



Democrat Primary Forum 2022 – Hot Springs Village

Description

On Wednesday, April 6, 2022, the Hot Springs Village POA Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) hosted the Democrat Primary Forum. Committee Members, Sam Sacco, Steve Rittenmeyer, and David Childs were the event coordinators, with Rittenmeyer acting as Forum Moderator. Each candidate was given three to five minutes and then asked to answer two questions with two minutes also being allowed to address each question. The two questions were:

1. What is a major challenge of the office you seek and how would you address it?
2. What separates you from your primary or general election opponent?

Michelle Gates Roberts, Candidate for State Representative District 84

Michelle Gates Roberts said she came from humble beginnings with leftovers, hand-me-downs, and church. “That was a way of life.” Roberts said she was taught more than “church at church”. She was taught community, connection, and the bond that ties us together and to love her neighbor.

While growing up, Roberts knew she would go to college, but didn’t know how she would pay for it. Due to receiving scholarships, Pell Grants, and Federal Work-Study Programs, she was able to get a quality education.



Michelle Gates Roberts, Candidate for State Representative District 84

Because of the lack of good-paying jobs in Arkansas, Roberts and her husband were forced to leave the state after graduating. For a time, they lived in Japan and South Korea, working in anti-human trafficking. While out of the country, she learned how difficult it was for people living on the margins of society. Missing one paycheck is catastrophic to some folks.

In Japan, she delivered her son and discovered the healthcare system proved to be superior to what it is in the United States, with costs being covered.

Roberts said, “Here in America – here in Arkansas, we can have quality health care that is affordable for everyone.”

These experiences and many more make Roberts uniquely qualified for the job. She says she is ready for the challenge of being a State Representative, House Seat 84.

What is the major challenge of the office you seek and how would you address it?

Roberts said, “I like to get things done. Right now the hardest part for me is patience. When I am elected, I want to hit the ground running, but I know we need to listen and learn.”

“It is really patience and slowing down. I am not good at that. The children of Arkansas have waited long enough for quality education. We are at the bottom of the barrel. They have waited long enough for quality health care.”

What separates you from your general election opponent?

“I have to really think on that because a lot of people think of him as a nice guy. And he is a nice guy, but he says one thing and votes another way.”

“One thing I learned from my parents is honesty and integrity.”

Working with women and children who are coming out of horrible situations and pharmaceutical companies to develop programs to help sustain the women and children – that is where my heart is.”

Dan Whitfield, Candidate for US Senate

Whitfield says he is a regular working-class Arkansas, working seven days a week, long hours. He paid his own way through school and finished three Associate Degrees, Magna Cum Laude with distinctions and honors, and is currently still a student working on his Information Systems Degree. He will specialize in blockchain engineering.

Whitfield said, “There are a lot of problems in the federal government right now. As a professional troubleshooter by trade, my job will be to go in there to address these problems and find solutions. We have not been finding the proper solutions that are putting people before profits.”

Whitfield said it is important that we look at a few important facts.

“This primary election is going to determine the outcome of the general election. It’s plain and simple.”



Dan Whitfield, Candidate for US Senate

“A Democrat in Arkansas has 100% support from every single Democrat in Arkansas but nobody else,” explained Whitfield. But they will still lose because Democrats are in the minority.

Democrats are going to win elections by bringing the Independent voters over to the Democrat side.

Whitfield pledges to “work on his supporters and implore them not to just show up and vote for me in November...but to vote for other wonderful Democrats.”

This election is going to be the most important election of our lives. “We have Sarah Huckabee Sanders running for Governor. I can’t imagine what Arkansas would look like with Sarah Huckabee Sanders [as] governor...We need to do everything possible to prevent that from happening.”

Important legislation is coming up next year. “We are going to have to vote to codify Roe because the GOP is doing everything they can to steal our family’s rights. We need to fight for our daughters’, our mothers’, and our sisters’ rights.”

What is the major challenge of this office and how would you address it?

Whitfield answered, “All the time you hear Democrats say, ‘We are losing democracy in America.’ America is not a democracy, it is a representative republic. But unfortunately, we are all kind of wrong right now because we are not even a representative republic anymore. We are an oligarchy. Our representatives no longer represent us. They have sold out to special interests. They take money from the health and pharmaceutical industry and vote on legislation that hurts our family, that kills people, that bankrupts people because it gives them more money for the reelection campaigns.”

Whitfield said the constituents must be shown how their representatives are voting to represent them, while also showing the constituents where the money to reelect the representatives is coming from. Usually, the candidate with the highest donations wins the election.

What separates you from your primary opponent?

“Policy is what separates us.” He said he is not just going to say we have problems, but he also has the solutions. “That is the difference.”

“Healthcare is the number one issue in our country.” Whitfield supports “healthcare for all”. Medical debt is the cause of 63.2% of all bankruptcies, even though the majority have health insurance. Everything is not covered.

“How do we pay for it? That is the question. The way we pay for it is 4% of your income after \$29,000. If you are on Medicare, you no longer have to pay for Advantage plans.”

To learn more about Dan Whitfield [click here](#).

Jesse Gibson, Candidate for Attorney General

Gibson said he grew up on a dead-end dirt road in Boone County, Arkansas. Gibson’s parents taught

school for 30 years in public schools. “They instilled in me the value of getting a good education.”

Gibson graduated Valedictorian in 1992. In 1996 he received a degree in Economics and completed his law degree in 1999. He began his career working for a big law firm in Little Rock. Soon Gibson realized he had made a horrible decision.

In 2002 Gibson started his own law firm where he provided services to people across the state. “It was in that job that I found my calling and passion of service.” This inspired Gibson to run for Attorney General. He wants to take the Attorney General’s office and “change so many lives in a positive way”.



Jesse Gibson, Candidate for Attorney General

“I also want to run for Attorney General to be an example for all those kids I grew up with...to show them there is a way they can serve their community, their state, and their country.”

“What do I want to do as Attorney General? You can sum it up in three words – safety, security, and strength.”

“Security of our right to vote is number one.”

“Safety – it is always the responsibility of the Attorney General’s office to stand shoulder to shoulder with law enforcement...Tough penalties for violent criminals, but programs that decrease recidivism. Working with prosecutors to keep guns out of the hands of violent offenders. But also education programs so they can assimilate back into the workforce.”

“Strength – Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is looking. Am I perfect? Certainly not...I am going to always try to do the right thing.”

“I want to bring the spirit of service, the spirit of justice to the Arkansas Attorney General’s office.

What is the major challenge of this office and how will you address it?

“Culture – I think it is an issue of culture. Culture in the office of Attorney General. Too often there has been a culture of corruption. In a culture dominated by Washington politics, inside baseball, and a spirit of ‘how do I get myself ahead and not how do I help the people who elected me?’”

“Change the culture into one of service and belief and the empathetic practice of law.”

What separates you from your general election opponent?

“It is a very complicated three-part answer. It is experience, experience, and experience.”

“I’ve been practicing law for a quarter of a century.” Gibson said he has tried over 100 cases to verdict. My opponents, in Arkansas courtrooms across the state – zero. Never had a case in Arkansas court...This is public record.”

Gibson says he has the experience of helping folks and caring about what happens to them.

To learn more about Jesse Gibson [click here](#).

Goldi Gaines, Candidate for Commissioner of State Lands

Gaines said she is running to heal the land. She is a native Arkansan, born in Pulaski County and raised in North Little Rock. Her father served 42 years in North Little Rock’s Department of Parks and Recreation and her mother was a nurse who was known in the community as the ‘community nurse’.”

“I grew up in a household that fully believed in servant leadership.” Her parents taught her to advocate for others, not just for herself.

She worked in various non-profit organizations and she “began to look at the issues and circumstances in different communities and how important it was to stand and advocate on behalf of those who cannot advocate for themselves.”



Goldi Gaines, Candidate for Commissioner of State Lands

She graduated from North Little Rock High School, subsequently earning her Associate of Science degree at Pulaski Tech. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Business Management at the University of Pheonix she went on to earn her MBA in Business Administration.

She was an adjunct faculty member for a North Little Rock college, teaching Business Studies. In addition to this experience, she has 23 years in the Department of Veteran's Affairs where she advocated for veterans.

"My veterans taught me a valuable lesson about loyalty and servitude. But they also taught me how to drink coffee and to play spades. As a result of that, I am one loving individual that can drink you under the table with coffee and that can make you cry at the spades table."

Operating for 23 years in a large bureaucratic organization gave her the skill set necessary to "really put forth customer service."

"I had experience in culture, culture change, and shifting culture to ensure that workplace processes were run with an even flow, as few bottlenecks as possible."

"I am running for the seat to heal the land in three different areas – education, innovation, and accountability. I think it is important that we begin to look at our Arkansas landscape and think of ways to plan a landscape for not only ourselves, but the generations to come, specifically our millennials."

What is the major challenge of this office and how would you address it?

"Bringing in a different culture. Seventy percent of this job is strongly related to managing delinquent properties as well as auctioning off state lands – even the honor of holding on to survey documents

and maps dating back to the Louisiana Purchase.”

Often the goal is to make sure properties are sold to Arkansas residents. “In this seat, we also have the opportunity, again, to look at our landscape through a program called, ‘The Land Donation Program’. Not only do we have an opportunity to look at our landscapes there, but to also push those homestead programs for our Veterans.”

“With the Land Donation program, we have an opportunity to allow organizations, city, county, non-profits to really bring their ideas to the table, to address some critical issues that we have in Arkansas – poverty, hunger, and bad health.”

What separates you from your general election opponent?

“Perspective – Oftentimes I say even a dead fish can go with the flow. It is just time for us to shift streams. I understand paying off taxes. That is very important. But I think it is time for us to use this seat at its maximum capacity. It’s not enough to just partially operate in a position.”

“I would say what I have is a pulse on a community that is typically underserved and that is poverty, hunger, and healthcare.”

“I am not running against Tommy Land, but I am running for Arkansas.”

Gaines said she will not only focus on land taxes but will also work on healthcare, poverty, and hunger issues.

To learn more about Goldi Gaines [click here](#).

Natalie James, Candidate for US Senate

“I am ready to get to work for Arkansas,” stated Natalie. She said she is mindful of the women who have done this and sacrificed, using their determination and resilience to pave the way for today.

“We’re experiencing a moral reckoning with racism and systematic injustice that has brought a new coalition of consciousness to the streets of our county, our country, and our state, demanding change. America is crying out for leadership.” James said she is quoting Vice President Kamala Harris. And yes, I am very partial to the amazing administration that we do have right now, currently. They are doing an amazing job, given what was handed to them and how they are able to fix it and how they are uniting the whole nation.”

James wants to make sure there is a good future for the children.

James asked herself, “How can I make Arkansas better?”

“Arkansas is ready for leadership that is going to provide solutions.” James wants to protect Arkansas. A servant’s spirit is required to fulfill this position.



Natalie James, Candidate for US Senate

Being a realtor by trade affords James a unique opportunity to talk to many people every day. Her father was a minister and insurance salesman and her mother was a teacher. She is a fourth-generation native Arkansan.

James said she is obstinate and headstrong, but also resilient and full of grit, in the right way. She brings to the table her experience in global and national interactions.

What is the major challenge of the office you seek and how would you address it?

The major challenge is that there are no black women currently in the United States Senate. “That means that 50% of the population – women – their voices aren’t being heard.”

“I am a mother, a nurturer and I bring that together. We need somebody that is going to be able to tie us all together and represent us all, regardless of who you vote for.”

As one of three democratic candidates for Senate, please separate yourself from your primary opponents.

Servant spirit – “I get out there and am able to relate to more communities, more groups than the majority of our candidates. They are amazing in their own right. I would love to have them working with me...If all of us combine forces...and unite there will be some amazing things that we can get done for Arkansas.”

“I naturally, inherently lead. That is just what I do and I am extremely bossy, but in a good way.”

To learn more about Natalie James [click here](#).

James “Rus” Russell, III, Candidate for Governor

Russell has 20 years of healthcare experience and started out as a Physician Credential Specialist for the state Medical Board before moving on to a position as a Medical Staff Coordinator at Children’s Hospital. These positions exposed Russel to a lot of different ideas as well as many communication problems between legislators and the science community.

Going back to college, Russell pursued a dual major in Pre-med Biology and Legal Political Ethical Theory. His wife completed her Master’s degree in Counseling Psychology leading them to start “New Dawn Counseling.” New Dawn Counseling is a mental health practice they operated for the past eight years. COVID led them to take this practice state-wide, utilizing Telehealth.



James “Rus” Russell, III, Candidate for Governor

For the past eight years, he has dealt with Arkansans in crisis. This is what he wants to bring to the office of Governor. “We need people who can listen without demonizing the other side.”

Russell said we need real people in the governor’s office who can be contacted.

What is a major challenge of the office you seek and how would you address it?

Culture – “One of the main things is establishing a sense of trust with leadership again through choices, through cabinet appointees that are actually the best qualified for the position, rather than who donated the most to your campaign.”

We have a “terrible turnout” at the voting polls. “What I see in those numbers is that the vast majority of Arkansans simply feel like their vote doesn’t matter because they are not being represented or listened to. They are not being given anything to vote for.” They choose the lesser of two evils.

“We have to give them someone who will listen, who will address them, talk to them one-on-one and be a human with them.”

What separates you from primary election opponents?

“I am not polished. This is not something where it has been an aspiration for a long time. If you are talking to me, you are getting me. Not what was prepared for, not what was polished, not what was planned by the committee. You always know where you stand with me.”

Even if someone disagrees with him, it doesn’t mean they are enemies.

“There is absolutely no difference between myself and any of you sitting here. There’s none.”

“I am the candidate that if you holler and say you need help moving a couch, I am the one who is going to show up and do it.”

To learn more about James “Rus” Russell, III [click here](#).

This is a two-page article. Click the page two button below which is located under the Share on Facebook and Tweet button.

Page Two

Jay Martin, Candidate for Governor

Martin said, “I want to be the Chief Ambassador for Arkansas and that is why I am running for Governor.”

Martin said that when he was two years old his father was placed in the state hospital due to mental illness. Because of this, the family experienced poverty. The family was able to take advantage of government programs that helped families in need.

When the time to go to college came around, Martin was awarded a scholarship and also received a Pell Grant.

Because he grew up in a different environment than many children, he developed great compassion for people who were in need. Martin felt he was called to two different vocations, the law and the ministry. He pursued both careers. After his first year of law school, a Circuit Court Judge called and offered Martin a job.

Martin became a Pre-sentence Officer and worked his way through law school. This job required him to recommend sentences. “Over and over again, I kept seeing the same types of people coming through – many young African-American men who were charged with non-violent drug offenses.”

Martin said that he wanted to help them and he started an inner-city ministry. He was elected to the state legislature because after 911, he felt this was the patriotic thing to do. He was elected majority leader in the AFED General Assembly and formed a bi-partisan committee, working with Democrats and Republicans on very important legislation, including real property tax relief for people 65 and over. They also passed LeadAR.

At that time, Martin got out of politics to concentrate on his young family.



Jay Martin, Candidate for Governor

He is a bridge-builder and felt the call to again become involved in government service. “That is why I am running for Governor, to use my experience to bring people together, to make Arkansas the state that so many of you choose when you moved to Hot Springs Village.

What is the major challenge of this office that you seek and how would you address it?

“We have a very divided state. We have a very divided country. COVID-19 has created incredible economic problems for our state. We have a state that does not do well, anyway. But now with COVID, our small businesses, our small farms, are really struggling. The Governor is going to have to generate economic opportunities for all Arkansans immediately.”

“We have a plan to do that – our Diamond Plan. The first part of Diamond is economic development. We have to address growing the economy.”

“We also have to bring people together. We have so much more in common than we have differences, as Americans.”

What separates you from your primary election opponents?

Experience – “I just celebrated 25 years as an attorney in private practice. I am a small business owner. I had to make payroll. I’ve paid too many taxes – wondered where those taxes were going. That is in some ways, maybe conservative when it comes to some issues.”

Martin said he has 250 closed file boxes after celebrating 25 years of practicing law.

Martin said he knows how to bring people together and get a bill through the House of Representatives and into the Senate and the Committees, and then be signed by the Governor...This is not easy stuff. This is on-the-job training. You need the experience to do these things. We know how to do that.”

Most importantly, he is a builder and can bring people together from all walks of life.

Josh Price, Candidate for Secretary of State

Price said, “I am running for Secretary of State to protect our right to vote. As some of you know, our voting rights are severely under attack, all across the south, especially in the state of Arkansas.”

We are dead last in voter registration and voter turnout. Also, we hold the number one spot for the rejection of absentee ballots. Price feels we can do better.

Price was born in Nashville, Arkansas, coming from a family of small business owners and veterans.

“My grandmother was the first woman to serve as Justice of the Peace of Pike County and she is really one of my biggest inspirations to be involved in public service,” enthused Price. During segregation, Granny Jean officiated weddings for African-Americans in her home because they were not permitted to use certain public buildings. For doing that, she received death threats. Price said that he learned two things from his grandmother. The first thing he learned is the power of service and helping those

who maybe don't look like you. The second thing his grandmother taught him was to do the right thing, even when it is tough.



Josh Price, Candidate for Secretary of State

Price's mother is a nurse from the Philippines who was recruited to Arkansas. She knew she would have the right to vote and freedom of speech in the United States.

Price said, "Fast forward to the insurrection on January 6. We almost lost that here. We have voter suppression bills coming down the pipeline all across the south making it harder for people to vote."

Price worked for the Delta Regional Authority for the federal government and was also the Public Informations Officer for the state of Arkansas for the Small Business Administration. "The most important job I had in the last few years is that I was Election Commissioner in Pulaski County Arkansas, which is a blue county but was severely under attack by Republicans. Republicans threw out 1,500 ballots in Pulaski County."

We should be making it easier for people to vote, but instead, it has been made more difficult.

What is the major challenge of this office and how would you address it?

Voter registration – “We are dead last in voter registration. Dead last in voter turnout. I’ve got some practical and pragmatic ways to fix that.”

1. “Let’s work with the library system – the mobile book units. We’ll call them voter vans and travel the state. We’ll meet people where they are and get them registered to vote. If they need to update their signature.” If they need a free photo ID, let’s get them a photo ID.”
2. I want to make sure no Arkansan has to travel more than ten miles to vote.
3. Online voter registration.

What separates you from your primary election opponent?

On-the-ground experience – “I’ve been in the trenches. I served as Election Commissioner during that very contentious 2020 election. I testified against voter suppression bills in the capital. We got some of them killed in committee. Some of them passed through. I was part of a lawsuit and had those thrown out to be unconstitutional.” Judge Griffin threw them out but then they were upheld by the Arkansas Supreme Court. I have received endorsements from state and national leaders.”

“I have the on-the-ground experience to hit the ground running.”

Pam Whitaker, Candidate for Secretary of State

Whitaker is from a hard-working Texas family. “My father built every home we ever lived in with his own two hands,” Whitaker said. When she was ten, the family moved to Minnesota. When she was a child, she wanted to fly Navy jets, as her father did. “Sadly, women were not allowed to be trained in aviation until 1974. She graduated high school with honors.” She said her father came from great poverty. Because of that, her father did not understand how she could find a way to attend college. He told her, “some hairy-legged boy will take care of you.” Whitaker didn’t want that to happen.

She began working at age 16 and earned an associate degree at a community college. Whitaker said, “Sure enough. That hairy-legged boy came along. He was a pastor.” She was a pastor’s wife for several years, but the marriage didn’t work out.

Whittaker took her two kids and went to Oklahoma State University with the assistance of Pell Grants and child-care assistance, she earned a computer science degree in 1992.



Pam Whitaker, Candidate for Secretary of State

She began working at Lockheed Martin and then later went to work at the IRS Data Center in Washington, D.C. She worked in numerous positions there, finally landing in the Center of Excellence. People saw her work there and thought she would do well in politics.

She moved back to Arkansas 11 years ago to take care of her mother. She also worked on her business, learning a lot about contracts. Whitaker started a non-profit which helps young women enter engineering and flight field careers.

Whitaker said she has worked in government, healthcare, construction, and banking. She has several certifications, including cybersecurity and audit controls.

Her goals for the Treasury Department are to protect and grow the state funds, protect our environment, and work with women-owned businesses and female farmers. She said she will work on cybersecurity and fraud. She also wants to help roll out state-wide broadband.

What is the major challenge of this office and how will you address it?

She said the office is very complex and she has started addressing the office challenges. She toured the Treasury and met everyone. Her audit background will help and she is used to looking at banking reports.

“I think I am addressing the challenge as I speak,” said Whitaker.

She will also be attending the Finance Board Meetings.

What separates you from your general election opponents?

“The other folks have been in there and really, their only backing is other representatives. They don’t seem to have any feet on the ground, out in the community. I am already doing that. I am already helping other women-owned businesses.”

John White, Candidate for US Congress District 4

White said, “I am running against Westerman because we need to throw out Bozeman. We need to throw out Cotton. We need to throw them all out. Because they have forgotten who they work for. “None of them understand that we work for us.”

“I will go into my pity party on how poor I was; how my dad killed himself and when I was six and a half I was the man of the house; how I went to work in the hayfields. I picked watermelons and everything else. Somebody out there has it worse.”

White fathered two fine young men, one of who was handicapped and died when he was two. We can go on and on about how we didn’t have running water and all of that. None of that matters.”

White said he is an Independent. “The Democrats brought me on because there is only a Libertarian running against Westerman.”

“This is what is wrong with the country. You mention Trump, everybody goes running.”

He said he has been in the V.A. system since 2007 and it was a killing machine until Donald Trump was elected.



John White, Candidate for US Congress District 4

White said his platform is only one thing – the Constitution.

“We really need to look at ourselves, stop promising everything. I cannot promise you anything because I must work with people.”

“I served in the Air Force for 24 years, active and then inactive. I got out for a couple of years and then I joined Arkansas Air National Guard at Fort Smith. I was a regular Guardsman for a year and then I was active Guard, finishing up...I’ve worked with everything from a little 5.56 round to cruise missiles and nuclear weapons if you want to get down to killing people, which is what the military is.”

My name is John White and I am running on the Constitution and that is it. Nothing else. Cannot make you any promises. I won’t blow smoke. Let’s be real.”

What is the major challenge of this office and how will you address it?

“The major problem is, it’s broke and we all know it. Everybody is doing the Potomac two-step. Everybody is taking money from everybody. Everybody is bought off. I can’t be bought off. I like being poor. I am a poor, wannabe goat farmer from south Arkansas.”

“We have to get back to the Constitution.”

White said we are all Americans, not African or Chinese Americans. We are not yellow, green, or purple. Doesn’t matter. We all bleed red. The red on the flag is for everybody who sacrificed the ultimate sacrifice for this nation so we can sit here and talk about problems that people want to work out.”

What separates you and your general election opponent?

“Oh, Mr. Westerman. [laughs] Has anybody seen him? I’m trying to figure out where he is.”

White doesn’t want to be called a politician. He said he was just a poor white boy. “I will not do the Potomac two-step. I cannot be bought off. I am not even taking any money for this campaign. It’s all out of my pocket. I’m paying for it. And good Lord, we know I ain’t rich.”

Supha Xayprasith-Mays, Candidate for Governor

Xayprasith-Mays is 52 years old and a Little Rock resident. Formerly, a corporate executive, she is the owner of a small business. Migrating to Arkansas when she was only six years old with her widowed mother and three siblings, she grew up in an economically disadvantaged household, but the children weren’t aware of the financial situation. Despite the fact that her mother had a Masters’s degree, speaking seven languages, she found it difficult as a migrant to find employment and ended up working at a chicken plant for Tyson Foods. Eventually, she saved enough money to open an Asian restaurant.

“I grew up on the wrong side of the track. Kids can be cruel. I’ve been called every name you can

imagine. I remember coming home after someone called me the N-word and I cried. I didn't know what it was. I was bullied to the point where at age 13, I wanted to commit suicide." As a child, she was angry and confused.



Supha Xayprasith-Mays, Candidate for Governor

After migrating, her mother remarried, but the other kids were even cruel about that, asking why her mother didn't marry someone of her own kind.

When she was 16, Xayprasith-Mays also worked at a chicken plant in order to help support the family. Her mother said, "you are either going to use your mind or your hands. Which one is it going to be?"

At age 19, she became a single mom but was so poor, that she could not afford to go to school. She worked four jobs to prove to her mother that she could make it.

When she was 21, she purchased her first home, using the HUD program.

When she was 28, she ran a \$100 Million operation. She then started a consulting company where she taught and empowered people that might not have a mom and dad or live in a big house and have nice things.

"In my platform as Governor, it is about people first. I don't care what business you are in. We are all in the people business. We also have to make sure we understand it is about inclusion."

"We are all God's beautiful children."

She said, "you need a leadership that cares for the people and one that will put the people first."

She unapologetically said she is not a politician. “I am a peopletician.”

What is the major challenge of this office and how would you address it?

“Absolutely education – We’re ranked top-bottom and our kids are not getting what they need. You have kids where the only meal they get is in school. I want to change that.”

“Our teachers should never have to work more than one job. How could they make our kids become competitive when they are hungry and struggling themselves?”

What separates you from your primary election opponents?

“I am a woman of multicultural race. I speak more than three languages. I also am a business owner and also a former corporate executive in training and development. I understand human empowerment. This is a human race campaign. This is not about politics, party, or power. It is about putting this state and the power back to the people.”

Jack Foster, Candidate for US Senate

Foster is a Vietnam veteran. Foster said, “I’m in this race basically because of the fact that we don’t have a voice in Washington in that senate seat any longer. Everybody has a national agenda. There is not an Arkansas agenda. Everything they talk about does not have a direct effect on what happens to Arkansans. That’s wrong. The people who sent them there – they have forgotten about you guys. They don’t care.”

The Arkansas politicians in Washington, DC voted against the infrastructure bill, even though Arkansas roads are not in good shape. The bill passed and now they want to take credit for it explained Foster.



Jack Foster, Candidate for US Senate

“They voted against the stimulus package. Arkansas is a poverty state.” He said he was raised in poverty and understands what it is like to be poor.

Foster said he has three major priorities in this race.

1. Economic development – “That’s critical...A lot of our children go to college for four years, get out, and can’t find a job in this state.”
2. Healthcare – “There is no reason in the world we should not have free healthcare.” People ask, ‘How are you going to pay for that?’ Here’s how you pay for it – America first. Do you realize how many billions of dollars we send to foreign countries and we call it foreign aid and we don’t take care of our own, right here at home? Something is wrong with that picture. I don’t have a problem with helping other countries, but let’s take care of home first. And then if we’ve got something left where we can afford to help another country, let’s do that. But at this point, American needs the help. We’re not doing that.”
3. Attract industry to Arkansas – “I don’t see that happening. As your US Senator, it will happen in my office...”

Foster said he is a former City-Council Member and that is the lowest form of government, giving him less money to work with. The federal government has the majority of the funds and “we need to be able to tap some of those resources and get them to this state. That’s not happening.”

Foster said, “Yes, I am running as a Democrat. I used to be a Republican. I am not running for the Democratic Party. Nor am I running for Joe Biden. I am running for the state of Arkansas.”

What is the major challenge of this office and how will you address it?

“We need to clean up the mess that is already there. Bozeman, I have met him. When I met him, I was having problems with the V.A. I said, ‘I need some help with this issue.’ He said, ‘give me your phone number and I will call you.’ I am still waiting on that phone call. Real politicians tell you anything, but they don’t get back to you.” The office needs to be returned to the people of Arkansas.

What separates you from your primary opponents?

“I am taller,” stated Foster.

Cheryl Dowden Hot Springs Village Gazette, April 13, 2022

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1. Local Politics

Tags

1. Dan Whitfield Candidate for US Senate
2. democrat hot springs village
3. Goldi Gaines Candidate for Arkansas Commissioner of State Lands
4. hot springs village
5. hot springs village arkansas
6. Hot springs village people
7. Jack Foster Candidate for US Senate
8. James Rus Russell Candidate for Arkansas Governor
9. Jay Martin Candidate for Arkansas Governor
10. Jesse Gibson Candidate for Attorney General
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