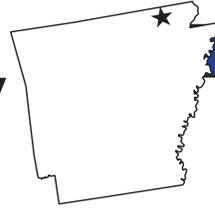


# RANDOLPH COUNTY

## Arkansas



*Plan "Snapshot"*

In Randolph County, the word “can’t” is not a part of our language. When the earliest settlers arrived, they were not dissuaded by the swampy conditions of the land. Instead, they saw the promise of rich Delta soil and the lush forests of the Ozarks. When our economy faltered due to changes in the timber or agricultural industries, or globalization of manufacturing, we rolled up our sleeves and developed new ways of adding jobs in our community. When floodwaters threatened to wash us away, we defeated them with the sheer determination of people who will not be daunted – not even by Mother Nature.

We are shaped by our history, which stretches to well before there was a State of Arkansas. Our longevity has given us a number of firsts: the first town, the first courthouse, the first school, the first ferry boat, the first post office....the list goes on and on. Descendents of many of our original families are still here, sharing with us the pioneering spirit of their ancestors. It is that spirit of grit and fortitude that drives us. We know that what happens to Randolph County will be determined by what we do today, and we will not let down the generations of the past or the future.

This is why having a strategic plan is so important. With our “sky’s the limit” mindset, it’s imperative we identify our priorities, rally our citizens and move forward together. While creating new job opportunities are at the top of our list, we want to ensure that our environmental resources are protected, our historic places are preserved, our schools are first-rate and our already superlative quality of life endures. To that end, we’ll look at the development of new business opportunities that make sense: entrepreneurship, targeted manufacturing, tourism, arts and culture, health care and education.

Randolph County is a place where people make things happen. We don’t shrink from a challenge – we embrace it. By coming together as a community, we can do anything we set our collective mind to. Our forebearers lived their lives this way in the past. We live this way today. And we will continue to do so in the future. In Randolph County, we can.

### PLAN DIRECTOR

**Dorothy McReynolds**  
*County Judge’s Office*  
*Randolph County*

**Teresa Earley**  
*Randolph County*

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**James Ashcraft**  
*Justice of the Peace*  
*Randolph County*

**Frank Bigger**  
*Mayor*  
*City of Pocahontas*

**Bill Carroll**  
*Randolph County Historic Preservation and Tourism*  
*Spicalist*

**Ben DeClerk**  
*Principal*  
*DeClerk-Throesh Engineering*

**John Jackson**  
*Randolph County Industrial Development Commission &*  
*Black Rivier Technical Center Board of Directors*

**David Jansen**  
*County Judge*  
*Randolph County*

**Luther Lewis**  
*CEO*  
*Five Rivers Medical Center*

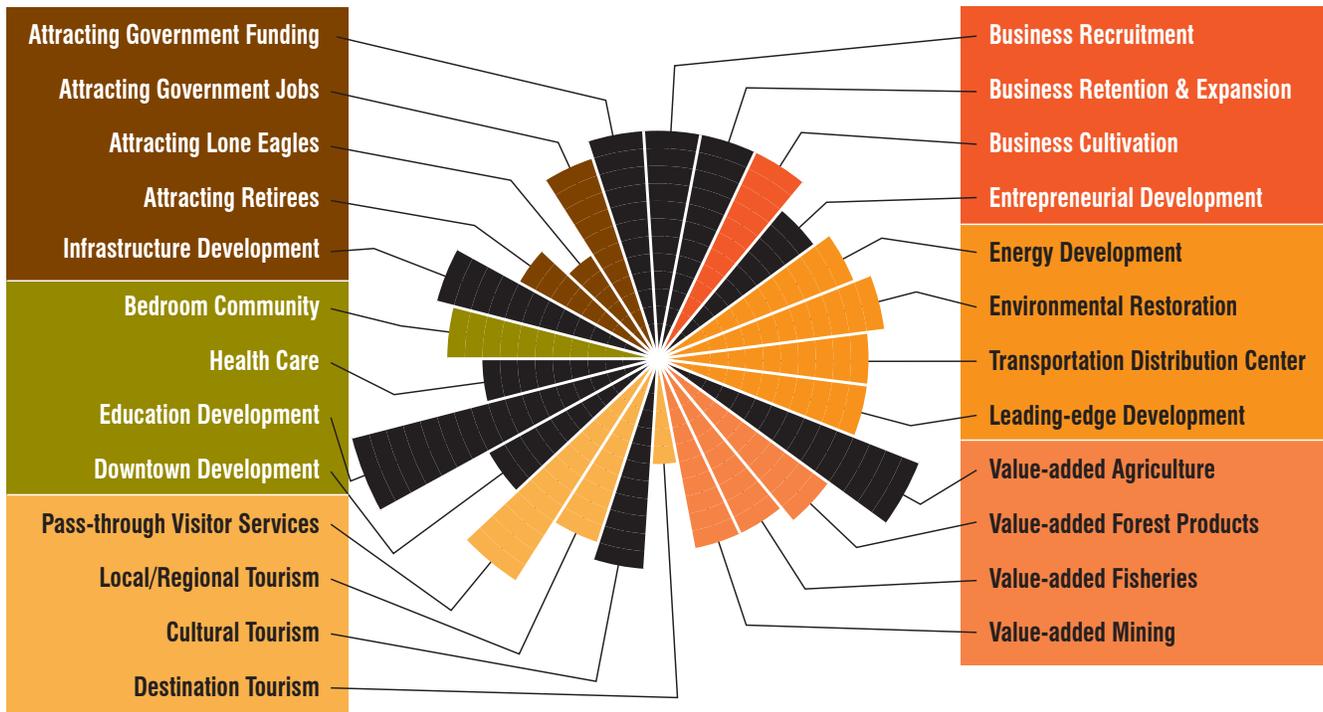
**Tim Scott**  
*Director*  
*Randolph County Chamber of Commerce*

**Don Sikes**  
*Former Mayor*  
*City of Maynard*

**Dewrell Thompson**  
*Director*  
*Randolph County Tourism Association*

## RANDOLPH COUNTY STRATEGY “THUMBPRINT”

The strategy “thumbprint” depicts twenty-five community and economic development strategies in terms of Randolph County’s potential to successfully implement each of the strategies. The longer the “spoke,” the greater the likelihood that Randolph County could see success in pursuing that strategy. Black spokes indicate strategies that have been selected for implementation by the Randolph County Steering Committee.



<b>SELECTED STRATEGIES &amp; INITIATIVES</b>	
<b>Attracting Funding</b>	<b>Collaboratively seek funding for identified priorities.</b>
<b>Bicycle &amp; Pedestrian Trails and Paths</b>	<b>Identification and development of bike and pedestrian trails throughout the county.</b>
<b>Business Recruitment</b>	<b>Improvements to infrastructure, incentives and marketing.</b>
<b>Business Retention &amp; Expansion</b>	<b>Expansion of outreach and networking programs for existing business.</b>
<b>Cultural Tourism</b>	<b>Inventory existing tourism assets; develop funding and marketing.</b>
<b>Downtown Development</b>	<b>Establishment of formal downtown district organization.</b>
<b>Dry County Law</b>	<b>Exploration of options to change current law.</b>
<b>Education Development</b>	<b>Expansion of course offerings, especially medical service training.</b>
<b>Entrepreneurial Development</b>	<b>Feasibility study for business incubator and arts industry.</b>
<b>Health Care Expansion</b>	<b>Expansion of health care training opportunities and services.</b>
<b>Infrastructure Development</b>	<b>Improvement of water, sewer and transportation networks.</b>
<b>Long-range Planning</b>	<b>Community input and land-use planning to handle future growth.</b>
<b>Retail Development</b>	<b>Development of more options for retail and dining services.</b>
<b>Value-added Agriculture</b>	<b>Examination of opportunities to expand value-added agriculture.</b>
<b>Youth, Teen and Adult Activities</b>	<b>Increase of entertainment opportunities for all ages.</b>