Overview and Trends of Dallas County Finances 1999-2017
How can Dallas County continue to provide services for its citizens?

• What factors and trends are impacting county services and funding sources?
• Which of these can the county control or influence
  – In the short-run?
  – In the long-run?
• What are anticipated changes that might affect the county’s fiscal health?
• What might the county do to eliminate or minimize the impact of anticipated changes?
The population of Dallas County decreased 20% from 9,300 in 1999 to 7,400 in 2018.

From 2019 to 2031, the county's population is projected to decrease an additional 6% to 6,800.

**Data Source:** Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Population Projections, Woods & Poole
Population Change, 1999-2017

Data Source: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
Population Change, 2010-2017

Data Source: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
Employment in Dallas County decreased from 4,900 in 1999 to 3,500 in 2017 or 28%.

How will future employment levels impact the county's fiscal situation?

Data Source: Employment Estimates, Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis
Employment Change, 2010-2017

Data Source: Employment Estimates, Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Community & Economic Development
Strengthening Arkansas Communities
Revenue & Expenditures

Dallas County
Total revenue received by Dallas County increased 17% between 1999 and 2017, from $5.2 million to $6.1 million, reaching a high of $7.9 million in 2009.

Expenditures fluctuated but increased 6% overall, from $5 million in 1999 to $5.3 million in 2017.

*Due to rounding, bars may appear slightly higher or lower than the values stated on this slide.

**Data Sources:** Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Change in Total Revenue, 1999-2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Change in Total Expenditures, 1999-2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Dallas County
Per Capita Revenue & Expenditures, 1999-2017

- Although trends in per capita total revenue and spending were similar to trends in the total numbers, the per capita measures increased at a faster rate than previously discussed.
- Per capita revenue was $830 in 2017, $117 more than per capita expenditures ($713).

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Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Per Capita Total Revenue, 2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
Per Capita Total Expenditures, 2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
Revenue

Dallas County
• The share of total revenue from intergovernmental transfers decreased significantly, from 37% in 1999 to 27% in 2017.
• Dallas County property tax revenue as a share of total revenue was 15% in 1999 and less in 2017 (9%).
• The share of total revenue from sales tax grew from 19% to 27%.

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Data Source: Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
The share of total revenue from sales tax in Dallas County in 2017 was 27%, slightly higher than the statewide average (25%).

The share of total revenue from property tax was 9% in the county in 2017, considerably less than the statewide average of 24%.

The share of total revenue from intergovernmental transfers in the county was 27% in 2017, more than the statewide average (22%).

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**Data Source:** Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
Sales tax revenue in Dallas County increased 60% between 1999 and 2017, from $1 million to $1.6 million.

Property tax revenue declined 27%, from $777,500 in 1999 to $567,700 in 2017.

Dallas County's total intergovernmental revenue fluctuated widely but decreased 11% overall, from $1.9 million in 1999 to $1.7 million in 2017.

**Data Sources:** Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Trends in per capita major revenue sources were similar to the overall trends discussed in the previous slide. However, population decline caused the per capita measures to increase at a faster rate or decrease at a slower rate than the overall measures.

Intergovernmental revenue per capita was $226 in Dallas County in 2017, more than sales tax ($221) and property tax ($77) revenue per capita.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Per Capita Intergovernmental Revenue, 2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
Change in per Capita Intergovernmental Revenue, 1999-2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Per Capita Property Tax Revenue, 2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
Change in per Capita Property Tax Revenue, 1999-2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Per Capita Sales Tax Revenue, 2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
Change in per Capita Sales Tax Revenue, 1999-2017

Note: Crawford County had sales tax revenue in only the 4th quarter of 1999, because this skews the percent change value for Crawford County is treated as 0 for this map.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Dallas County
Minor Sources of Revenue, 1999-2017

- Officers, Jail and 911 Fees increased from $447,600 in 1999 to $1.7 million in 2000, then decreased to $1.2 million in 2017, resulting in total growth of 177%.
- Commissions and taxes apportioned grew 13%, from $418,200 to $471,400.
- Fines, forfeitures and franchise taxes increased 27%, from $162,600 in 1999 to $207,200 in 2017.
- Other revenue was $500,600 in 1999 and $341,100 in 2017, a decline of 32%.

Data Sources: Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Trends in per capita minor revenue sources were similar to the overall trends discussed on the previous slide. However, as a result of population decline, the per capita measures increased at a faster rate or decreased at a slower rate than the overall measures.

Officers, jail & 911 fees per capita in Dallas County were $168 in 2017, more than commissions & taxes apportioned ($64), other revenue ($46), and fines, forfeitures and franchise taxes ($28).

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Expenditures

Dallas County
The share of total spending for law enforcement and public safety in Dallas County increased significantly from 26% in 1999 to 37% in 2017.

The share of total spending for highways & streets declined from 21% in 1999 to 18% in 2017.

The share of total spending for general & other expenditures rose significantly from 21% in 1999 to 41% in 2017.

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Data Source: Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
- Dallas County's share of expenditures for law enforcement and public safety (37%) was slightly less than the statewide share (38%) in 2017.
- The share of total county expenditures for highways and streets was 18%, below the statewide average (23%).
- The share of total county expenditures for general and other expenditures was 41%, far greater than the statewide average (26%).

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**Data Source:** Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
Dallas County
Major Category Expenditures, 1999-2017

- Law enforcement and public safety expenditures in Dallas County increased 46%, from $1.3 million in 1999 to $1.9 million in 2017.
- Highways and streets spending decreased 14%, from $1.1 million in 1999 to $924,700 in 2017.
- General and other spending fluctuated widely but grew considerably, from $1 million in 1999 to $2.1 million in 2017 or 110%.

Data Sources: Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Trends in per capita major category expenditures were similar to the overall trends discussed on the previous slide. However, population decline caused the per capita measures to grow at a faster rate or decrease at a slower rate than the overall measures.

General & other per capita spending in Dallas County was $291 in 2017, more than law enforcement & public safety ($261) and highways & streets ($125) expenditures.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Per Capita Public Safety Expenditures, 2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
Change in per Capita Public Safety Expenditures, 1999-2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Per Capita Road Expenditures, 2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
Change in per Capita Road Expenditures, 1999-2017

Note: 2017 data for Benton, Faulkner and Perry counties was not available at the time of publication. For these counties, 2016 values were used in place of the missing data.

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Road expenditures per county road mile in Dallas County were less than the statewide average every year between 1999 and 2017.

During the same period, road expenditures per county road mile decreased 11% in the county compared to growth of 45% statewide.

In 2017, road expenditures per county road mile in the county were $1,600, about $2,150 less than the statewide average ($3,750).

Data Sources: Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; Road & Street Report, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department
Health & social services expenditures in Dallas County increased 124%, from $54,400 in 1999 to $121,600 in 2017, and spiked to $1.1 million in 2002.

Recreation & culture spending in the county decreased significantly (30%), from $137,500 to $96,400.

Capital outlay expenditures decreased from a high of $1.4 million in 1999 to $0 in 2001.

Debt service spending in Dallas County increased 24%, from $41,800 in 1999 to $51,900 in 2017.

**Data Sources:** Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Trends in minor expenditures per capita were similar to the overall trends on the previous slide. However, population decline in Dallas County caused the per capita measure to grow at a faster rate or decrease at a slower rate than the overall measures.

Health & social service per capita expenditures were $16 in 2017, more than recreation & culture ($13), debt service ($7), and capital outlays ($0).

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Tax Base

Dallas County
Property assessments in Dallas County decreased 16%, from $107.3 million in 1999 to $89.8 million in 2017.

Data Sources: Assessed Values, Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Per capita property assessments in the county were below the statewide average every year between 1999 and 2017.

Trends in per capita property assessments were similar to the overall trends discussed on the previous slide, but population decline caused the per capita measures to increase at a faster rate or decrease at a slower rate than the overall measures.

Per capita property assessments in the county were $12,100 in 2017, about $4,200 less than the statewide average ($16,300).

Data Sources: Assessed Values, Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
Dallas County
Total Retail Sales, 1972-2012

- Retail sales in Dallas County decreased 30%, from $102.3 million in 1972 to $71.8 million in 2012.

*Due to rounding, bars may appear slightly higher or lower than the values stated on this slide.

**Data Sources:** Census of Retail Sales, U.S. Census Bureau; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Per capita retail sales in the county were below the statewide average every year between 1972 and 2012.

Trends in per capita retail sales were similar to the overall trends discussed on the previous slide, but population decline caused the per capita measures to decrease at a slower rate than the overall measures.

Per capita retail sales in the county were $9,000 in 2012, about $3,500 less than the statewide average ($12,500).

*Due to rounding, bars may appear slightly higher or lower than the values stated on this slide.

Data Sources: Census of Retail Sales, U.S. Census Bureau; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.
Capacity and Effort

Capacity:
- The maximum amount that can be produced when all the resources in an economy are employed as fully as possible.
- Capacity constraints can be caused by lack of investment and skills shortages.
- Spare capacity can be caused by lack of demand.

Effort:
- The amount to which a county utilizes its ability to generate revenue through taxation.
Property Tax Capacity and Effort

Capacity:
• High capacity = County’s per capita property assessments were above the state average.
• Low capacity = County’s per capita property assessments were below the state average.

Effort:
• High effort = County’s millage rate was above the average of Arkansas counties.
• Low effort = County’s millage rate was below the average of Arkansas counties.
Property Tax Capacity & Effort, 2017

Data Sources: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; Property Assessments and Millage Rates, the Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department
Sales Tax Capacity and Effort

Capacity:
• High capacity = County’s per capita retail sales were above the state average.
• Low capacity = County’s per capita retail sales were below the state average.

Effort:
• High effort = County’s sales tax rate was above the average of Arkansas counties.
• Low effort = County’s sales tax rate was below the average of Arkansas counties.
Data Sources: Census of Retail Sales and Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Sales Tax Rates, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
Options for Providing Services to Dallas County Residents

• **Increase cost effectiveness**
  – Improve management and productivity
  – Explore possibility of privatizing services
  – Consider intergovernmental agreements to offer shared services

• **Increase revenue**
  – Alternative (new) revenue sources
    • User charges,
    • shift tax burden to non-residents
  – Expand the tax base
  – Increase tax rates

• **Reduce Services**
Contact
For more information and assistance on county government finance options, contact:

Keith Gresham, CEA - Staff Chair
203 N Clifton St.
Fordyce, AR 71742
Tel: 870-352-3505, Fax: 870-352-8885

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