



Blue Review

*The Official Newsletter of
the DPSC*

September 25th, 2023

Friends of the Party.

Thank you to:

Good Neighbors:

Randy Haun
Beth Mathys
Gene Smith
Sally Smith
Suzy Velez
Greg White

Friends of the Party:

Melinda Hensley
Helen Neely
Diana Roberts
Steve Rittenmeyer
Janet Taylor
Judith Wimberly

Community Partners:

Tamme Adams
Helen Denison
Donna Landreth
Delois Moore
Bailey Morgan
Dustin Parsons
April Reisma
Glen Rider
Sam Stueart

Life of the Party:

Charles Bear
'Nita Brown
Gary Fults
Grace Hauser
Luke Juneau
Fred McGraw
Tanya Williams

Party Partners:

Lela Chism
Jerri DeLamar

We are just \$98/month away from sustainability! That's just 2 "Party Partner," 4 "Life of the Party," or 7 "Community Partner" donors!

Go to
salinedems.com/friendoftheparty
to enroll, receive a thank you in our next newsletter, and much more!

Join a Committee:

Help us be a stronger party!

Community Outreach Committee:

The DPSC has been working hard to put ourselves out into the community and let the people of Saline County know that we *are* here, and that we *are* working hard toward a better Saline County. A MASSIVE part of that effort has been put together by our Community Outreach Committee. With Felix Stacy serving as the newly appointed chair of the committee, we need more volunteers than ever to help us man booths at events, plan fundraisers, and much more. If you're interested in serving on the committee, please reach out to Felix at (501) 944-1995!

Voter Outreach Committee:

In our September meeting, we formally established the Voter Outreach Committee, to be chaired by Melinda Hensley! This committee will be dedicated to more remote, online work in support of the party. Volunteers for the Voter Outreach Committee will help Melinda in updating VAN, the Voter Access Network, to make sure that folks around Saline County have their voter registration information up-to-date, and to help collect data on where the Democratic Party's efforts should be most focused! If you're interested in serving on this committee, please reach out to Melinda at (501) 249-5010!

But wait! There's more!

There are LOTS more committees in need of volunteers; you can absolutely serve on more than one committee if you're interested, so don't be shy about being a part of the team! For more information on all of the committees of the Democratic Party of Saline County, go to salinedems.com/committees, then reach out to us at saline@arkdems.org for help starting/joining some!

WE WANT YOU!

To RUN in Saline County.

We are *still recruiting candidates* for local office here in Saline County! We're looking for folks who want to see our county improved and to provide a voice for thousands of ignored Saline County residents.

If you live in one of these districts and are interested in running, reach out to us by calling/texting (501) 420-4729, or by emailing Saline@ArkDems.org.

Justice of the Peace:

- District 1
- District 2
- District 4
- District 6
- District 8
- District 9
- District 11
- District 12
- District 13

State House:

- District 29
- District 54
- District 81
- District 92

State Senate:

- District 6

Not sure which districts you live in? Go to VoterView.ar-nova.org and check for yourself by entering your information, scrolling to the bottom of the page, and clicking "Districts**"!**

Updates: Saline County

Bryant Bombshell:

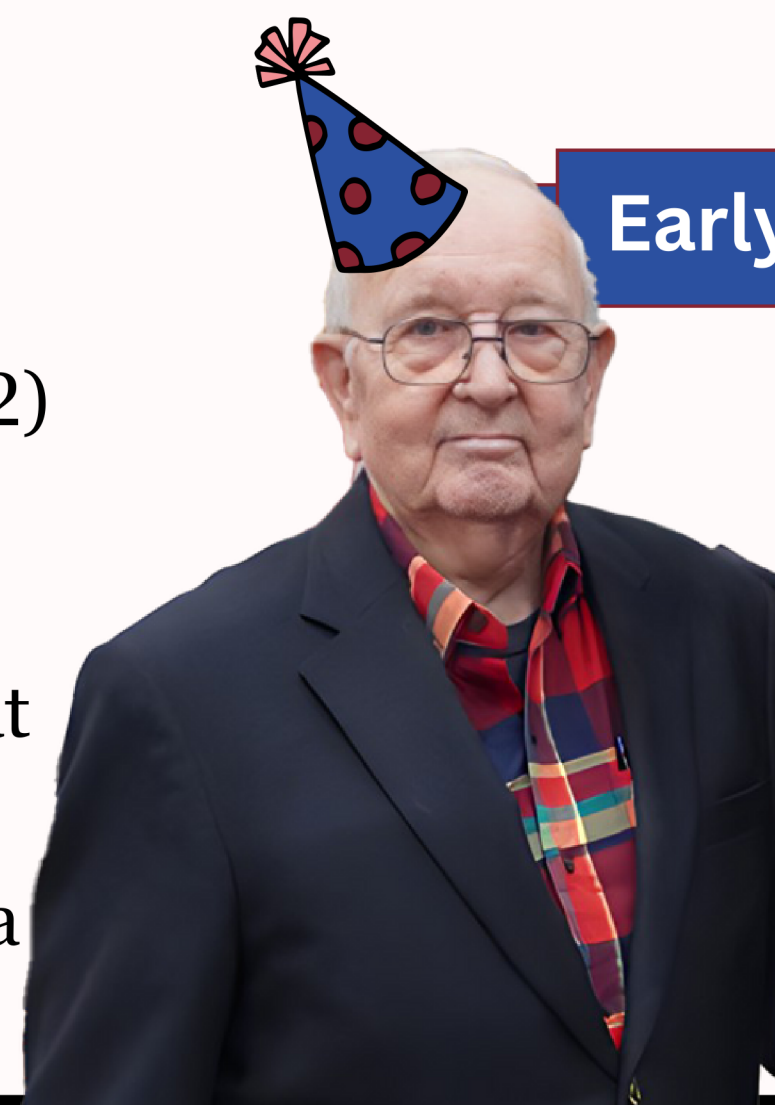
In a special-called meeting held on Monday, September 18th, the Bryant City Council voted unanimously in a call to request that Mayor Allen Scott resign from his office. The Council also unanimously voted affirmatively in a “no confidence” vote against him, and stripped him of all resources/powers not uniquely granted to the office of Mayor by the Arkansas Constitution. Though there is an ongoing lawsuit against the Mayor in his official capacity by a former Bryant PD police officer, the request that he resign came as a result of an EEOC filing made in August.



This claim alleges that a city employee had been terminated as retaliation for reporting sexual harassment in the workplace by both the Mayor and other supervisors. According to records returned to MySaline by the city’s HR department, it appears that Mayor Scott *did* admit to a sexual relationship with the woman, but insists that it was consensual.

Walters Walks:

Continuing the trend of surprise resignations this month, Justice of the Peace JR Walters (District 12) announced in September that he will be resigning from his position as Justice of the Peace, as he is relocating out of his current district. It appears that his final meeting as JP will be October’s Quorum Court meeting, after which his seat will be filled via appointment until the 2024 election.

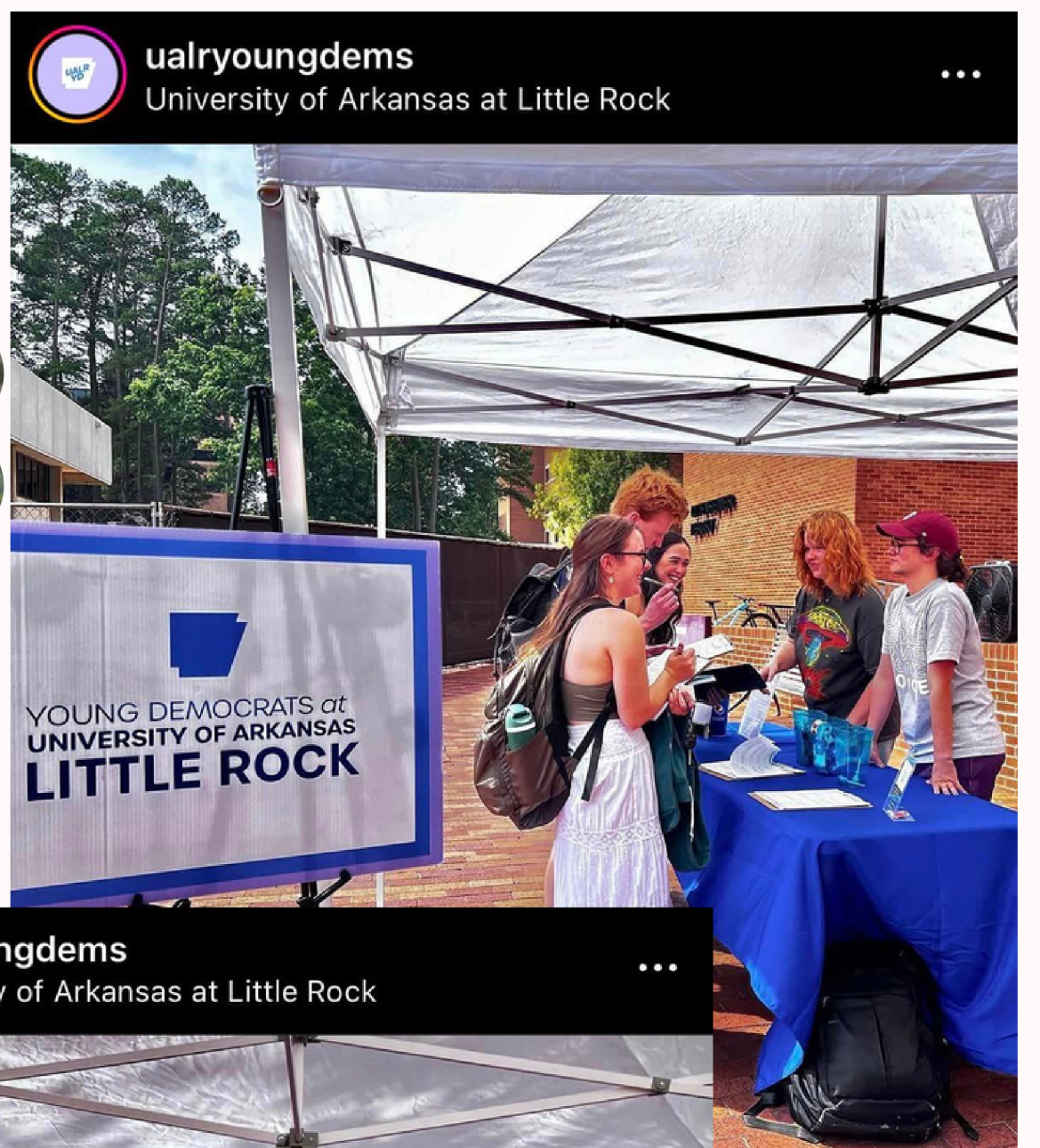
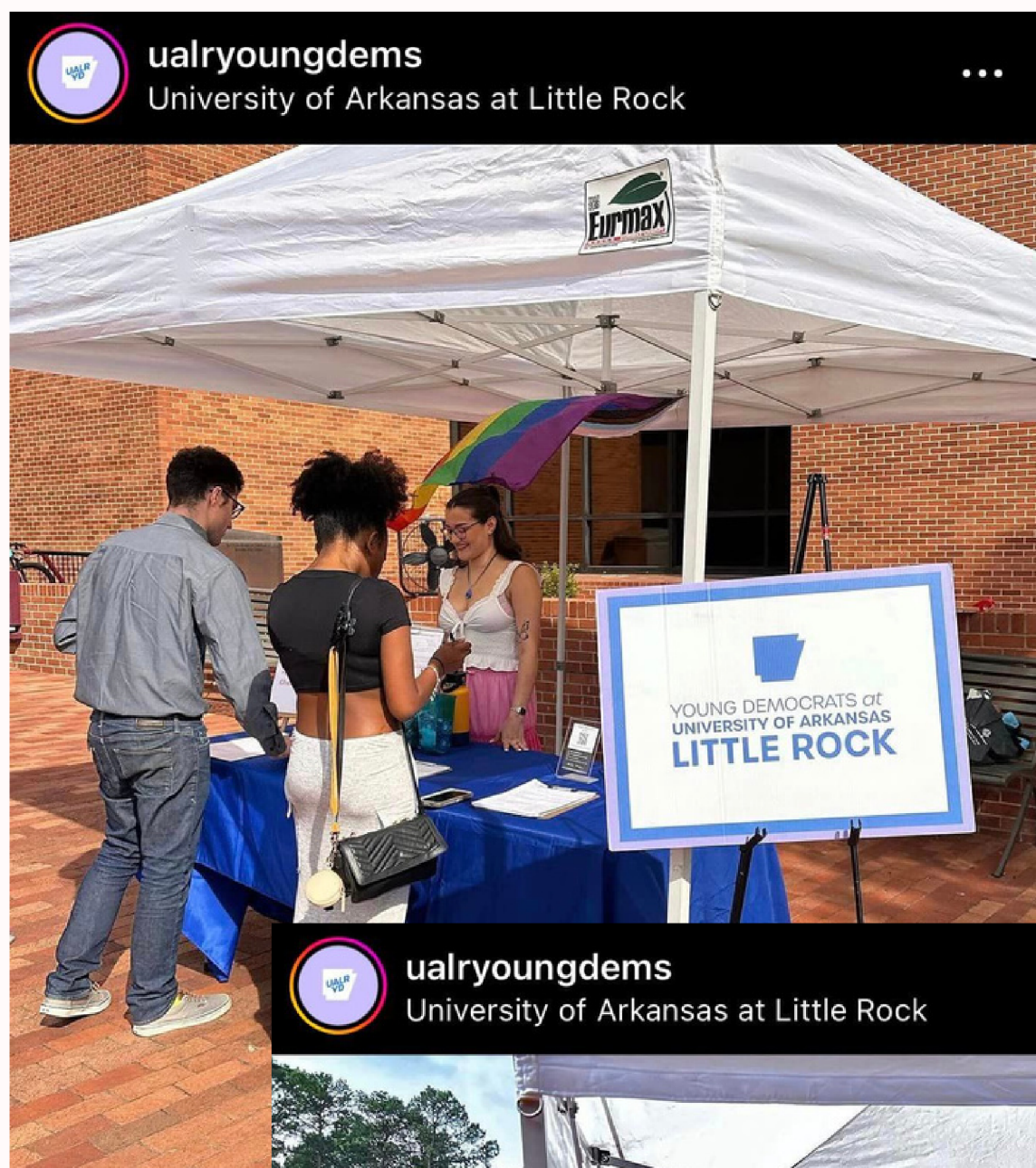


Early Retirement!

Updates: Saline County

UALR Registration Drive:

The Young Democrats of UALR held a voter registration drive on September 19th, successfully **registering 50+ people to vote** in a single day! This incredible feat was, in part, made possible by our very own **Suzy Velez**, who took time out of her busy schedule to help train these Young Democrats on how to register folks to vote. Suzy is an incredible example of how the good work we do here in Saline County can make a difference not only locally, but statewide as well.



Updates:

Arkansas

UAPB Underfunded:

In a letter to Governor Sanders, the United States Department of Education claimed that the state of Arkansas has systemically underfunded the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, alleging a funding disparity of \$330.9 million over the last 30 years. In the letter, the Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, pointed out that this funding disparity creates an inequitable distribution of resources and investments granted to historically Black colleges and universities. The letter asks that the funding given to UAPB be increased to rectify this issue.

Naturally, in response to the reasonable and fact-based claims made by the Dept. of Education, Sanders' comms director, Alexa Henning, responded by calling the letter "threatening [and] politically charged." Notably, 16 other states also received similar letters from the Dept. of Ed, but of course Henning and Sanders would take it so personally.

Zom-Bob Ballinger:

Like a zombie or an annoying film franchise, Bob Ballinger doesn't seem to understand that we don't WANT him to come back. The Crawford County Library Board, currently facing legal action as a result of unconstitutionally relocating books in the library based on discriminatory viewpoints against the LGBTQ+ community, has hired former Republican Senator Bob Ballinger as their legal counsel. If it wasn't clear that Crawford County's leadership was more than happy to make a political statement out of their library before, their employment of a deeply divisive former elected official as their legal counsel seemingly reinforces their position on the matter.

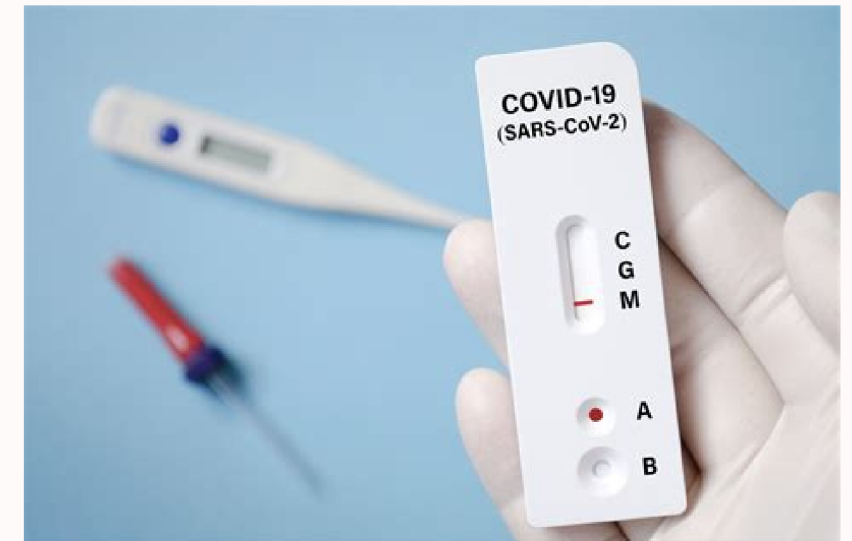


Updates:

National

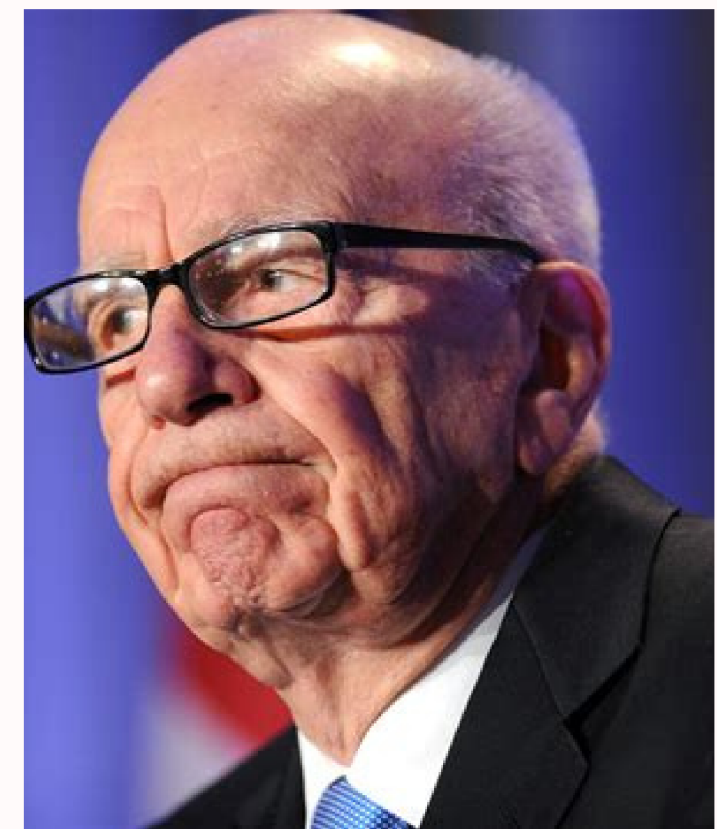
It's Best to Test:

Beginning September 25th, COVID tests will once again be made free to order due to a renewed program from the Biden administration as a result of rising COVID cases stemming from the newest variant's contagiousness. To order your free tests, just go to covid.gov/tests!



Rupert's Resignation:

Rupert Murdoch has stepped down as the head of Fox News after what seems like far too many lifetimes at the helm. Of course, this is unlikely to greatly improve the “quality” of what Fox News produces, as Lachlan Murdoch, Rupert's 52 year old son, has assumed sole control of Fox and News Corp.



Canada/India Strife:

The diplomatic ties between Canada and India are being tested this year, as Canadian PM Justin Trudeau publicly stated last week that Canada has discovered evidence potentially linking Indian officials to the June assassination of a Sikh Canadian leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. In response, India denied the allegation and expelled a Canadian diplomat. This is a remarkable escalation, as Canada currently has the greatest Sikh population of any nation outside India, with 2.1% of the Canadian population being Sikh.



As of writing, it awaits to be seen what the U.S. response will be, as the Biden administration has been working hard to form stronger ties with the Indian government to counter Chinese influence.

Upcoming Events

10/2/23, 6:30 P.M. - October Monthly Meeting

Join us at our headquarters at 101 S. Market St for our October monthly meeting! Social time at 6:00, meeting starts at 6:30!

10/14/23, 12-5 P.M. - Saline County Pridefest

To volunteer at our booth, please reach out to Saline@ArkDems.org!

10/14/23, 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. - Old Fashioned Day

To volunteer at our booth, please reach out to Saline@ArkDems.org!

10/27/23, Time TBA - Brews and Brats

A cookout with good food, friends, and drinks out in the (hopefully!) cool air.

*DPSC Coffee House & Game Night **Postponed***