

ARKANSAS

Voters in Arkansas will select a governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and treasurer. All 100 state house seats and 17 out of 35 senate seats are also up for election. Republicans are expected to maintain control of all executive offices and the state legislature.

Governor

Republican Nominee

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Sarah Huckabee Sanders was first elected in 2022. She is the first woman to serve as head of state and is currently the youngest governor in the country. Prior to her time in office, she served as White House Press Secretary for President Trump from 2017 to 2019. Sanders has held leadership roles in offices of senators and governors, and on presidential campaigns, including her father, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee (R).

Sanders' campaign builds upon her accomplishments during her first term in office where she has focused efforts on education, public safety, the state's outdoor economy, and streamlining state government.

During her time in office, Sanders implemented major **education reforms** through her [Arkansas LEARNS](#) initiative increasing **teacher pay**, implementing **universal school choice**, and improving **early literacy**. A centerpiece of the law is the Education Freedom Accounts, which provide households with **vouchers**, no less than \$6,800, to spend on their child's education, expanding school choice for families. Sanders continues to be a staunch advocate for school choice [asking](#) the legislature for an additional \$122 million to fund the voucher program during her 2026 State of State Address.

Affordability is central to Sanders' campaign with recent ads highlighting her success in eliminating the grocery tax, **cutting the income tax** by 25%, and delivering **property tax relief**. She has also stated that her administration has delivered more than \$1.5 billion to taxpayers over the last three years.

Sanders has prioritized strengthening the **outdoor economy** through her Natural State Initiative. Launched in 2023, the Natural State Initiative capitalizes on the state's natural resources and improves state park resources.

In February 2026, Sanders signed an executive order requiring state agencies, boards, and commissions to review all permits, licenses, certifications, and other regulatory approvals within 120 days, with the goal of speeding up permitting for economic development projects. This is part of a her larger [Arkansas Forward Initiative](#) to improve **government efficiency**.

In June 2026, Sanders joined a new national **artificial intelligence workforce** initiative started by former Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb (R) and former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo (D). The group plans to partner with the private sector, governors, and training organizations to help the workforce transition to an AI economy.

[Sabato's Crystal Ball](#) and the [Cook Political Report](#) have both labeled this race as safe Republican.

Trivia: In 2010, she was featured in Time magazine's list of 40 under 40 New Civic Leaders.