Arkansas Governor's Mansion Commission

TO: Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Senator Justin Boyd, Co-Chair, Legislative Council
Representative Les Eaves, Co-Chair, Legislative Council

FROM: Michael Mayton, Chairman, Arkansas Governor's Mansion Commission
Leigh Keener, Administrator, Arkansas Governor's Mansion

SUBJ: Annual Governor's Mansion Report for FY2026

DATE: Submitted November 1, 2026

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 22-3-805, the Governor's Mansion Commission submits this 2026 Annual Governor's Mansion Report for the fiscal year 7-01-2025 to 6-30-2026.

Historic Mansion

As the official residence of the Governor and her family, the Governor's Mansion is the center of official state entertaining and hospitality. The Governor understands that, as a temporary resident of this treasured state asset, it is her duty to ensure all aspects of the property are well maintained, kept structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing for the many thousands of guests from around the state who visit the Mansion annually. The Arkansas Governor's Mansion has long been more than just a home to our state's leaders. It is our state's front door, welcoming visitors and dignitaries from all over the world.

Capital Projects Completed:

The Governor's Mansion continues to work through a series of updates, funded through grants and private donations, aimed at enhancing security, operations, and aesthetics. Improvements included updating elevator emergency communications, the flooring in the Janet M. Huckabee Grand Hall Lobby, upper atrium, and the mansion kitchen, and the chandeliers in the lobby of the Grand Hall.

Several structural and design updates were also completed. The flashing on the atrium windows was replaced and resealed on both the east and west sides. The roof on the Grand Hall walk-in refrigerator and freezer was replaced.

Further improvements extended to the interior areas of the buildings, including updates to the HVAC system and front door, enhancing both functionality and comfort for the residents, staff, and guests of the mansion.

Maintenance/Repairs

As part of ongoing efforts to preserve and maintain the Arkansas Governor's Mansion, the Commission solicited the completion of a full inspection of the property for the first time in over 11 years. Our goal was to protect this valuable state asset, avoid costly surprises, and, most importantly, ensure the safety of every resident, staff member, and guest we are blessed to serve.

With the help of the DBA Building Operations Section and outside vendors, we corrected urgent electrical issues within the week of receipt of the report. Over the next 30 days, we replaced the flashing on the east and west atrium windows, the roof on the addition to the Grand Hall kitchen and began to address ongoing humidity issues.

The following three months the mansion replaced ceiling tiles, added interface relays to our existing dehumidifiers to improve effectiveness and controls, replaced dummy light switches with blank plates, repaired exterior lighting, sealed seams and gaps in the building envelopes, restored the original brass hardware, repaired our three grandfather clocks, and, cleaned and repaired the Rockefeller rugs in the state living and dining rooms.

Property Assets, New

- Stair runners and state seal rug - mansion foyer
- Coffee table, gold frame, antique mirror top - state living room
- Walnut and yew burl veneered console table - state living room

Mansion Landscaping and Gardens

- A considerable effort has been made during FY26 to restore the grounds to the 2006 landscape design developed by the Governor's mother, Mrs. Janet M. Huckabee, in partnership with P. Allen Smith & Associates, including but not limited to upgrading the irrigation control box, repairing broken heads and leaks along irrigation lines, implementing a landscaping maintenance schedule that includes regular weeding and mulching and edging, removing and replacing dead or diseased plants, and removing a 250-year-old oak tree after keeping a close eye on its slow decline.

Future Considerations:

- Porte-cochère repair (replace rotten wood, treat, sand, and paint replacement wood)

Visitors

Over the past year, the Arkansas Governor's Mansion has welcomed thousands of guests through its front doors. These visitors include, but are not limited to, elected officials, cabinet members, state employees, students, teachers, law enforcement officers, and many others. Guests have traveled from across the State of Arkansas, the country, and abroad. The mansion team works to ensure every guest has a pleasant and memorable experience when visiting this historic residence.

Respectfully,

Leigh Keener Oct 29, 2026

Leigh Keener
Arkansas Governor's Mansion Administrator

Mike Mayton Oct 29, 2026
Mike Mayton (Oct 29, 2026 15:35:08 CDT)

Michael Mayton
Arkansas Governor's Mansion Commission Chairman

Attachment

Purchases Donated by Arkansas Governor's Mansion Association – FY 2026

Stair runners and state seal rug - mansion foyer
Coffee table, gold frame, antique mirror top - state living room
Walnut and yew burl veneered console table - state living room

2025 Annual Report (3)

Final Audit Report 2026-10-29

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