

SHANE BROADWAY

MORE AND BETTER JOBS FOR ARKANSAS

“It’s one thing to talk about creating jobs, it’s quite another to actually have a plan to do it.”

– Shane Broadway

Shane Broadway’s Plan for More and Better Jobs for Arkansas:

- 1. Cut Taxes**
- 2. Quick Action and Technology Acceleration**
- 3. Build Partnerships**
- 4. Improve Education**
- 5. Promote Clean Energy Jobs**

This election season we've heard a lot about jobs: job numbers and unemployment figures, but what people sometimes forget is that we're not just talking about numbers and figures, we're talking about hard working Arkansans. I started my first job when I was 5 years old, helping my parents clean the First Baptist Church in Bryant. That job helped put me through college at Arkansas State University. Today I work for the Saline County Economic Development Corporation and Insight Communications where I work daily with local businesses, the chamber of commerce, schools, and elected officials to attract new jobs, retain existing jobs and bring growth to Arkansas.

Two words I use to describe Arkansas when talking about economic development are stability and diversity. Time Magazine reported recently that at a time when nearly every state is looking at drastic budget deficits, we are one of only four states with a balanced budget. And even though we have lost jobs during the recession, more than 25,000 new jobs have been announced—many of them better, higher-paying jobs than the ones we lost. We are blessed with a diversity of small and large businesses ranging from agriculture to manufacturing, technology, and service industries.

Being better off than most other states is not good enough. We must be focused on finding ways to get people back to work today with an eye on the future to ensure that our children have the opportunity to stay here in Arkansas.

As Lieutenant Governor I will draw on my experience and continue working with business, industry, entrepreneurs, educators, and hard working Arkansans to ensure that our people can get back to work. Below is my jobs plan which I'll make the major focus of my work as Lieutenant Governor.

1. Cut Taxes

“Cutting taxes will stimulate job creation, improve our economy, and make our state stronger . . . and I know how to cut taxes.” – Shane Broadway

Cutting taxes for small businesses and hard working Arkansas families will make Arkansas stronger. Shane co-sponsored the largest tax cuts in Arkansas history: reducing the sales tax on utilities for manufacturers and on diesel fuel while cutting the grocery tax by 60 percent and increasing the homestead tax credit. Shane will continue working to relieve the tax burden on Arkansans by responsibly advocating for:

- Phasing out sales tax on groceries.
- Phasing out the sales tax on utilities for manufacturers to spur new job creation.
- Increasing the equity tax credit for those who invest in new start-up companies in Arkansas, promoting entrepreneurship.
- Reducing the capital gains tax to help small businesses grow.

2. Quick Action and Technology Acceleration

“We must continue to follow the strategic plan laid out by Governor Beebe and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Our first focus must be on our existing industries. The companies who have already invested in our communities and our people, are more likely to create more and better jobs.”

–Shane Broadway

The Quick Action Closing Fund has proven to be a successful way to attract and retain high quality, good paying jobs to Arkansas. Because of it, cities around the state have brought new companies and new jobs like Hewlett-Packard in Conway, Caterpillar in North Little Rock and Nordex in Jonesboro. As an economic developer, Shane understands what an essential tool this has become to growing our economy. He will work to continue this success by advocating for:

- Funding Arkansas’s Quick Action Closing Fund which has proven to be a successful way to nourish existing industry while bringing new jobs into the state.
- Investment in Arkansas’s Technology Acceleration Fund that he sponsored in the legislature to target new start-up companies focused on technology and innovation—including the clean tech and high tech jobs of the future.
- Continued support for the initiatives of Accelerate Arkansas, Innovate Arkansas and the Arkansas Research Alliance.
- Getting communities the tools and resources they need to keep local industries where they are, to help them expand and to create new jobs.
- The passage of Issue 2 and Issue 3 in November, which will give Arkansas another tool in the tool box when it comes to creating jobs.

3. Build Partnerships

“It is the private sector that creates jobs. Government’s role is to make that easier.”
– Shane Broadway

Shane is an economic developer—it’s his life’s work. He knows the value of government working for—instead of working against—Arkansas’s job creation machinery. By bringing together new, innovative companies and our established manufacturing and tourism base we can create new lasting jobs in many industries, especially natural gas exploration and “Clean Energy” technology.

That’s why Shane will use the office of Lieutenant Governor to work with business and community leaders as well as elected officials from communities small and large to create partnerships like:

- The University of Arkansas-Little Rock Institute for Economic Advancement joining together with local leaders, especially in rural Arkansas, to draft and execute strategic plans for economic growth, to market available resources, and to train local leaders.
- The Arkansas Works program, which is part of Governor Beebe’s strategic plan, coordinating with leaders in education, industry and economic development in local communities to ensure workers have the skills they need for the jobs that are available.

4. Improve Education

“Our economic foundation is only as strong as our education system. To remain competitive in a demanding job market and to attract new jobs to Arkansas, we must continue improving our educational system to prepare our children and working adults for the new opportunities that await.” – Shane Broadway

Arkansas has worked very hard to improve all levels of education including expanding Pre-K programs, improving high school graduation rates, growing college scholarship opportunities, and building worker training programs. Our education system was recently ranked 10th in the nation. But Shane knows we can't stop there; we must:

- Expand the efforts of the Entrepreneurship Training Consortium of the Arkansas Association of Two Year Colleges that has developed curriculum to teach students in job training programs the skills to open and manage their own businesses.
- Work to create a one-stop Website to accompany this program as a place where anyone can find the tools they need to start or expand their own small business.

5. Promote Clean Energy Jobs

“Arkansas is well positioned to be a leader in this booming Clean Energy economy with innovative minds, a dedicated workforce, ready infrastructure, and prime location. Arkansas’ future is Clean Energy and the future is now.” – Shane Broadway

Over the past several years, thousands of new “Green Collar” jobs have been announced here in Arkansas. As America reduces our reliance on foreign oil we must begin to create our own sources of energy—including natural gas, energy efficient motors, batteries, wind and solar power. Today it’s not uncommon to see giant windmill blades rolling down our interstates or on our railroads on their way to the wind farms to our west.

Shane was part of the team that worked for more than two years to bring SNTech and ElectroCraft of Arkansas together to manufacture a new high energy efficiency motor right here in Arkansas. We can continue to attract these kinds of Clean Energy companies by:

- Forming partnerships between those who fund start-up companies such as venture capital firms and the state of Arkansas to attract new small business that will become the large industry of the future.
- Working with our community colleges and universities to promote opportunities for research and development as well as job training programs to train workers for these new industries.