Overview and Trends of St. Francis County Finances 1999-2017
How can St. Francis 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 St. Francis County decreased 12% from 29,400 in 1999 to 25,900 in 2018.
From 2019 to 2031, the county's population is projected to decrease an additional 4% to 24,700.

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
St. Francis County
Total Employment Estimates, 1999-2017

- Employment in St. Francis County decreased from 12,100 in 1999 to 10,800 in 2017 or 10%.
- How will future employment levels impact the county's fiscal situation?

Data Source: Employment Estimates, Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis
Employment Change, 1999-2017

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
Total revenue received by St. Francis County decreased 2% between 1999 and 2017, from $10 million to $9.8 million.

Expenditures decreased from $10.2 million in 1999 to $8.9 million in 2017, a total change of about -13%.

Revenue spiked to $18.1 million in 2006.

*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
**St. Francis County**

**Per Capita Revenue & Expenditures, 1999-2017**

- Although total revenue decreased and spending each decreased, population decline in St. Francis County led to growth in the per capita measures between 1999 and 2017.
- Per capita revenue was $376 in 2017, $32 more than per capita expenditures ($344).

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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

St. Francis County
St. Francis County Revenue Sources as a Percent of Total Revenue, 1999 and 2017

- The share of total revenue from intergovernmental transfers decreased from 28% in 1999 to 22% in 2017.
- St. Francis County property tax revenue as a share of total revenue was 14% in 1999 and slightly less in 2017 (12%).
- The share of total revenue from sales tax grew from 25% to 29%.

*Due to rounding, bars may appear slightly higher or lower than the values stated on this slide. 
Data Source: Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
The share of total revenue from sales tax in the county (29%) was higher than the statewide average (25%).

The share of total revenue from property tax was 12% in the county in 2017, considerably less than the statewide average of 24%.

The share of total revenue from intergovernmental transfers was about 22% in the county and statewide in 2017.

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

**Data Source:** Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
Sales tax revenue in St. Francis County decreased from $2.5 million in 1999 to $1.7 million in 2016, then spiked to $2.8 million in 2017.

Property tax revenue fluctuated but declined 14%, from $1.4 million in 1999 to $1.2 million in 2017.

St. Francis County's total intergovernmental revenue decreased 21%, from $2.8 million in 1999 to $2.2 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.

Sales tax revenue per capita was $110 in St. Francis County in 2017, more than intergovernmental ($84) and property tax ($45) 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
Officers, Jail and 911 Fees decreased greatly in St. Francis County (37%), from $969,900 in 1999 to $614,100 in 2017.

Commissions and taxes apportioned declined significantly, from $1 million to $622,500 or 39%.

Fines, forfeitures and franchise taxes increased 30%, from $1 million in 1999 to $1.3 million in 2017.

Other revenue was $275,300 in 1999 and $1 million in 2017, an increase of 280%, and spiked to $9.8 million in 2006.

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.

Other revenue per capita in St. Francis County was $40 in 2017, more than fines, forfeitures and franchise taxes ($50), commissions & taxes apportioned ($24), and officers, jail & 911 fees ($24).
Expenditures

St. Francis County
The share of total spending for law enforcement and public safety in St. Francis County increased from 28% in 1999 to 35% in 2017.

The share of total spending for highways & streets grew significantly from 17% in 1999 to 29% in 2017.

The share of total spending for general & other expenditures decreased slightly from 34% in 1999 to 32% in 2017.

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

**Data Source:** Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
St. Francis County's share of expenditures for law enforcement and public safety (35%) was less than the statewide share (38%) in 2017.

The share of total county expenditures for highways and streets was 29%, greater than the statewide average (23%).

The share of total county expenditures for general and other expenditures was 32%, greater than the statewide average (26%).

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Data Source: Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit
St. Francis County
Major Category Expenditures, 1999-2017

- Law enforcement and public safety expenditures in St. Francis County increased 10%, from $2.9 million in 1999 to $3.2 million in 2017.
- Highways and streets spending fluctuated but increased 53%, from $1.7 million in 1999 to $2.6 million in 2017.
- General and other spending fluctuated while declining 18%, from $3.4 million in 1999 to $2.8 million in 2017 or 18%.

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.

• Law enforcement & public safety per capita spending in St. Francis County was $122 in 2017, more than general & other ($110) and highways & streets ($98) 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
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
St. Francis County Road Expenditures Per County Road Mile, 1999-2017

Road expenditures per county road mile in St. Francis County were less than the statewide average every year between 1999 and 2017.

During the same period, road expenditures per county road mile increased 50% in the county compared to growth of 45% statewide.

In 2017, road expenditures per county road mile in the county were $2,400, about $1,350 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 St. Francis County decreased 82%, from $994,100 in 1999 to $174,700 in 2017, and spiked to $1.1 million in 2005.

Recreation & culture spending in the county decreased significantly (48%), from $82,500 to $43,000.

Capital outlay expenditures decreased from a high of $842,900 in 1999 to $0 in 2002.

Debt service spending in St. Francis County decreased 44%, from $262,900 in 1999 to $148,000 in 2017, but was as high as $1.6 million in 2010.

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 St. Francis 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 $7 in 2017, more than debt service ($6), recreation & culture ($2), 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

St. Francis County
Property assessments in St. Francis County increased 3%, from $260.4 million in 1999 to $267.5 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 $10,300 in 2017, about $6,000 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
Retail sales in St. Francis County increased 10%, from $288.8 million in 1972 to $316.2 million in 2012.

Retail sales reached a high of $394.2 million prior to the Great Recession in 2007.

*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 exceeded the statewide average in 2 of 9 years 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 measure to increase at a quicker than the overall measure.

Per capita retail sales in the county were $11,300 in 2012, about $1,200 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.
Sales Tax Capacity & Effort, 2012

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 St. Francis 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:

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