



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, October 29, 2024

11:30 AM Buffet Opens | 12:00 PM Meeting Begins
Great Hall, Clinton Center

Election 2024: Panel Discussion featuring Jay Barth, Robert Coon and Rex Nelson

Election Day is just around the corner and this year is shaping up to be one of the more interesting and intense elections in recent memory. From the race for President to a local tax initiative and local leadership roles on the ballot, our Election Panel including, **Jay Barth, Rex Nelson and Robert Coon** will help us make sense of the choices we face and will make some predictions about possible outcomes on November 5th.

Produced by Jay Barth

Moderated by Rex Nelson



Jay Barth is M.E. and Ima Graves Peace Emeritus Professor of Politics at Hendrix College, where he taught for 26 years, and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Bowen School of Law. Since retiring from Hendrix, Barth has served both as the inaugural Chief Education Officer for the City of Little Rock, coordinating the City's work to support education from birth through higher education in Little Rock, and the Director of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum. In 2007, Barth was named Arkansas Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). In 2014, was named winner of the Southern Political Science Association's Diane Blair Award for Outstanding Achievement in Politics and Government, in 2018, he received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Arkansas Political Science Association, and gained the 2019 Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of State Boards of Education. In 2000-01, Barth received the Steiger Congressional Fellowship from the American Political Science Association and served on the staff of the late U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone (MN) working on education and civil rights policy. From 2012 to 2019, Barth was a member of the Arkansas State Board of Education, chairing that body for two years. He presently serves as a member of the Central Arkansas Water Board of Commissioners. Over time, he has served in leadership roles in a variety of nonprofit organizations in Arkansas and nationally.

Robert Coon is the Managing Partner at Impact Management Group (IMG). He is a registered lobbyist, representing clients before the Arkansas General Assembly, Executive Branch, and state agencies. Robert also develops strategic communications campaigns involving grassroots, media, and digital outreach for IMG's public policy and issue advocacy clients. He has advised clients in a variety of industry sectors, including energy, healthcare, technology, telecommunications, financial services, labor and agriculture.

Prior to joining IMG, Robert was an Account Manager at DCI Group, a full-service public affairs firm in Washington, D.C., where he managed public affairs campaigns for Fortune 50 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, trade associations, and non-profit organizations.

Robert has been appointed to serve on a number of state and local boards and commissions. In 2011, Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola appointed Robert to the Little Rock Sister Cities Commission. He led the Commission as Chairman from 2014 to 2016 and served as a liaison to Hanam, South Korea.

In 2016, Robert was appointed to the Governor's Advisory Commission on National Service and Volunteerism, the state advisory board overseeing Arkansas based national service programs, by Governor Asa Hutchinson. Robert has also been appointed to consecutive terms as a member of the Arkansas District Export Council, most recently in 2020 as an appointee of U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Robert graduated summa cum laude from Presbyterian College (Clinton, SC) with a Bachelor of Science degree with Honors in both Business Administration and Political Science. He and his wife Lindsay are members of Fellowship Bible Church – Midtown Campus. They live in Little Rock with their two daughters, Lucy and Sally, and one son, Sam.

Rex Nelson is one of the most high-profile writers and speakers in the state. As senior editor of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, he writes three columns a week and essays for the cover of the newspaper's Sunday Perspective section. He's the author of three books -- the first full-length biography of Hillary Rodham Clinton, a biography of Arkansas educator Ben Elrod and a collection of his essays on Arkansas. He's also the author of a popular blog known as Rex Nelson's Southern Fried, hosts the Southern Fried podcast and makes regular television and radio appearances. Nelson served for almost a decade as the policy and communications director for Gov. Mike Huckabee and then served for four years in the administration of President George W. Bush as one of the president's two appointees to the Delta Regional Authority. He has been inducted into the Arkansas Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame. In 2016, Gov. Asa Hutchinson and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission named Nelson as its Rural Advocate of the Year for the state of Arkansas.

Zoom Login for October 29, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89174542803?pwd=112s1Lakzy36E37jMEoLwlvNDAMv8s.1>

Meeting ID: 891 7454 2803

Passcode: 859656

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89174542803#,,,,*859656# US (Chicago)

+16469313860,,89174542803#,,,,*859656# US

Upcoming Programs

October 2024

29 Election 2024: Panel Discussion

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November 20245 Brent Williams, Dean, Sam Walton College of Business, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville Founded in 1926, the Sam Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas has earned a spot as one of the top business schools in the country, with particular strengths in supply chain management and entrepreneurship. The college has recently announced that Brent Williams, a native Arkansan, scholar and teacher, will take the leadership reins at the college as its new dean. Come hear Dean Brent Williams' vision for the college and business education in the state.

Produced by Shannon Heard

12 The National Cold War Center, Blytheville, Arkansas

The ideological rivalry between capitalism and communism, known as the Cold War, defined global politics for nearly half a century, leading to a nuclear arms race, proxy wars and cultural and technological transformations with profound legacies for today's world. The National Cold War Center, in development on a historic Cold War battleground in Blytheville will be the nation's only museum that preserves and tells the comprehensive story, from military impact to the human experience.

Produced by Chris Bahn

19 20th Anniversary, The Clinton Presidential Center

The Clinton Presidential Center celebrates its 20th anniversary in November. It is home to three collaborative organizations: The Clinton Presidential Library and Museum – one of only 16 sites in the National Archives' Presidential Library System – which is dedicated to the life, career, and presidency of Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States. The Little Rock offices of the Clinton Foundation, President Clinton, Secretary Clinton, and Dr. Chelsea Clinton's non-profit initiative focused on developing leaders and accelerating solutions in public health, climate change, economic development, and women and girls' equality. And the Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas, which offers the first Master of Public Service degree. Come hear about the 20th anniversary celebration, including the release of a new assessment of the Clinton Center's continued economic impact in Little Rock and plans for the future.

Produced by Stephanie Street

26 No meeting. (Thanksgiving week)

Community Corner

Introducing a place for members to announce and invite participation to upcoming events! Have something to share? Email kfetzer@littlerockrotary.org

Club Leaders



[Jason Chacko](#)
President



[Mitch Bettis](#)
President-Elect



[Molly McNulty](#)
President-Nominee



[Natalie Ghidotti](#)
iPast President



[Drew Harper](#)
Treasurer



[Greg McCarroll](#)
Treasurer-Elect



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[Rachel O'Neal](#)
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Club Service Chair