# The Mid-South Tribune

*"Where there is no vision, the people will perish."*

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November 2025 MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE and the MID-SOUTH comp.

*A Special Edition— FOCUS on the Mid-South: Arkansas*


# Google invests $4 billion in Arkansas to focus on artificial intelligence (AI), cloud, and a new data center in West Memphis, Arkansas

*Funding supports new cloud and artificial intelligence infrastructure in West Memphis, energy resilience and affordability programs and training to benefit local residents*

WEST MEMPHIS, Arkansas – On October 2, 2025 at a community celebration with state and local leaders, Google announced it is investing $4 billion in Arkansas through 2027. The funds will focus on cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure, including the development of a new data center in West Memphis, Arkansas – Google's first facility in the state. The company also detailed its commitment to protect energy affordability as well as community engagement programs.

Google's deep, longstanding investments in American technical infrastructure, as well as research and development, will help the U.S. continue to lead the world in AI. This will unlock substantial economic opportunity for American businesses, advance scientific breakthroughs, fortify cybersecurity for the U.S., and create new career opportunities for millions of Americans.

"Google's multi-billion-dollar investment in West Memphis is one of the largest investments ever in our state and an incredible testament to the work my administration has done to build Arkansas' energy capacity, invest in our workforce, and streamline

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**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders with Entergy Arkansas President and CEO Laura Landreaux, Entergy Corporation Chairman and CEO Andrew March, Mayor of West Memphis Marco McClendon, Alphabet & Google President and CFO Ruth Porat, and Google VP of North American Partner Ecosystems Jim Anderson at Google's data center and AI partnership announcement in West Memphis on Thursday, October 2, 2025.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

On October 2, 2025, The Mid-South Tribune's business and economic special correspondent Orlando Jones covered a historic event and made the following observation: *"West Memphis, Arkansas with a 27% poverty is set to significantly change those numbers with the commitment backed by the investment Google has made in the city. According to Mayor McClendon, West Memphis will receive millions over the years impacting education, healthcare, and the overall future for West Memphians. Entergy has agreed in a collaborative effort with Google to provide power and support needed for the success of the project. This four-billion-dollar investment is the largest capital investment in Arkansas history."*

## Editorial

## Gov. Sanders Spearheads $4 Billion Google Investment in Arkansas

**By Ms. Arelya J. Mitchell,**
***Publisher/Editor-in-Chief***
**The Mid-South Tribune**

Leadership. Unfortunately, today, that is a term which has been subjugated to groupthink, rage, and a sophisticated ignorance known as D.E.I. (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) with one too many not realizing that the "E" in D.E.I. is a Marxist term and should not be confused with equality or even equal opportunity. The Democratic Party has purposely used "equity" as a rallying point. Very few leaders have called D.E.I. what it is, mediocrity which has no place in a 21st Century workforce. Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders is among that rare breed of an astute politician and public servant who does not mind calling out D.E.I. which has become a human resource virus that is damaging many state economies. We know that those economies should be based on brain cells and not skin cells.

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**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders with Arkansas Senator Jonathan Dismang, Arkansas Representative Les Eaves, Arkansas Representative Jessie McGruder, West Memphis Mayor Marco McClendon, Alphabet & Google President and CFO Ruth Porat, Google VP of North American Partner Ecosystems Jim Anderson, Arkansas Senator Reginald Murdock, and Entergy Corporation Chairman and CEO Andrew March at Google's data center and AI partnership announcement in West Memphis on Thursday, October 2, 2025.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

## Gov. Sanders appoints Joseph Whitfield as mayor of Helena-West Helena

*See article on page 2*

## Conservative business leader and founder of Black Americans for a Better Future America (BAFBF) Raynard Jackson delivers Open Letter to Put Match to Media

*See Open Letter on page 6*

## No... It's not in Arkansas or in the Mid-South, but Black businessman and Democrat John Wayman Henry is endorsing Jack Ciatarelli for New Jersey Governor as more Black citizens question Democratic Socialism.



**Republican candidate Jack Ciatarelli, left, and John Wayman Henry III.**

*Article on page 2*

*Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's 31st Annual Black History Special, Commemorating America's 250th Anniversary, Coming in February 2026.*

# Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders appoints Joseph Whitfield to take reins as the mayor of Helena-West Helena, Arkansas

HELENA-WEST HELENA, Ark. – Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced that she has appointed Joseph Whitfield as Mayor of Helena-West Helena. Whitfield replaces former mayor Christopher Franklin, who was removed from office by court order on July 7th, 2025. Whitfield will serve the remainder of this mayoral term and his eligible to run for a full term in the 2026 election.

"Helena-West Helena needs big ideas and bold solutions to correct some of the issues that have arisen in recent years, and I believe that a new face like Joseph Whitfield is what this city needs," said Governor Sanders. "In my conversations with Joseph, he's laid out a commonsense vision to get his community back on track and truly tap into Helena-West Helena's potential. I'm grateful to him for stepping up to take this leadership role, and I am also thankful for the leadership of individuals like interim mayor Don Etherly, who has helped move the city in the right direction since taking over earlier this summer."

*"I am honored about my appointment to serve as Mayor of Helena-West Helena. This city is my home, and I am committed to working every day to strengthen our neighborhoods, support our businesses, and create new opportunities for development. I wholeheartedly believe in the power of collaboration and see the future of a dynamic and vibrant community tucked alongside the Mississippi River..."*

**Mayor Joseph Whitfield**

"I am honored about my appointment to serve as Mayor of Helena-West Helena. This city is my home, and I am committed to working every day to strengthen our neighborhoods, support our businesses, and create new opportunities for development. I wholeheartedly believe in the power of collaboration and see the future of a dynamic and vibrant community tucked alongside the Mississippi River. We have something special to offer on this side of the state and this present moment deserves the best from us, collectively," said Helena-West Helena Mayor Joseph Whitfield.

**Joseph Whitfield Bio:**

Joseph Whitfield, a native of Helena, is the son of Sam and Linda Whitfield. He graduated as part of KIPP Delta Collegiate's second graduating class in 2011, before heading off to complete his undergraduate studies at Colby College and his graduate work at Relay Graduate School of Education: New York. He has served as an educator for 8 years, both as a teacher and an assistant principal. He brings a love and knowledge of personal development along with his leadership.

*"Helena-West Helena needs big ideas and bold solutions to correct some of the issues that have arisen in recent years, and I believe that a new face like Joseph Whitfield is what this city needs," said Governor Sanders. "In my conversations with Joseph, he's laid out a commonsense vision to get his community back on track and truly tap into Helena-West Helena's potential..."*

Most recently, Joseph has served in dual executive director roles for both Delta Magic and the Phillips County Chamber of Commerce. He worked to expand Delta Magic's mission of highlighting positive narratives in the Arkansas Delta, through community and economic development. Through his work at the Chamber, Joseph has helped lead an initiative to build a coalition across multiple businesses and organizations in Phillips County. As Mayor, Joseph is focused on delivering results that improve quality of life for all citizens, while building a strong foundation for future generations. His leadership emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and service - ensuring that Helena-West Helena grows as a business friendly, vibrant, and resilient community.

# NRA Political Victory Fund endorses Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears for Governor of VA

*Organization also endorses Attorney General Jason Miyares and John Reid*

**Virginia Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle -Sears**

FAIRFAX, VA August 5, 2025 - The National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund (NRA-PVF) is proud to announce endorsements in three critical Virginia races. Based on their pro-gun advocacy and commitment to preserving the rights of Virginians, NRA-PVF has issued the following endorsements:

•Governor: Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears

•Attorney General: Jason Miyares (Incumbent)

•Lieutenant Governor: John Reid

Following the announcement of the endorsements for these nationally targeted races, NRA-PVF Chairman John Commerford released the following statement:

"The Second Amendment rights of Virginians have been under constant attack by radical progressives who seek to rubber-stamp Michael Bloomberg's extreme gun control agenda. By electing pro-gun candidates like Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, Attorney General Jason Miyares, and John Reid, Virginia gun-owners can rest assured that they will be protected

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# So it's not Arkansas or the Deep South ... It's New Jersey but business owner and Democrat John Wayman Henry III endorses Republican Jack Ciatarelli for Governor of New Jersey to begin new day for businesses

*Another Prominent Black Business Owner and Democrat Endorses Jack Ciattarelli for Governor of New Jersey*

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*Take Action New Jersey Reports Advisor to Democratic Mayor Ras Baraka and Governor Wes Moore, John Wayman Henry III, Expresses Frustration with New Jersey Democratic Party*

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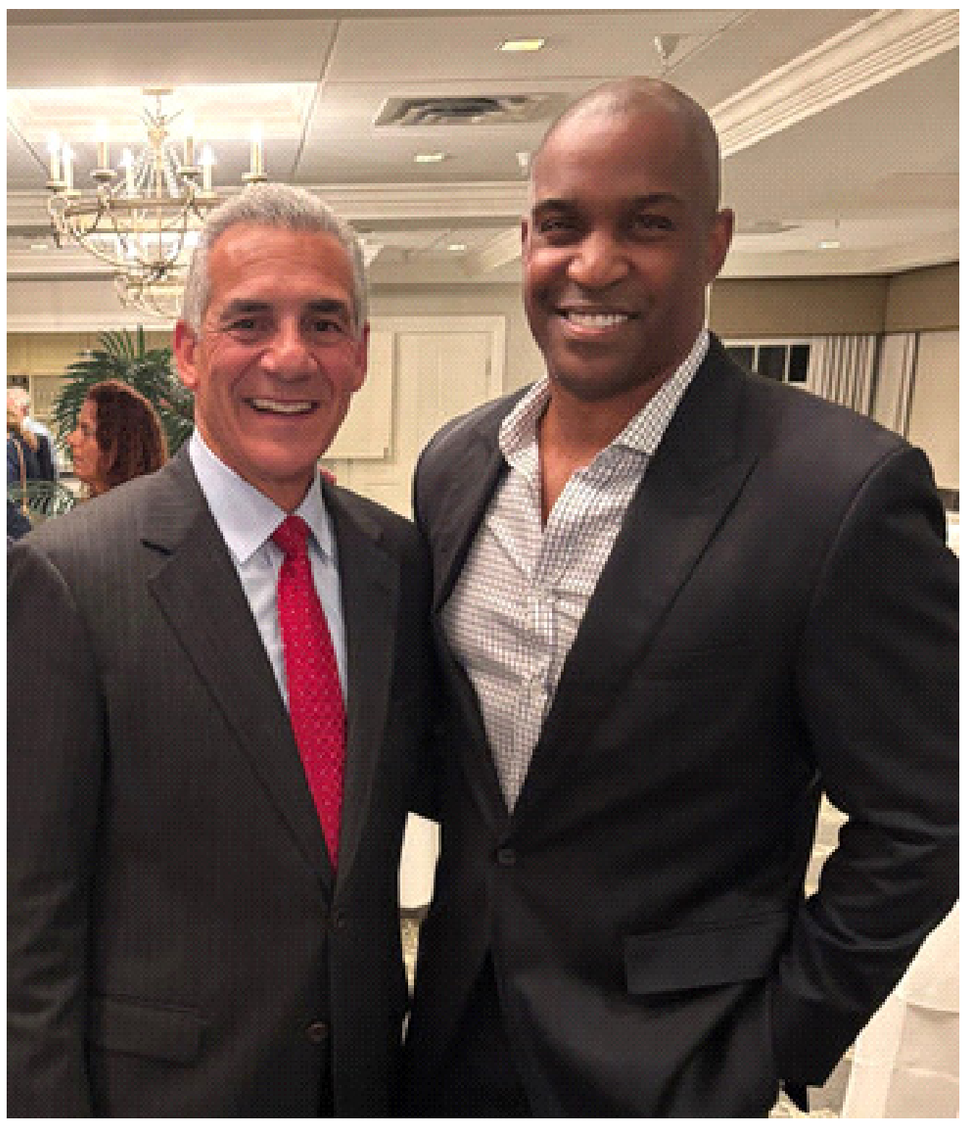
*Cites His Party's Focus on the Illusion of Diversity and Opportunity for All Rather Than Policies that Will Make It a Reality for All New Jerseyans*

NEWARK, N.J., Oct. 7, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- My name is John Wayman Henry III and in my time serving as Chair of Economic Development, Co-Chair of the Cannabis Task Force, and on the County Committee in West Orange, one truth became undeniable: while the township celebrated the idea of diversity, real diversity in leadership and economic inclusion was rarely present.

I commend Mayor Rob Parisi for his courage in appointing me Chairman of Economic Development. Appointing a Black man was nothing short of heroic. West Orange Township has had a long history of producing governors and relatively speaking the township has enjoyed disproportionate political power. However, leadership here, dating back to inventor Thomas Edison, has never reflected the diversity of one of this nation's most diverse states.

My family has been involved in state and local politics for four generations. We have seen a lot in our time and I didn't think much would surprise me. Afterall, this is a solidly blue, politically progressive state where Democrats control every branch of state government and there is significant Black representation in all branches. I quickly realized that the representation was not the solution…it was the problem and that the reality is that the New Jersey Democratic Party values the appearance of inclusion more than the reality of it. They sell us the illusion of power and participation while protecting the same old structures of influence.



**New Jersey Republican gubernatorial candidate Jack Ciatarelli (left) is endorsed by Democratic Advisor and businessman John Wayman Henry.**

When I served, I declined my salary for nearly three years to avoid any conflict of interest—because I was raised to put community first. I was fortunate to do so without financial strain, though I know too many who look like me don't have that same privilege. Still, even as I delivered real results—reopening the Rock Springs Clubhouse, helping the township reclaim long-lost land, and bringing the largest film studio deal in the world to the very place where Edison once pioneered motion pictures—it became clear: having independent means and refusing to fall in line with the Democratic establishment made me a problem.

*"...[I]t became clear: having independent means and refusing to fall in line with the Democratic establishment made me a problem..."*

In this state, equity is often conditional—granted only to those who remain quiet, compliant, and grateful for access they were never meant to have. You're welcome at the table, but only if you don't question who set it, who's serving, or why your seat is near the edge. Speak too boldly, stand too firmly, or expect true equity, and the invitation starts to feel more like a warning. For many, especially those who've fought hardest to be seen, equity is less a right than a performance—one that ends the moment you stop playing by the unspoken rules.

I've advised mayors and governors, and when I supported Ras Baraka for governor, it wasn't because of his skin color, fraternity ties, or even a shared vision—it was because he was the best candidate. I told him plainly: his biggest obstacle would be his own party. I was right. Despite finishing a strong second in the primary with a fraction of the machine's funding, the party never rallied behind him.

*"While many of us may not know Jack Ciattarelli personally, here's what we do know: continuing to show loyalty to a political party that keeps us on the margins is like being invited to a dance where we didn't pick the venue, we don't get a say in the music, and we're only welcome as long as we move the way they want. It's performance, not partnership. For too long, our support has been treated as a given — courted during election season, then forgotten once the votes are counted."*

While many of us may not know Jack Ciattarelli personally, here's what we do know: continuing to show loyalty to a political party that keeps us on the margins is like being invited to a dance where we didn't pick the venue, we don't get a say in the music, and we're only welcome as long as we move the way they want. It's performance, not partnership. For too long, our support has been treated as a given — courted during election season, then forgotten once the votes are counted. True progress doesn't come from sitting quietly at someone else's table, waiting for permission to speak. It comes from challenging systems that only embrace our presence when it's convenient and rejecting the idea that our political power must be confined to one party's comfort zone. Jack Ciattarelli is my candidate for Governor. He has offered specific solutions to improving healthcare, education and opportunity for Black-owned businesses. Whether or not he is your candidate, the larger point remains we cannot keep showing up to dances where we're never allowed to lead. Our communities deserve more than symbolic gestures—we deserve a seat at the table, a voice in the process, and the freedom to support leaders who actually see us, hear us, and fight for us without condition.

About Take Action New Jersey (TANJ)

TANJ is an non-partisan, independent watchdog organization founded by Blueprint Capital Advisors. The organization is committed to advocacy and uncovering and exposing corruption, misconduct, and abuse of power within government institutions. Driven by a mission to protect democracy, TANJ conducts investigations, leverages publicly available information to hold public officials accountable. Nonpartisan and fearless, TANJ partners with journalists, legal experts, and civic groups to amplify evidence, pursue legal action where necessary, and demand systemic change. Through media campaigns it transforms public scrutiny into political pressure, ensuring that those in power serve the people—not themselves. TANJ exists to restore trust in government and remind leaders: no one is above accountability.

STOP

Vote for your economic interests and not for your emotional needs!

*-A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-*

# Highlights focusing on Arkansas developing Google historic $4 billion investment

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark. – Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders attended and delivered remarks at the announcement of Google's $4 billion investment for a new data center in West Memphis on Thursday, October 2nd.

Google's investment announcement included a $25 million commitment over five years to expand energy efficiency for low-income households in and around West Memphis. The data center will span nearly 1,200 acres and create hundreds of new operations jobs and thousands of construction jobs in the region.

This past legislative session, the Governor signed the Arkansas IMPACT legislative package—Improving Markets, Promoting Arkansas Commerce and Trade—to boost the state's economic competitiveness.

The package included the Generating Arkansas Jobs Act of 2025, which shortened permitting time for new energy projects from 12 to 18 months to six months. Arkansas IMPACT also provided a sales and tax credit for data center projects such as Google's.

**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders delivers remarks at Google's data center and AI partnership in historic announcement in West Memphis on Thursday, October 2nd.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton.)***

*Google's investment announcement included a $25 million commitment over five years to expand energy efficiency for low-income households in and around West Memphis. The data center will span nearly 1,200 acres and create hundreds of new operations jobs and thousands of construction jobs in the region.*

In addition to the investment announcement, Google is partnering with the Arkansas Department of Commerce to offer Artificial Intelligence (AI) training and career certifications to more than 10,000 Arkansans. By partnering with Google, Arkansans can sharpen their digital skills, gain greater access to workforce training, and stay ahead in an economy rapidly reshaped by AI.

**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders delivers remarks at Google's data center and AI partnership announcement in West Memphis on Thursday, October 2nd.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders delivers remarks to enthusiastic crowd at Google's data center and AI partnership announcement in West Memphis on Thursday, October 2nd.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, West Memphis Mayor Marco McClendon, Alphabet & Google President and CFO Ruth Porat, Google VP of North American Partner Ecosystems Jim Anderson, Entergy Arkansas President and CEO Laura Landreaux, and Entergy Corporation Chairman and CEO Andrew March are briefed on Google's construction site plans at the data center and AI partnership announcement in West Memphis on Thursday, October 2nd.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders with Google executives at Google's data center and AI partnership announcement in West Memphis on Thursday, October 2nd.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***



**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders with Alphabet & Google President and CFO Ruth Porat with attendees at Google's data center and AI partnership announcement in West Memphis on Thursday, October 2nd.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton.)***



**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders with Alphabet & Google President and CFO Ruth Porat at Google's data center and AI partnership announcement in West Memphis on Thursday, October 2nd.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

# Editorial

## Gov. Sanders Spearheads $4 Billion Google Investment in Arkansas... from front page

When Sarah Huckabee Sanders served as President Donald Trump's press secretary, she exhibited grace under fire, not with a weakness but with the strength of a "steel magnolia". That steeliness has and will continue to benefit the State of Arkansas. Yes, she is Arkansas' first female governor and one of the youngest in the nation, but she does not use those historic 'firsts' to replace common sense, hard work, creativity, strategic thinking and implementation to lead Arkansas into the 21st Century.

Leadership. Gov. Sanders' vision is to advance Arkansas in the world of technology and get a ground footing in the world of artificial intelligence (AI) which is growing into an economic framework in areas of agriculture, education, and manufacturing. But what is also a 'happening' is that techno giants are seeing fertile ground in locating and/or relocating and/or branching out to the South and Mid-South region.

*Leadership. Gov. Sanders' vision is to advance Arkansas in the world of technology and get a ground footing in the world of artificial intelligence (AI) which is growing into an economic framework in areas of agriculture, education, and manufacturing. But what is also a 'happening' is that techno giants are seeing fertile ground in locating and/or relocating and/or branching out to the South and Mid-South region.*

On October 2, 2025, The Mid-South Tribune's business and economic special correspondent Orlando Jones covered a historic event and made the following observation: "West Memphis, Arkansas with a 27% poverty is set to significantly change those numbers with the commitment backed by the investment Google has made in the city. According to Mayor McClendon, West Memphis will receive millions over the years impacting education, healthcare, and the overall future for West Memphians. Entergy has agreed in a collaborative effort with Google to provide power and support needed for the success of the project. This four-billion-dollar investment is the largest capital investment in Arkansas history."

As Jones further observed, Gov. Sanders led this endeavor and saw it through to its fruition which occurred on October 2.

Also, participating in this historic event was Ruth Porat, President and Chief Investment Officer of Alphabet and Google, who summed up earlier via a press release: "Google is investing in the next generation of AI innovation in Arkansas and across the country. We see AI and the energy powering it to be the innovations that will define this century. The upside of AI cannot be unlocked without the energy it requires. That is why Google is building energy capacity that protects affordability for ratepayers and creates jobs that will drive the AI-powered economy."

Of course, we view Arkansas and any other state which will have this level of technology in its economic infrastructure to upgrade its workforce to accommodate this $4 billion Google investment. Sanders obviously feels the same, but in her leadership capacity she had already put in place a workforce mechanism and an education *sphere of influence* for the future which apparently arrived in October of 2025. If Sanders had not already anticipated and put in place the infrastructure to deliver the workforce and pedagogy to secure that workforce, a four-billion-dollar investment or one cent would have never come. Period.

Under Sanders' leadership the state of Arkansas opened a special portal in conjunction with President Trump's Rural Health Transformation Program which provides over a 10-year-period to states to strengthen the healthcare plans of rural citizens. Note that 'citizen' is the operative word here. The Democratic Party has chosen to shut down the government to accommodate the healthcare of thousands of illegal immigrants who crossed over into the U.S.A. via Biden and the Democratic Party's open border policy. Rural states are America's breadbaskets and deserve respect.

In addition, Sanders' leadership created her 10:33 Initiative pilot welfare reform program under the auspices of the White House Faith Office.

In a press release, Gov. Sanders stated, "The 10:33 Initiative isn't another government welfare program; it's a groundbreaking project carefully curated to give Arkansans a hand up, not a handout. By leveraging the power of technology and connecting Arkansans in need with faith-based and community partners willing to help, this initiative will strengthen families and transform lives. I'm incredibly grateful to my Faith-Based Initiative office for spearheading the launch of this program, and thankful for our stakeholders and the White House Faith Office for their support. Together, we will build a stronger future for every Arkansan—and help create a model for the nation."

Her Arkansas LAUNCH platform is designed to connect jobseekers with employers. According to stats from her office: LAUNCH has 16,217 unique users, and 5,807 jobs available—and in our view it is growing to produce employment and not dependency. It is a model of true enterprise and capitalism. Also, Gov. Sanders has created the talent in human resources to carry out her vision. We are all familiar with the parable of the Talents. We believe Sarah Huckabee Sanders' administration will go down as one of the best examples in accomplishing positive goals.

We look forward to covering more of what this young governor is achieving in the South and Mid-South in AI, agriculture, education, and manufacturing in the 21st Century, and how she will transform the Google billions into livelihoods.

**The Mid-South Tribune**
**and the Black Information Highway**
**https://blackinformationhighway.com**

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# Google invests $4 billion in Arkansas

## from front page

**Quick facts about the West Memphis Google data center project:**

**•1500 South Loop Drive, West Memphis, AR 72301**
**•Approximately 1,100 acre property**
**•Data center projects typically take 18-24 months to complete**

*"Google's multi-billion-dollar investment in West Memphis is one of the largest investments ever in our state and an incredible testament to the work my administration has done to build Arkansas' energy capacity, invest in our workforce, and streamline regulatory processes," said Governor Sanders. "Here in the Natural State, we are providing great businesses like Google with an environment where they can innovate, expand, and invest in the hardworking people who are the backbone of our state's economy."*

regulatory processes," said Governor Sanders. "Here in the Natural State, we are providing great businesses like Google with an environment where they can innovate, expand, and invest in the hardworking people who are the backbone of our state's economy."

"This is a historic day for West Memphis and Crittenden County. Google's investment brings not only high-tech jobs but a true partnership centered on our people," said West Memphis Mayor Marco McClendon. "From the beginning, we've worked together to make sure our priorities like air quality, water, and quality of life were protected. This project shows Google's real commitment to our community's long-term success and marks a defining step in making West Memphis a hub for technology and economic growth for decades to come."

"Google is investing in the next generation of AI innovation in Arkansas and across the country," said Ruth Porat, President and Chief Investment Officer of Alphabet and Google. "We see AI and the energy powering it to be the innovations that will define this century. The upside of AI cannot be unlocked without the energy it requires.That is why Google is building energy capacity that protects affordability for ratepayers and creates jobs that will drive the AI-powered economy."

**Driving Energy Resilience, Efficiency, and Affordability**

Once the West Memphis data center is complete, the facility will join Google's global network of data centers. Google operates some of the industry's most energy-efficient data centers, and is committed to responsibly growing its infrastructure. In West Memphis, Google will implement local programs to expand energy efficiency, increase energy generation and ensure consumer power costs remain affordable.

Today, the company announced a $25 million Energy Impact Fund to scale and accelerate energy affordability initiatives in Crittenden County and the surrounding area. Google will work with the community to determine a funding application process for local organizations, with a focus on home weatherization, innovative efficiency technology and energy workforce development.

In addition, Google and Entergy are collaborating to ensure the advantages of this data center investment extend to the local community. Google will cover the full energy costs associated with powering the facility, and the agreement with Entergy is designed to put downward pressure on electricity rates for Entergy Arkansas customers. The companies are advancing a new 600 megawatt (MW) solar project, which will be backed by a 350 MW battery storage system. Additionally, Google and Entergy are implementing innovative load flexibility, known as demand response, to reduce data center power usage during certain hours or times of the year when the grid is constrained.

"This project represents new economic growth and the beginning of a long-term vision to transform communities and power life for the next generation of Arkansans," said Entergy Chair and CEO Drew Marsh. "We are thankful to Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Attorney General Tim Griffin and the Arkansas General Assembly for equipping us with the policies and frameworks to bring projects like this to fruition. As we move forward, we remain focused on delivering affordable, reliable power for our customers while making strategic investments that strengthen our grid and support Arkansas's leadership in economic development."

**Educating Arkansas' Next-Generation Workforce**

Technology creates opportunity; preparing Arkansans with critical AI and job-ready skills sets them up for success and creates a skilled talent pipeline of workers in the state. The University of Arkansas and Arkansas State University are among the universities in the country that are part of the first cohort of the Google AI for Education Accelerator, giving students, faculty, and staff no-cost access to Google Career Certificates and AI training courses. In addition, Grow with Google has announced a partnership with the Arkansas Department of Commerce, enabling residents across the state to access its in-demand upskilling programs at no cost and helping to build a high-skill talent pipeline for the state.

**Economic Opportunity**

Google's investments and technologies helped provide more than $3.2 billion of activity for tens of thousands of Arkansas businesses, publishers, nonprofits, creators, and developers in 2024 alone. Technologies like Search, YouTube, Google Cloud, and Workspace are enabling growth for businesses and public sector organizations across the state, including Tyson Foods and J.B. Hunt.

Learn more about Google in Arkansas at: g.co/economicimpact/arkansas.

**Quick facts about the West Memphis Google data center project:**
**•1500 South Loop Drive, West Memphis, AR 72301**
**•Approximately 1,100 acre property**
**•Data center projects typically take 18-24 months to complete**

# Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Arkansas Dept.of Human Services launch 10:33 Initiative pilot program to rid state of welfare dependency

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. , October 6, 2025— Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, alongside the White House Faith Office, the Arkansas Department of Human Services, the Arkansas Department of Commerce, and other partners, announced the launch of the 10:33 Initiative pilot program.

This program – organized by Governor Sanders' Faith-Based Initiatives office – was designed to lift Arkansans out of poverty and improve their long-term self-sufficiency by connecting them with faith and community partners who can meet their immediate needs and help guide them toward a prosperous future.

Receiving its name from the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, the 10:33 Initiative aims to harness the power of technology and faith and community partnerships to improve government efficiency, and, most importantly, move Arkansans from crisis to career.

"The 10:33 Initiative isn't another government welfare program; it's a groundbreaking project carefully curated to give Arkansans a hand up, not a handout," said Governor Sanders. "By leveraging the power of technology and connecting Arkansans in need with faith-based and community partners willing to help, this initiative will strengthen families and transform lives. I'm incredibly grateful to my Faith-Based Initiatives office for spearheading the launch of this program, and thankful for our stakeholders and the White House Faith Office for their support. Together, we will build a stronger future for every Arkansan — and help create a model for the nation."

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"This program will transform lives in each of the pilot communities, and we are incredibly excited and honored to support it," said Arkansas Secretary of Human Services Janet Mann. "It takes all of us working together in communities across this state to help Arkansans emerge from poverty, attain economic independence, and truly improve their lives. That's what the 10:33 Initiative is all about, and I'm so grateful to Governor Sanders for her leadership and to our faith-based and community partners who understand the need and appreciate the potential we can reach when we come together to support those in crisis."

"The 10:33 Initiative is a compassionate, forward-thinking approach to serving Arkansans by meeting immediate needs while laying the foundation for long-term economic independence," said Arkansas Secretary of Commerce Hugh McDonald. "When individuals are empowered with meaningful career opportunities, it not only transforms their lives—it strengthens entire communities."

"The 10:33 Initiative represents the best of Arkansas – government, faith, and community partners working side by side to help families move from crisis to stability," said Director of Restore Hope Paul Chapman. "Through HopeHub and the Restore Hope Model, we are honored to support this pilot by connecting families with caring advocates and resources that address both urgent needs and long-term opportunities. This initiative has the power not only to transform lives here in Arkansas but also to serve as a model for the nation."

"We're grateful for the incredible work of our partners Restore Hope, The Contingent, and CarePortal in Arkansas, whose commitment to children and families reflects the heart of our mission at For Others," said For Others Founder Chris Tomlin. "We commend Governor Sanders for her vision and leadership in launching the 10:33 initiative. Her desire to bring the faith community together around vulnerable kids and families is inspiring, and it's a powerful example of what can happen when government, churches, and nonprofits link arms. Together, we are showing the nation what it looks like to bring hope and lasting change to families and children in crisis."

The 12-month pilot program will take place in Pulaski, Union, and Pope counties, serving approximately 300 to 500 Arkansans in total.

Open to businesses, nonprofits, and community or faith partners, the 10:33 Initiative provides a variety of ways to participate. A one-page document outlining these opportunities is available here.

The 10:33 Initiative utilizes Restore Hope's HopeHub – a collaborative case management and data-sharing platform that is already being used in 19 counties across Arkansas. HopeHub connects individuals needing assistance with a community advocate and mobilizes faith and community partners to meet the urgent needs of the individual while also focusing on solving longer-term challenges such as housing, healthcare, and employment. As independence and stability are achieved, the individual is led to Arkansas LAUNCH, where they can view job opportunities, receive training, and ask for career guidance.

Arkansas LAUNCH is a skills-based platform designed to connect jobseekers with opportunities and help employers find the skilled workers they need – quickly, easily, and for free. Users can search for jobs based on their skills and watch career exploration videos featuring Arkansas employers. Currently, LAUNCH has 16,217 unique users, and 5,807 jobs available from 593 different employers.

Governor Sanders launched Faith-Based Initiatives to unite Arkansas' diverse faith communities around issues facing the Natural State. Since its inception, the faith-based initiatives team has hosted roundtables and fostered important conversations with faith communities that have led to the development of critical programs to address issues like childhood hunger, maternal health, foster care, and more.

# Focus on Education in History: The Little Rock Nine celebrated

**Elizabeth Eckford, one of the Little Rock Nine, at the 20th Anniversary Ceremony of Testament: Little Rock Nine Monument at the Arkansas State Capitol on Friday, August 29, 2025.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders with Arkansas State Senator Clarke Tucker and one of the Little Rock Nine, Elizabeth Eckford, at the 20th Anniversary Ceremony of Testament: Little Rock Nine Monument at the Arkansas State Capitol on Friday, August 29th.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

*Paying tribute to those who paved the way. Thank You!*

**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders with Arkansas State Representative Glenn Barnes, Arkansas State Representative Joy Springer, former Arkansas State Senator Stephanie Flowers, Arkansas State Representative Fred Allen, one of the Little Rock Nine, Elizabeth Eckford, Arkansas State Representative Tracy Steele, Arkansas State Representative Denise Ennett, Arkansas State Senator Jamie Scott, Arkansas State Senator Clarke Tucker, Arkansas State Representative Tara Shephard, Arkansas State Representative Karilyn Brown, and Arkansas State Senator Kim Hammer at the 20th Anniversary Ceremony of Testament: Little Rock Nine Monument in Little Rock on Friday, August 29, 2025.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders with Arkansas State Representative Jessie McGruder, Arkansas State Senator Jamie Scott, Arkansas State Senator Clarke Tucker, one of the Little Rock Nine, Elizabeth Eckford, Arkansas State Representative Fred Allen, Arkansas State Representative Denise Allen, Arkansas State Representative Tracy Steele, and Arkansas State Representative Joy Springer at the 20th Anniversary Ceremony of Testament: Little Rock Nine Monument at the Arkansas State Capitol on Friday, August 29, 2025. (*Photo credit: Will Newton.)**



**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders with sculptors John and Kathy Deering and one of the Little Rock Nine, Elizabeth Eckford, at the 20th Anniversary Ceremony of Testament: Little Rock Nine Monument at the Arkansas State Capitol on Friday, August 29, 2025.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

## *A Note in History*

In 1957 nine Black students were registered to integrate Little Rock Central High. Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus objected to the integration. Republican President Dwight Eisenhower sent in national troops which preempted Faubus' plan to have the Arkansas National Guard prevent integration which began on September 4, 1957. Fast forwarding into the 21st Century, Sarah Huckabee Sanders (who was not even thought of in 1957!) graduated from Little Rock Central High and could raise her hand and say "present" in 2025 as Arkansas first female Governor and welcome "Little Rock 9" member Elizabeth Eckford, in a testament ceremony signifying that the past meets the future. Members of the Little Rock 9 were: Elizabeth Eckford, Earnest Green, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Jefferson Thomas, Gloria Ray Kalmark, Melba Pattillo Beals, Thelma Mothershed, Minnijean Brown, and Terrence Roberts.

**One of the Little Rock Nine, Elizabeth Eckford, delivers remarks at the 20th Anniversary Ceremony of Testament: Little Rock Nine Monument at the Arkansas State Capitol on Friday, August 29, 2025.***(Photo credit: Will Newton)*



**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders delivers remarks at the 20th Anniversary Ceremony of Testament: Little Rock Nine Monument at the Arkansas State Capitol on Friday, August 29, 2025.** ***(Photo credit: Will Newton)***

# An Open Letter to the Black Community from a Black Conservative who puts match to media

*"Weak people take strong positions on weak issues. This one sentence succinctly sums up the 'media appointed' leadership in the Black community."*

**BY RAYNARD JACKSON**

(ThyBlackMan.com), September 7, 2025: Weak people take strong positions on weak issues. This one sentence succinctly sums up the "media appointed" leadership in the Black community.

When I say "media appointed," I mean Black organizations and individuals who have been bought and paid for by radical white liberal Democrats whose raison d'être is to destroy the Black community.

All of these Black organizations are run by radical liberal Black Democrats, though their organizations all "claim" to be nonpartisan. Most, if not all, are tax exempt organizations who constantly violate their exemption status given to them by the Internal Revenue Service.

I have strongly urged the Trump administration to investigate each one of these radical liberal Democrat organizations for possible revocation of their tax-exempt status and yes this includes Black churches who are total sellouts to the Black community!

Who are some of these organizations and individuals?

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Urban League, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the National Association of Black MBAs, the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), the National Newspapers Publisher's Association (NNPA) to name a few. They are living in a digital world but offering analogue solutions. Their solutions are singing we shall overcome; marching on Wall Street in New York City or marching to the White House in DC; labeling everything as "racist;" or blaming "systemic racism" for all of Black people's problems.

These radical liberal groups have all made a conscious decision to be a Democrat organization versus a "professional" organization which puts them in violation of their own bylaws!

Can you point to one accomplishment of the NABJ in the past twenty-five years? To prove how ineffective NABJ has become, one need look no further than how ABC News reporter, Rachel Scott was thoroughly embarrassed by then presidential candidate, Donald Trump, last year at their national convention.

Can you name me one thing the NAACP has done to benefit the Black community in the past forty years? When did homosexuality or transsexualism become a Black issue?

When did amnesty for illegals become a Black issue? When did coddling Black criminals become a solution for crime in the Black community?

What significant piece of economic legislation or policy that targeted Blacks has the National Urban League passed or promoted in the past forty years?

The CBC was founded in 1969, and I challenge my readers to name me one meaningful piece of legislation they as a group or individual have passed since their founding.

The NNPA, which "claims" to represent the two hundred Black newspapers in the country, refuses to take money from Republican campaigns. Yes, you heard right. Most Black newspapers have turned me down when I offered them advertising from Republican candidates.

I will go so far as to challenge my readers to name one Black group that has secured a policy or law specifically beneficial to the Black community!!! The Black MBAs? The Black Accountants? The Black medical association? Name me one Black fraternity or sorority that has positively impacted the Black community in any meaningful way post-Civil Rights in terms of policy or legislation.

Even when radical liberal Democrats control the whole of government (White House, Senate, and House), these radical Black liberals NEVER seem to get any policy or legislation passed that benefit Blacks. I refer you to the Clinton and Obama administrations.

They each had a veto-proof congress; and yet DC nor Puerto Rico received statehood. HBCUs never received any significant funding increases, especially relevant to the Department of Defense.

The homosexual community get specific things, Hispanics get specific things, white women get specific things, Asians get specific things. Blacks get "people of color" things. You have radical Black liberal Democrat "media appointed" leaders that sell out Black folks everyday of the week to please their white massas.

People like Afred Sharpton, Marc Morial, Derrick Johnson, Yvette Clarke, Roland Martin, Joy Reid, Tiffany Cross, Don Lemon, Symone Sanders, Abby Phillip, Laura Coates, Hakeem Jeffries, Jasmine Crockett, Maxine Waters, to name a few. They do more damage to the Black community than any white guy with a hood over their faces.

Donald Trump is not the problem for the Black community. Radical liberalism is the problem.

Name me one major Black city that is run by a Black mayor where any economic or social indices are positive for the Black community. I will wait!!!

You have Black mayors controlling major Black cities and they are all running rampant with crime, unemployment, failing schools, out of wedlock births, and abortions.

Look at major cities run by Blacks like Eric Adams (NYC), Brandon Johnson (Chicago), Karen Bass (LA), Cherelle Parker, Vi Lyles (Charlotte), Muriel Bowser (DC), Paul Young (Memphis), Brandon Scott (Baltimore), Cavalier Johnson (Milwaukee), Quinton Lucas (Kansas City, MO), Andre Dickens (Atlanta), Barbara Lee (Oakland).

Beside being Black, what do they all have in common? They are all pushing radical liberal policies in their cities.

Liberalism is what is destroying the Black community, not Donald Trump or racism! As a matter of fact, the Trump administration is open for business. How do I know this?

Very simple. I and many Black entrepreneurs are living witnesses!!!

In July, I hosted my annual minority economic summit. It is the largest gathering of conservative minority entrepreneurs in the country. It was loaded with top members of the Trump administration. C-SPAN covered the conference live for two consecutive days.

The White House asked me to bring them some success stories to the president; and that is exactly what I am doing. Expect some of these stories in the media shortly.

While these radical liberal Black Democrats are spending all of their time calling Trump Hitler, and authoritarian, a criminal, etc.; Trump is simply delivering business opportunities to the small business community, making cities being failed by Black mayors safe again, engaging with the continent of Africa in meaningful ways.

What have these bought and paid for radical liberal Black people delivered to the Black community by way of legislation or policy? Absolutely nothing!!!

When all is said and done, there is more said than done.

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*Raynard Jackson is a Pulitzer Award nominated columnist and founder and chairman of Black Americans for a Better Future (BAFBF), a federally registered 527 Super PAC established to get more Blacks involved in the Republican Party. BAFBF focuses on the Black entrepreneur. For more information about BAFBF, visit www.bafbf.org. You can follow Raynard on Twitter; RealRaynardJ; on Gettr: RaynardJackson. You can also drop him an email at; RaynardJ@ThyBlackMan.com.*

# Harlem Globetrotters unveil dynamic new uniform looks for their historic 100 Anniversary Tour in 2026

## *Red, White, and Blue in U.S.A. Patriotic Basketball Pride!*

*Created in Collaboration With Legendary Designer, Jeff Hamilton, Three Distinct Looks Highlight The Organization's Historic Past, Present, and Future as Elite Athletes, Entertainers, and Global Ambassadors of Sport*

September 12, 2025 – Atlanta -- The World-Famous, Harlem Globetrotters today unveiled a new uniform series for their Centennial season, three distinct red, white and blue uniforms designed by celebrated sports designer, Jeff Hamilton, which will tie elements of the tour today to the vast history and legacy of the team. The three uniforms will debut at Madison Square Garden on Sunday, December 14 and then will continue on a daily alternating cadence throughout the 2026 Global Tour season.

"From the Chicago streets to arenas in over 125+ countries, the Harlem Globetrotters have been donning the Red, White & Blue for 100 straight years, turning every jersey into a badge of swagger, showmanship, and history," said Keith Dawkins, President, Harlem Globetrotters & Herschend Entertainment Studios. "Jeff Hamilton has taken all aspects of that legacy and developed a series of three unique looks that each tell their own piece of our history, and we are looking forward to seeing how fans old and new enjoy our Centennial look as part of a newly reimagined Globetrotter experience around the world."

'The Globetrotters challenged us to come up with a look that could not just embody their history, but would tell a vibrant and literally colorful story of their present and their future for fans around the world,' said Hamilton. "We think these three uniforms, the first of several fashion collaborations we will be working on for the Centennial, help achieve those goals, and will be part of the must have of any basketball fan of any age in 2026 and beyond."

The three bold designs will each feature Red, White and Blue as base colors, as well as the five stars that help define Globetrotters history, and are also featured in the team's Centennial logo. Those five stars are an homage to the original five members of the Globetrotters, Walter 'Toots' Wright, Byron 'Fat' Long, Willis 'Kid' Oliver, Andy Washington, and Al 'Runt' Pullins.

The three designs will be:

**The White Uniform- "The World-Famous Edition"**
For 100 years, the Harlem Globetrotters have been recognized around the globe as the World-Famous icons of basketball entertainment. This jersey celebrates that unmistakable identity — a symbol of showmanship, style, and a name known in every corner of the world.

**The Red Uniform- "The Tour Edition"**
Since 1926, the Harlem Globetrotters have toured around the world, bringing their game to fans in 125+ countries. This jersey represents the heartbeat of the tour — the miles traveled, the arenas packed with cheers, and the generations of fans, both lifelong and new, who make every stop unforgettable.

**The Blue Uniform- "The Ambassador Edition"**
Inspired by the Globetrotters' legacy as true Goodwill Ambassadors, this jersey reflects the team's mission to bring smiles, connection, and unforgettable moments to communities worldwide. Carrying that mission forward, it honors a legacy of inspiring the next generation wherever the game is played.

The uniforms will be produced by Exxact Sports of New Jersey – the uniform manufacturer and official partner of the Harlem Globetrotters and The Washington Generals, and as part of their work, the Exxact Sports logo will appear as a patch on the front of the jersey.

The North American leg of the tour officially begins Sunday, December 14 at Madison Square Garden with the tour continuing throughout spring 2026. International markets such as France, United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, Mexico and across Asia are just a few of the many locations the Harlem Globetrotters will be touring in winter 2026 and running through the remainder of the year.

Revered for their exceptional athleticism, basketball wizardry, and heartwarming interactions with fans of all ages, the current team of elite men and women in this year's Centennial show will bring a fresh look of gravity-defying dunks and game-changing tricks as well as several never-before-seen elements as the Globetrotters take on their renowned rivals, The Washington Generals. Tour schedule and ticket purchase can be found HERE and directly on the Harlem Globetrotters website.

Zara, Macys, Hybrid; and additional partnerships include the official ball partner, Spalding, Viral Nation, Hoopculture, and Citi.

Coined by the U.S. State Department in 1951 as Ambassadors of Goodwill, and now serving The Official Ambassadors of Goodwill for the United Nations as well, the team leverages their moniker to drive its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts globally around their strategic pillars of Health & Wellness, Education, and Community Empowerment. These efforts have yielded partnership with the likes of Microsoft, U.S. State Department Sports Diplomacy, United Agricultural Organization, and Operation Homefront.

For more information about the Harlem Globetrotters™ and the Tour, visit the Globetrotters' official website: www.harlemglobetrotters.com. The Harlem Globetrotters™ is a subsidiary of Herschend, the largest family-owned themed attractions company.

ABOUT JEFF HAMILTON:

Jeff Hamilton is a legendary fashion designer renowned for his iconic leather jackets that have become synonymous with sports, pop culture, and streetwear. Rising to fame in the 1990s, Hamilton's bold, custom designs have been worn by everyone from Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant to LeBron James and dozens of hip-hop and entertainment icons.

His work played a major role in bridging the worlds of high fashion, streetwear, and sports, helping redefine what luxury style looks like in urban culture. Jeff's jackets have also been featured in countless championship celebrations and cultural milestones. Outside of personally commissioned jackets, Hamilton's company continues its long-standing partnership with the NBA, NFL, and has recently expanded with FIFA for World Cup 2026.

Headquartered in Los Angeles, Jeff Hamilton continues to lead the industry at the intersection of fashion, sports, and art—delivering timeless designs that honor legacy and inspire the next generation.

# Arkansas unveils final BEAD Proposal for public comment; State on track for 100% broadband to expand technologies

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Arkansas 25, 2025 – The Arkansas State Broadband Office released the state's final proposal for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, officially opening the plan for public review and comment. This proposal reinforces Arkansas' path to achieve universal broadband coverage, ensuring every home and business in the state will have access to reliable, high-speed internet.

"The BEAD Program is about more than faster internet—it's about opportunity," said Governor Sanders. "By connecting every community with high-speed access, we're giving students the tools to succeed, entrepreneurs the ability to grow their businesses, and families access to better healthcare close to home. Arkansas is showing the nation how smart, efficient investment can strengthen communities, expand upward mobility, and drive lasting economic growth."

*The $1 billion BEAD Program represents the largest public broadband investment in Arkansas history. Interest in the program was strong, with the Arkansas State Broadband Office receiving 730 applications by 33 internet service providers (ISPs), and 23 providers selected for preliminary awards.*

The $1 billion BEAD Program represents the largest public broadband investment in Arkansas history. Interest in the program was strong, with the Arkansas State Broadband Office receiving 730 applications by 33 internet service providers (ISPs), and 23 providers selected for preliminary awards. This highly competitive process not only secured coverage for more than 79,000 homes and businesses, but also delivered results at one of the lowest average costs in the country, $3,891 per location, highlighting Arkansas' efficiency and competitiveness in the broadband market.

"During the initial application process, 99.9% of all eligible locations in the State received at least one bid, and 99% received bids from two or more internet service providers," said Glen Howie, Director of the Arkansas State Broadband Office. "Following negotiations for the remaining 0.1% of locations, Arkansas has achieved coverage for every single location. This incredible outcome demonstrates the strength of our market-driven approach and the commitment of providers to serving Arkansans."

The final proposal also reflects adjustments required by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. With those refinements, Arkansas' total BEAD Grant Outlay stands at $308.3 million, a $275 million reduction from prior estimates, further demonstrating the state's responsible management of taxpayer dollars.

Once implemented, the program will provide Arkansans with a range of technologies: 76% of locations will be connected with fiber, 16% with low-Earth-orbit satellite service, 7% with licensed fixed wireless, and 1% with hybrid technologies.

The final proposal is open for public comment through Friday, August 29. Arkansans are encouraged to review the plan and share feedback before it is submitted to NTIA by September 4. Supporting documents, an online visualization dashboard, and a public comment form are available on the Arkansas BEAD Webpage.

Pending NTIA approval by December 4 and final authorization by the Arkansas General Assembly, construction is expected to begin in the first half of 2026.

For more information about the Arkansas State Broadband Office, visit Broadband.Arkansas.gov.

Email news and photos to MSTnews@prodigy.net

# Arkansas Children's ranks as Top Hearts and Pulmonology in regional specialties category by U.S. News & World Report

*Arkansas Children's Ranks as Top Heart and Pulmonology Programs in a 300-Mile Region in U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospitals List*

LITTLE ROCK, AR. (Oct. 7, 2025) – Arkansas Children's Heart Institute and Pulmonary programs ranked higher than any other health systems in a 300-mile region on U.S. News & World Report's annual list of Best Children's Hospitals, published which was published on October 7. This is a repeat achievement for the Arkansas Children's Heart Institute, while the Pulmonary distinction marks a first.

The findings underscore how Arkansas Children's offers a level of capabilities, resources and expertise that can't be found elsewhere in the region.

Arkansas Children's continued an annual streak on the list, with seven pediatric specialties ranked among the best programs in the nation. Six of those service lines were ranked the previous year. The distinctions indicate Arkansas Children's offers world-class care provided by nationally respected clinical leaders at its hospitals in Little Rock and Springdale and programs and clinics statewide.

Arkansas Children's Heart Institute landed on the Cardiology & Heart Surgery list, ranking at no. 27, higher than any pediatric heart program in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee and Arkansas.

The Pulmonology program marked its third time in the top 30, ranking no. 27 and its 10th consecutive year on the list overall.

Arkansas Children's Urology program entered the list again this year, scoring its highest-ever ranking at no. 30.

Arkansas Children's is proud to have the following programs ranked on the 2025/2026 Best Children's Hospitals list:

•Cancer (43)
•Cardiology & Heart Surgery (27)
•Nephrology (34)
•Neurology & Neurosurgery (32)
•Orthopedics (50)
•Pulmonology & Lung Surgery (27)
•Urology (30, highest-ever ranking and a 22-point jump)

"These consistent national rankings are a testament to the enduring compassion and expertise found across Arkansas Children's," said Marcy Doderer, FACHE, president & CEO of Arkansas Children's. "We celebrate the profound dedication of our team and the indispensable support of our community partners. It is through this powerful collaboration that we are confidently improving outcomes and advancing toward our ultimate goal: ensuring Arkansas is the safest and healthiest place to be a child."

The national rankings reflect contributions from nearly every department in the Arkansas Children's system, as teams focus on delivering better access, exceptional outcomes and improved on-campus experiences.

The rankings are weighted to emphasize the importance of a health system's technologies, treatments and outcomes. They also consider the expert opinions of pediatric specialists from across the nation.

The 19th annual Best Children's Hospitals rankings recognize the top 50 pediatric facilities across the U.S. in 11 pediatric specialties: behavioral health, cancer, cardiology and heart surgery, diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology and gastrointestinal surgery, neonatology, nephrology, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, pulmonology and lung surgery, and urology.

Arkansas Children's also ranked 6th in regional rankings released by U.S. News & World Report today. Arkansas Children's is ranked within the Southeast Region along with pediatric hospitals from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. A hospital's regional ranking status is assessed by evaluating the total number of specialties the hospital was ranked in – better rankings are assigned to hospitals with more nationally ranked service lines.

U.S. News introduced the Best Children's Hospitals rankings in 2007 to help families of children with rare or life-threatening illnesses find the best medical care available.

The 2024-2025 edition of Best Children's Hospitals is posted online at usnews.com/children-shospitals.

ABOUT ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S

Arkansas Children's is the only health care system in the state solely dedicated to caring for Arkansas' 850,000 children. The private, non-profit organization includes two pediatric hospitals with 361 licensed beds, a pediatric research institute and USDA nutrition center, a philanthropic foundation, a nursery alliance, statewide clinics, and many education and outreach programs — all focused on fulfilling a promise to define and deliver unprecedented child health. Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) is a Magnet-recognized facility in Little Rock operating the state's only Level I pediatric trauma center; the state's only burn center; the state's only Level IV neonatal intensive care unit; the state's only pediatric intensive care unit; the state's only pediatric surgery program with Level 1 verification from the American College of Surgeons (ACS); and the state's only nationally recognized pediatric transport program. Arkansas Children's is nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report in seven pediatric subspecialties (2024-2025): Cancer, Cardiology & Heart Surgery, Nephrology, Neurology & Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Pulmonology & Lung Surgery and Urology. Arkansas Children's Northwest (ACNW), the first and only pediatric hospital in the northwest Arkansas region, is a Level IV pediatric trauma center. ACNW operates an inpatient unit that will expand in 2026; a surgical unit with five operating rooms; outpatient clinics offering over 20 subspecialties; diagnostic services; imaging capabilities; occupational therapy services; and northwest Arkansas' only pediatric emergency department. Generous philanthropic and volunteer engagement has sustained Arkansas Children's since it began as an orphanage in 1912, and today ensures the system can deliver on its promise of unprecedented child health. To learn more, visit archildrens.org.

*"These consistent national rankings are a testament to the enduring compassion and expertise found across Arkansas Children's," said Marcy Doderer, FACHE, president & CEO of Arkansas Children's. "We celebrate the profound dedication of our team and the indispensable support of our community partners. It is through this powerful collaboration that we are confidently improving outcomes and advancing toward our ultimate goal: ensuring Arkansas is the safest and healthiest place to be a child."*

# NRA Endorses Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears for Virgina Governor, Jason Miyares for Attorney General, and John Reid for Lt. Gov.

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from the never-ending push to disarm law-abiding citizens."

To ensure that the rights of law-abiding gun owners remain protected, the National Rifle Association is deploying staff and resources to push pro-gun candidates in Virginia to victory. "In today's current political era, simply voting is no longer enough. NRA members and Second Amendment advocates must take an active role in the political process. Get involved, knock doors, register voters, and do whatever it takes to push pro-gun candidates to victory," said Commerford.

Gun rights supporters and NRA members in Virginia are encouraged to view the complete list of endorsements on nrapvf.org and support candidates who prioritize the rights of gun owners and sportsmen.

BACKGROUND:

**Governor: Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears** ("A" Endorsed)

Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, a Marine veteran and former Virginia Delegate, has dedicated her life to upholding the Constitutional rights of Virginians. Throughout her career, Sears has been an outspoken leader in the fight against progressive politicians' incessant calls to disarm law-abiding citizens, ban commonly owned firearms, and undermine the Constitutional rights of their constituents.

As Lieutenant Governor, Sears worked alongside Governor Glenn Youngkin, who vetoed dozens of extreme gun control measures and fought for the rights of all Virginia residents. As the next Governor of the Commonwealth, NRA members can rest assured that Sears' veto pen stands at the ready to protect the rights of gun owners.

**Attorney General: Jason Miyares** ("A" Endorsed)

*Throughout his career, Attorney General Jason Miyares has continually fought for and delivered key victories for NRA members. As a former prosecutor and current Attorney General, Miyares understands that promoting policies that target criminals, not law-abiding gun owners, is the key to lowering crime rates in the Commonwealth.*

Throughout his career, Attorney General Jason Miyares has continually fought for and delivered key victories for NRA members. As a former prosecutor and current Attorney General, Miyares understands that promoting policies that target criminals, not law-abiding gun owners, is the key to lowering crime rates in the Commonwealth.

Before becoming the Attorney General, Miyares served as a Delegate in the Virginia House of Delegates, where he voted to block extreme gun control measures. These proposals included, but were not limited to, firearm confiscation orders, arbitrary waiting periods, expanding gun-free zones, and bans on commonly owned firearms and magazines.

**Lieutenant Governor: John Reid** ("A" Endorsed)

John Reid is a prolific pro-gun voice in Virginia media. Throughout his career, Reid has been a vocal gun rights advocate and opposes progressive policies that would disarm law-abiding citizens. As Lieutenant Governor, John Reid will continue his fight to protect and preserve Second Amendment rights in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Incorporated in 1871, the National Rifle Association is America's longest-standing civil rights organization. Together with our millions of members, we're proud defenders of history's patriots and diligent protectors of the Second Amendment.

Follow the NRA on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Formerly Twitter).

Email news & photos to MSTnews@prodigy.net