances of lands and buildings lying within the county, as well as maps and plats of newly laid out subdivisions and all records from other counties concerning land sales or conveyance which affect title in the county.
 - Recording of powers of attorney, liens on real property, soldiers' discharges, leases, real estate fixture filing statements, performance bonds and public official bonds.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* \$106,537 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: At least 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the county to be represented
 - Filing Fee of \$50 paid to the Democratic Party of Benton County
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Brenda DeShields**

County Assessor

The county assessor is responsible for valuing all the property in Benton County. (These values are part of the funding formula that generates revenue to support public schools, roads, emergency services, and other government departments.)

- *Responsibilities:* Assesses property values; including real property and personal property; maintains property records for the county; creates and maintains parcel maps; provides a free property search program for the public; and performs various administrative duties related to property valuation.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* \$106,537 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: At least 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the county to be represented
 - Filing Fee of \$50 paid to the Democratic Party of Benton County
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Roderick Grieve**

County Collector

The county collector is responsible for collecting county taxes.

- *Responsibilities:* Collects property taxes to help support schools, cities, roads, jails, and county expenses based on millage rates set by local governments and voters.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* \$106,537 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: At least 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the county to be represented
 - Filing Fee of \$50 paid to the Democratic Party of Benton County
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Gloria Peterson**

County Treasurer

The county collector is the disbursement officer of the county.

- *Responsibilities:* Receiving revenue from local, state, and federal agencies; distributing money to Benton County taxing entities; accurately accounting for all receipts and disbursements; securing county funds that are above FDIC limits; investing county funds; preparing and signing checks for employees and creditors of the county; reconciling bank statements monthly to ensure balance accuracy; projecting revenue
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* \$106,537 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: At least 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the county to be represented
 - Filing Fee of \$50 paid to the Democratic Party of Benton County
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Deanna Ratcliffe**

County Coroner

The county coroner's office determines the cause and manner of deaths in Benton County.

- *Responsibilities:* 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.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* \$106,537 annually
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: At least 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the county to be represented
 - Filing Fee of \$50 paid to the Democratic Party of Benton County
- *Incumbent:* **Republican Daniel Oxford**

District-Level County Offices

There are 20 positions in Benton County elected by local districts to serve at the county level. These positions include **Constables** and **Justices of the Peace**. Constables have a law enforcement role and are outdated but constitutionally required elected positions, while Justices of the Peace serve vital roles as the legislative branch of county government.

Constable

- *Responsibilities:* Constables are a relatively archaic elected position that predates the ability of law enforcement to effectively cover the entirety of large counties. For further information on the duties of Constables, [see this 2010 story](#) from the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.
- *Terms:* Two years
- *Compensation:* None. Constables may take training for law enforcement duties, such as ticket-writing in their district and licensure to carry firearms. All training, equipment, and uniforms are paid for by the constable.
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the district once elected
 - Filing Fee of \$50 paid to the Democratic Party of Benton County

Current Constables:

District	Party	Incumbent
1	Republican	Jim Hollenbeck
2	Republican	Keith Brummett
3	Republican	Charles Snyder
4	Republican	Gordon Fisher
5	Republican	Michael Savage, Jr.

Justices of the Peace (JP)

Justices of the Peace, or JPs for short, are the most directly representative partisan officials in Benton County. For additional reference, see the [2022 Procedures Manual](#).

- *Responsibilities:* Review and pass county ordinance, levying taxes, and maintaining county services (e.g., county jail, county courthouse, county roads, and infrastructure)
- *Terms:* Two years
- *Compensation:* Starting in 2022, \$267 per whole or quorum court meetings; \$157 per additional other meetings
- *Typical Schedule:* 2-3 meetings a month;
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the district once elected
 - Filing Fee of \$50 paid to the Democratic Party of Benton County

Current Justices of the Peace:

District	Party	Incumbent
1	Republican	Jeffrey Dunn
2	Republican	Ken Farmer
3	Republican	Richard McKeehan
4	Republican	Chris Latimer
5	Republican	Carrie Perrien Smith
6	Republican	Brian Armas
7	Republican	Joseph Bollinger
8	Republican	Joel Jones
9	Republican	Susan Anglin
10	Republican	Danny McCrackin
11	Republican	Dustin Todd
12	Republican	Ron Homeyer
13	Republican	Kurt Moore
14	Republican	Bethany Rosenbaum
15	Republican	Joel Edwards

Municipal Offices

Each city and incorporated town within Benton County will have non-partisan municipal positions up for election in 2024.

Mayor

- *Responsibilities:* The mayor is ex-officio president of the council. It is the mayor's responsibility to keep the city government running properly. This includes enforcing city ordinances and making sure that the residents receive maximum benefits and services for the taxes that they pay.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* Varies
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the city/town
 - Petition: Signatures of voters in municipality (30 – first-class; 10 – second-class/incorporated)

Council Member

- *Responsibilities:* Enact laws (ordinances) for the health, safety and welfare of the city not in conflict with the United States or the Arkansas state constitution.
- *Terms:* Two or Four years
- *Compensation:* Varies
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the respective ward/town
 - Petition: Signatures of voters in ward (30 – first-class; 10 – second-class/incorporated)

City Clerk, Clerk/Treasurer, or Recorder/Treasurer

- *Responsibilities:* Support record-keeping and checks and balances for the municipality.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* Varies
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the city
 - Petition: Signatures of voters in ward (30 – first-class; 10 – second-class/incorporated)

City/Municipal Attorney

- *Responsibilities:* The city attorney provides legal counsel to the city and may draft resolutions and city ordinances. This attorney also attends all municipal meetings, working closely with the city administrator, mayor and council members.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* Varies
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 18
 - Regularly Licensed Attorney
 - Residency: Must reside in the city/town
 - May be appointed position in municipalities with less than 2,500 residents
 - Petition: Signatures of voters in ward (30 – first-class; 10 – second-class/incorporated)

Mayor – City Administrator Form of Government (Siloam Springs)

- *Responsibilities:* The mayor serves as chairman of the board and presides at regular and special meetings. Recognized as the head of city government for all ceremonial purposes and by the governor for the purposes of military law.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* Varies
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 21
 - Residency: Must reside in the city six months prior to election
 - Filing Fee: \$10
 - Petition: Signatures of 50 voters in municipality that have resided at least six months within the municipality prior to signing

Board of Director – City Admin. Form of Gov (Siloam Springs)

- *Responsibilities:* Board serves as both the legislative and executive body of the city government.
- *Terms:* Four years
- *Compensation:* Varies
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 21
 - Residency: Must reside in the city six months prior to election
 - Filing Fee: \$10
 - Petition: Signatures of 50 voters in municipality that have resided at least six months within the municipality prior to signing

Known municipal positions up for election in 2024:

Municipality	Position	Terms
Avoca	Council Members 1-5	2 year
Bella Vista	Council Positions 1 (Wards 1-3)	4 year
Bentonville	Mayor, City Clerk, City Attorney, Council Positions 2 (Wards 1-4)	4 year
Cave Springs	Council Positions 1 & 2 (Wards 1-3)	2 year
Centerton	Council Positions 1 (Wards 1-3)	4 year
Decatur	Recorder/Treasurer	4 year
Decatur	Council Positions 1 & 2 (Wards 1-3)	2 year
Garfield	Recorder/Treasurer	4 year
Garfield	Council Positions 1 & 2 (Wards 1-2)	2 year
Gateway	Council Members 1-5	2 year
Gentry	Council Positions 1 (Wards 1-4)	4 year
Gravette	Council Positions 2 (Wards 1-3)	4 year
Highfill	City Clerk	4 year
Highfill	Council Positions 1 & 2 (Wards 1-3)	2 year
Little Flock	Recorder/Treasurer, Council Positions 1 (Wards 1-3)	4 year
Lowell	Council Positions 1 (Wards 1-4)	4 year
Pea Ridge	Council Positions 1 (Wards 1-3)	4 year
Rogers	Mayor, City Clerk/Treasurer, Council Positions 2 (Wards 1-4)	4 year
Siloam Springs	Mayor, Director At-Large Positions 5-7	4 year
Springtown	Council Members 1-5	2 year
Sulphur Springs	Recorder/Treasurer	4 year
Sulphur Springs	Council Positions 1 & 2 (Wards 1-3)	2 year

School Board Offices

Most school board positions in Benton County will be up for election in March 2024 (Decatur, Gentry, Gravette, Pea Ridge, Rogers & Siloam Springs) or November 2024 (Bentonville & NWACC).

School Board & NWACC Board of Trustees

- **Responsibilities:** School Board responsibilities for the school district they serve typically include: maintaining governance standards, managing the superintendent, encouraging ongoing education, reviewing policies, and reviewing district budgeting and finance.
- **Terms:** Typically, School Board is a five year term and NWACC Board of Trustees is a six year term. With redistricting, each seat will draw “straws” to determine term length (one to five years).
- **Compensation:** None – unpaid position
- **Filing Requirements:**
 - Age: 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the district and electoral zone
 - Filing Fee: Board of Trustees - \$3
 - Petition: School Board - signatures of 20 voters in electoral zone; Board of Trustees - signatures of 25 voters in electoral zone
 - Must NOT be an employee of the school district

Projected school board positions up for election in 2024:

School Districts	Positions
Bentonville	Zone 2
Decatur	Zones 1 & 4
Gentry	Zones 2, 3 & 4
Gravette	At-Large 1
Pea Ridge	Zone 5
Rogers	Zone 1 & 4
Siloam Springs	Zone 1
NWACC	Zones 6, 7, & 9

Beaver Water District Board of Directors

The six-member board consists of three members from both Benton and Washington counties. The Beaver Water District sells to the four major cities -- Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, and Bentonville -- which then redistributes it to the smaller towns.

Board of Directors

- *Responsibilities:* Board meets monthly (typically noon on the third Thursday)
- *Terms:* Six-year term, elections occur every two years with one in each county
- *Compensation:* Small pay per meeting
- *Filing Requirements:*
 - Age: 18
 - Residency: Must reside in the county representing
 - Petition: signatures of 50 voters in electoral zone (county)

District	Election	Incumbent
Benton	2024	Mary Gardner

What's next?

Considering running for office is a lofty undertaking. You will have to weigh the responsibilities not only of campaigning, but actually serving if you are elected. First, you must determine which, if any, political office is appropriate for you.

No two campaigns are the same. In this guide, more than 40 local and state offices are described. Each district has its own characteristics, historic patterns, and voter profiles. The Democratic Party will offer training opportunities and support for your campaign. You need to start building a team, making a budget, developing a strategy to raise money, and creating a plan on how you will reach voters using technology, mailers, and good old shoe leather. Expect to raise most of the money to run your campaign yourself. You can make this easier by doing preliminary work to get to know donors, build your support network, and grow your audience on digital platforms.

We will not win every election, but we will not win any election in which we do not field a candidate. No matter which of these types of offices you run for, your candidacy will play a part in creating a better community, more opportunity in NW Arkansas and the state as a whole.

So, what's next? **It's time to run for something.** Let us know how we can help in your decision-making process.

Democratic Party of Benton County:

- Anna Good, DPBC Chairwoman - Email: Benton@arkdems.org,
- Christine Erwin-Jimenez, DPBC Chair of Candidates & Elections - Email: dpbccandidates@gmail.com

Other Helpful Links:

- Check your voter registration and your districts: <https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do>
- Arkansas GIS office to review your districts: <http://gis.arkansas.gov/viewer.php>
- Current information on Benton County Justices of the Peace: <https://bentoncountyar.gov/justices-peace/>