



911 Reform

To ensure the safety of ALL Arkansans

Amount by which counties/cities currently supplement 911 annually:

\$25 million

The Problems in Arkansas

- 911 service suffers from lack of funds.
- 911 service is operating with outdated equipment/technology.
- 911 service is inefficiently organized.
- Emergency response times vary throughout the state.
- Rural areas lack broadband.
- First responders cannot communicate with one another easily.

The Solution

The Arkansas Public Safety Act

- New technology and infrastructure to meet the needs of 21st-century population.
- Reorganize the Emergency Telephone Services Board into the Arkansas 911 Board to oversee and set standards for PSAPs.
- Reduce the number of PSAPs in the state from 127 to 77, allowing PSAPs to function more efficiently.
- Repeal 3 fees: local 911 tariffs, Arkansas universal service charge, and emergency telephone service charge.
- Establish one transparent fee, the public safety connectivity charge of \$2.25, to be uniform on all landline and cell phone bills.
- These reforms will help generate an additional \$18 million for 911, \$12 million for Arkansas Wireless Information Network, and \$8 million for broadband.
- Average decrease of 32 cents on landline phone bills and average increase of 47 cents on cell phone bills.
- Expand broadband to rural areas, which will assist in the shift to Next Generation 911 services.
- Provide funding for upgrades/maintenance of Arkansas Wireless Information Network so first responders can communicate efficiently and effectively.