

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS
House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs
Meeting Jointly
Wednesday, August 12, 2026
3:30 PM
Hot Springs Convention Center, 134 Convention Blvd, Rooms 207, 208, 209
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Jim Petty, Vice-Chair, Breanne Davis, and Brad Simon; Representatives Justin Gonzales, Chair, Wade Andrews, Alyssa Brown, Karilyn Brown, Rebecca Burkes, Mike Holcomb, Brit McKenzie, Stetson Painter, Aaron Pilkington, R. Scott Richardson, Johnny Rye, and Richard Womack

Other members present: Senators Kim Hammer, Mark Johnson, Clint Penzo, Jamie Scott, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Nicole Clowney, Cameron Cooper, Bruce Cozart, Denise Ennett, Kenneth Ferguson, Steve Hollowell, Rick McClure, Jessie McGruder, and Shad Pearce

Representative Gonzales called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the January 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Representative Painter made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Pilkington, the motion carried.

Welcome Remarks

Chris Villines, Executive Director, Association of Arkansas Counties, gave welcoming remarks regarding the Association of Arkansas Counties conference.

Discussion of Senate Joint Resolution SJR15 – A Constitutional Amendment Concerning Economic Development In The State Of Arkansas; And Authorizing The General Assembly To Provide For The Creation Of Economic Development Districts To Promote Economic Development [Exhibit D]

Senator Jonathan Dismang, District 18, Arkansas Senate; Justin Allen, Partner, Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP; and Randy Zook, President and CEO, Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, led a discussion about ongoing concerns related to economic development in the state and the need for the creation of economic development districts to promote economic development within the state, including new businesses, job creation and recruitment.

Discussion on Local Impact from Economic Development Districts

Honorable Ben Cross, County Judge, Pope County; Honorable Troy Tucker, County Judge, Clark County; and Hillrey Adams, Mayor, Mountain Home, led a discussion on the current local impact of economic development districts within their respective counties.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.