



Hot Springs Future Fund Steering Committee

## people will be engaged in THEIR COMMUNITIES

How do you measure civic engagement? Most of the ways we show we care about our communities – stopping by to check on an elderly neighbor, volunteering at a local food pantry, attending a Kiwanis Club meeting, calling a local official to discuss a city ordinance - are not being tracked systematically by demographers or government agencies.

However, charitable giving statistics can give us some insight into how invested citizens are in their communities, and on this measure, Arkansas performs well. The Catalog for Philanthropy's Generosity Index consistently ranks Arkansas among the top three most generous states based on a comparison of adjusted gross income and itemized charitable donations reported on IRS tax returns.<sup>14</sup> *Aspire Arkansas's* county-by-county giving data gleaned from IRS records shows the highest level of charitable giving in major population centers with the largest concentrations of wealth. But it's important to note that many Arkansans don't itemize their tax returns, and therefore, their charitable giving goes unreported.

Voter participation is another way to gauge the involvement of citizens. The figures expressed in *Aspire Arkansas* are calculated by dividing the number of people who voted in the 2010 general election and judicial runoff by the total number of registered voters (that is, how many people, of those eligible to vote, actually cast a vote). Interestingly, the county voter participation data do not correlate with population, proximity to major universities or industries, or the county poverty rate. Participating in the democratic process is a key way citizens can create positive change in their communities, and it does not require great wealth or a graduate degree.



### giving circles BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

"Most people my age don't have \$10,000 lying around to start an endowment of their own," explained Lance Porter, chair of the Hot Springs Future Fund steering committee. "I like the concept of being able to take our pooled membership dues and bring them together to build an endowment."

Porter and his colleagues on the Hot Springs Future Fund steering committee are partnering to build a giving circle for young professionals in their community. Members of this newly formed group pool their charitable dollars and meet to decide which local causes and organizations they want to support with their shared funds.

HSSF member Amy Johnson added, "This group appeals to 20-, 30- and 40-year-olds who are in the middle of raising families, working 40 hours a week and living on tight budgets."

Group members are discovering that the Hot Springs Future Fund is less about their financial contributions than about their long-term support for the community. Because membership dues are invested in a permanent endowment, the money they contribute now in their 20s and 30s will continue to grow and benefit Hot Springs when their children and grandchildren are in their 20s and 30s.

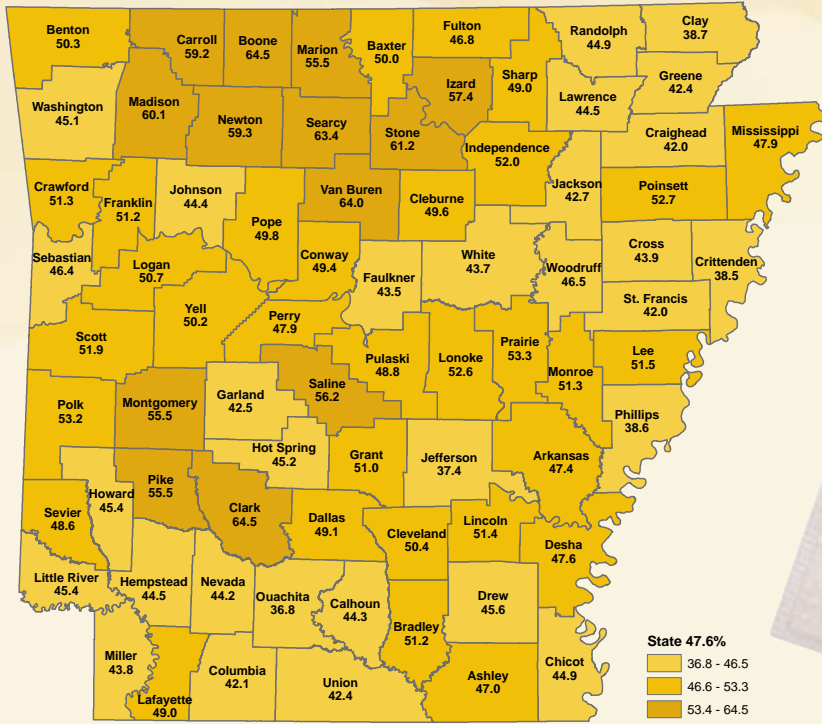
That means membership is not only a commitment to Hot Springs, it's also a commitment to each other, as members come together to make grants from their endowment every year. "Our mission isn't just to raise money. We also want to engage a younger generation of givers and educate them about what an endowment is - what philanthropy is," said Porter.

14 Catalog for Philanthropy. (2006, November). *Generosity Index 2006*. Retrieved from [http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/natl/generosity\\_index/2006.html](http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/natl/generosity_index/2006.html)

# voter PARTICIPATION

by County: 2010

(general election and non-partisan judicial runoff election)



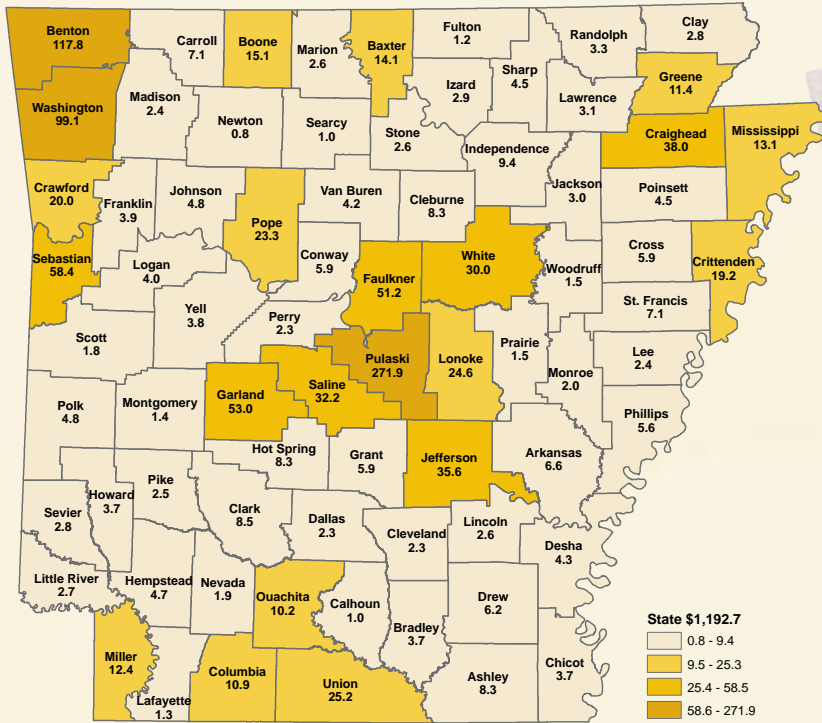
Source: Arkansas Secretary of State's Office, Vote Naturally



# charitable GIVING

by County: 2006

(itemized contributions reported - \$Millions)



Source: Internal Revenue Service, Charitable Giving by Households that Itemize Deductions



# definitions and SOURCES

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## **Grade 4 Math Proficiency**

The percent of students in Grade 4 meeting or exceeding proficiency in math on the Criterion Referenced Test, Benchmark Examination, Combined Population. Arkansas Department of Education.

## **Grade 4 Literacy Proficiency**

The percent of students in Grade 4 meeting or exceeding proficiency in literacy on the Criterion Referenced Test, Benchmark Examination, Combined Population. Arkansas Department of Education.

## **Grade 8 Math Proficiency**

The percent of students in Grade 8 meeting or exceeding proficiency in math on the Criterion Referenced Test, Benchmark Examination, Combined Population. Arkansas Department of Education.

## **Grade 8 Literacy Proficiency**

The percent of students in Grade 8 meeting or exceeding proficiency in literacy on the Criterion Referenced Test, Benchmark Examination, Combined Population. Arkansas Department of Education.

## **Grade 11 Literacy Proficiency**

The percent of students in Grade 11 meeting or exceeding proficiency in literacy on the Grade 11 Literacy Exam. Arkansas Department of Education.

## **Graduation Rates**

Graduation (completion) rates are the percent of students enrolled during grade 9 and completing grade 12. Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration.

## **Remediation Rate**

The percent of first time students in Arkansas public higher education institutions that took the ACT, SAT,

Asset, or Compass exam and were assigned to any remedial course. Fall Term Only. Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Unpublished Data.

## **High School Graduates**

The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is a high school diploma, GED, or the equivalent. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

## **Population with Associate's Degree**

The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is an Associate's Degree. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

## **Population with Bachelor's Degree**

The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is a Bachelor's Degree. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

## **Population with Graduate or Professional Degree**

The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is a Graduate or Professional Degree. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

## **Births to Teens**

The number of births in which the woman was less than 18 years of age. The birth rate is the number of births to teens divided by the number of females age 11-17 and then multiplied by 1,000. Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.

## **Children in Single Parent Families**

The percent of children in family households who live with a male/female householder with no spouse present. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

## definitions and SOURCES (CONTINUED)

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### Total Population in Poverty

The percent of the total population in poverty is the sum of the population below the poverty level divided by the total population in families. Poverty status is determined from income data. Poverty thresholds are arranged in a two dimensional matrix based on family size and number of children in the family. The total income of the family was tested against the appropriate threshold to determine the poverty status of the family. If the family income was less than the corresponding cutoff, the family was classified as below the poverty level. U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.

### Children in Poverty

The percent of children in poverty is the sum of children below the poverty level divided by the total number of children in families. U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.

### Elderly in Poverty

The percent of elderly in poverty is the sum of the population over 65 years of age below the poverty level divided by the total number of people age 65 and over. The Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. Further, poverty thresholds for people living alone or with nonrelatives (unrelated individuals) and two-person families vary by age (under 65 years or 65 years and older). U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

### Low Birth Weight Babies

The percent of low birth weight babies is the sum of babies with a birth weight less than 2500 grams divided by the total number of births. Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.

### Infant Mortality Rate

The number of infant deaths (children under 1 year of age) per 1,000 live births. Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Health Statistics Branch Query System, January 4, 2011.

### Fluoridated Water

The percent of the Public Water System population receiving fluoridation. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

### Overweight/Obese Adults

The percent of adults who reported having a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 25.0 on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey. Arkansas Department of Health.

### Overweight/Obese Students

The number of overweight or at risk for overweight students as shown in the annual body mass index (BMI) screening of Arkansas public school students. This number is divided by the number of students in grades K, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10. Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas, Year 7.

### Any Drug - Lifetime Use

The percent of students who reported using any drug at least once in their lifetime on the Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment Student Survey. The data reported is for grades 6, 8, 10, 12 combined. Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Behavioral Sciences, Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

### Cigarette Smokers

The percent of adults who reported currently being cigarette smokers on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey. Arkansas Department of Health.

## definitions and SOURCES (CONTINUED)

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### No Exercise

The percent of adults who reported that they did not participate in physical activity during the past 30 days on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey. Arkansas Department of Health.

### Meeting Physical Activity Requirement

The percent of adults who reported that they participate in either 30 or more minutes of moderate physical activity 5 or more days per week or vigorous physical activity for 20 or more minutes 3 or more days per week on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey. Arkansas Department of Health.

### Median Household Income

Median household income divides the income distribution into two equal parts, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median. U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.

### Median Selected Monthly Owner Costs

Selected monthly owner costs are calculated for owner-occupied units and are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property (including payments for the first mortgage, second mortgages, home equity loans, and other junior mortgages); real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer); and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.). Median selected monthly owner costs divides the selected monthly owner costs distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median selected monthly owner costs and one-half above the median. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

### Median Gross Rent

Gross rent is the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.) if these are paid by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else). Median gross rent divides the gross rent distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median gross rent and one-half above the median. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

### Owner Occupied Housing Unit

A housing unit is owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. The owner or co-owner must live in the unit. The number of owner occupied housing units is divided by the total number of occupied housing units. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

### Renter Occupied Housing Unit

All occupied housing units which are not owner occupied, whether they are rented or occupied without payment of rent, are classified as renter occupied. The number of renter occupied housing units is divided by the total number of occupied housing units. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

### Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed divided by the civilian labor force. Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information, January 7, 2011.

## definitions and SOURCES (CONTINUED)

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### Convictions for Violent Offenses

These offenses include felony convictions for capital murder; murder in the first degree; murder in the second degree; manslaughter; negligent homicide; physician-assisted suicide; kidnapping; first degree false imprisonment; vehicular piracy; permanent restraint and detention; trafficking of persons; robbery; aggravated robbery; battery in the first degree; battery in the second degree; aggravated assault; administering controlled substances to another; aggravated assault upon an employee of a correctional facility; terroristic threatening; terroristic act; rape; sexual indecency with a child; indecent exposure; knowingly transmitting AIDS, HIV; sexual assault in the first degree; sexual assault in the second degree; sexual assault in the third degree; sexual assault in the fourth degree; registered offender living near school, public park, youth center, or daycare prohibited; registered offender working with children prohibited; registered offender – incorrect permanent physical address on identification cards or driver’s license prohibited; registered offender living near victim or having contact with victim prohibited; registered offender prohibited from entering upon school campus; video voyeurism; voyeurism; death threats concerning a school employee or student; death threats concerning a school employee or student; incest; concealing birth; domestic battering in the first degree; domestic battering in the second degree; domestic battering in the third degree; aggravated assault on a family or household member; abortion; unlawful abortion; and unlawful discharge of a firearm from a vehicle. Administrative Office of the Courts.

### Convictions for Offenses Against Children and Impaired Persons

These offenses include felony convictions for endangering the welfare of incompetent person – first degree; endangering the welfare of minor – first degree; permitting abuse of a minor; exposure of child to a chemical substance or methamphetamine; engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print medium; sexually explicit conduct, children; transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct; internet stalking of a child; use of children in sexual performances; employing children – sexual performances; promoting child sexual performances; manufacture, etc., fraudulent IDs; possession of fraudulent or altered personal identification document unlawful; distributing, possessing, or viewing matter depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child; computer child pornography; computer exploitation of a child; and criminal penalties for abuse, neglect, or exploitation of endangered or impaired person. Administrative Office of the Courts.

### Convictions for Offenses Against Property

These offenses include felony convictions for theft of property; theft of services; theft of property lost, mislaid, or delivered by mistake; theft by receiving; theft – leased, rented or entrusted property – false report of wealth or credit; theft of public benefits; theft of wireless service; facilitating theft of wireless service by manufacture, distribution, or possession of devices for theft of wireless services; unlawful use of theft detection shielding device; unlawful possession of theft detection shielding device; unlawful possession of theft detection device remover; unlawful removal of theft detection device;

## definitions and SOURCES (CONTINUED)

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forgery; defrauding secured creditor; fraud in insolvency; fraudulent use of a credit card or debit card; criminal impersonation; criminal possession of forgery devices; deceptively obtaining signatures; defrauding judgment creditors, unlawfully using slugs, criminal simulation; financial identity fraud – nonfinancial identity fraud; hot check; theft of communication services; unauthorized copying or sale of recordings, transportation of property by motor vehicle, fraud; defrauding materialmen; causing a catastrophe – threatening to cause a catastrophe; criminal mischief, first degree; criminal mischief, second degree; impairing operation of vital public facility; arson; reckless burning; unlawful burning; residential and commercial burglary; breaking and entering; aggravated residential burglary; cemeteries – mining and other unlawful entries; destruction or removal of a cemetery marker or grave marker; computer fraud; computer trespass; unlawful acts regarding computers; unlawful interference with access to computers – unlawful use or access of computers; unlawful use of encryption; unlawful act involving electronic mail; computer password disclosure; and criminal use of property or laundering criminal proceeds. Administrative Office of the Courts.

### Convictions for Offenses Against the Public

These offenses include felony convictions for advocating assassination or overthrow of government; usurping office; conspiracy, usurping government; intentional injury to or interference with government property; intentionally defective workmanship; abuse of public trust; perjury; witness bribery; threatening, intimidating witnesses; tampering with physical evidence;

retaliation against a witness, informant, or juror; juror bribery; intimidating juror, witness, or informant; jury tampering; approaching jury commissioners to influence juror selection; threatening a judicial official or juror; interference with law enforcement officer; hindering apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of another; compounding offenses; first degree escape; second degree escape; furnishing implements for escape; furnishing implement for unauthorized departure; furnishing prohibited articles; failure to appear; tampering with a public record; filing false reports; fleeing arrest or detention; killing or injuring animals used by law enforcement or search and rescue dogs; absconding; soliciting material support for terrorism – providing material support for a terrorist act; making a terrorist threat; falsely communicating a terrorist threat; terrorism; hindering prosecuting of terrorism; exposing the public to toxic biological, chemical, or radioactive substances; use of a hoax substance; Medicaid fraud; trafficking in illegal food coupons or vouchers; knowingly making false statements to State Department for Social Security Administration Disability Determination; abusing corpses; unlawful dog fighting; driving while intoxicated; keeping a gambling house; horse betting penalties; obscene films; promoting obscene materials; promotion of obscene performances; obscene performances at live public shows; public display of hard-core sexual conduct; prohibition; obscene material; promoting prostitution, first degree; aggravated riot; inciting riot; arming rioters; communicating a false alarm; threatening fire or bombing; defacing objects of public respect; stalking; promoting civil disorder; possession of firearm by prohibited

## definitions and SOURCES (CONTINUED)

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person; criminal use of prohibited weapons; defacing firearms; possession of defaced firearms; criminal acts involving explosives; furnishing deadly weapon to minor; handguns – possession by minor or possession on school property; possession of deadly weapons in publicly owned buildings and facilities; installation or maintenance of booby trap; furnishing deadly weapon to a felon; possession or use of weapons by incarcerated persons; sale, rental, or transfer of firearm to prohibited person; purchase or possession of a taser stun gun; machine gun possession; possession of machine gun in course of criminal offense; false answer on concealed handgun permit application; engaging in a continuing criminal gang, organization, or enterprise; unauthorized use of another person's property to facilitate a crime; weapons possession during controlled substance offenses; and sale or transfer of blue lights or blue lens caps. Administrative Office of the Courts.

### Convictions for Drug Offenses

These offenses include felony convictions for manufacturing, delivering, possessing with intent to manufacture or deliver, and possessing a controlled substance; maintaining a drug premises; obtaining drug by fraud; unlawful use of communication device; engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise; manufacture of methamphetamine in the presence of certain persons; drug paraphernalia; unlawful possession of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropranolamine; possession of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropranolamine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine; and possession of anhydrous ammonia in unlawful containers. Administrative Office of the Courts.

### Voter Participation

The number of votes in the 2010 General Election and Non-Partisan Judicial Runoff Election divided by the number of registered voters. Arkansas Secretary of State's Office, Vote Naturally.

### Charitable Giving

Charitable giving as reported on IRS tax return Form 1040, Schedule A, by households that itemize deductions. Internal Revenue Service, Charitable Giving by Households that Itemize Deductions.



see the present,  
ENVISION THE FUTURE



## see the present, ENVISION THE FUTURE

Arkansas Community Foundation's seven Aspirations for Arkansas Communities are goals for the future of our state. In partnership with the Institute for Economic Advancement at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, we have compiled county-by-county data from a variety of state agencies and other sources to provide a snapshot of where our communities stand. How healthy are we? How civically active are we? How safe are our communities? How strong are our educational institutions?

Founded in 1976, ARCF is Arkansas's only statewide community foundation. We work locally through a network of 27 community-based affiliate offices to gain an in-depth understanding of our state's towns and cities and a statewide perspective on Arkansas's challenges and opportunities.

Arkansas Community Foundation engages people, connects resources and inspires solutions to build community. We make grants to improve the quality of life in our state and partner with individuals, families and organizations to strengthen Arkansas's communities through philanthropy.

Our vision is for Arkansans to use this information to identify and address the challenges in their communities and to celebrate and replicate the successes revealed in the report.

Arkansas Community Foundation is committed to using these findings to build Arkansas's communities. This report is simply a starting point. Now, let's chart a course toward Arkansas's future.

### for more INFORMATION

To find comprehensive fact sheets for each of Arkansas's 75 counties, visit [www.arcf.org/aspirearkansas](http://www.arcf.org/aspirearkansas). Historical data from previous years is also available online.

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INSTITUTE *for*  
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

## providing economic advancement support: DATA, RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Founded in 1955 as the research and support arm of what is today, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Institute for Economic Advancement (IEA) has expanded its reach to many public and private organizations in agencies in the enhancement of community economic development opportunities for the state of Arkansas. Throughout its existence, IEA has been a part of the University of Arkansas System and always located in Little Rock.

As Arkansas's only university-based economic development outreach unit with a statewide mandate, IEA houses the Arkansas Census State Data Center, the UAlR Geographic Information Systems Laboratory, the Center for Economic Development Education, and the state's Labor Education Program. The Demographic Research unit represents Arkansas in the Federal-State Cooperative Programs for Population Estimates and Projections, another official partnership with the U. S. Bureau of the Census. IEA also serves as the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration University Center for Arkansas, and when applicable, the southwest federal region.

*Aspire Arkansas* is a prime example of the quality research that the IEA staff provides for the advancement of Arkansas. Our vision is that the indicators and demographic measures in this report will be helpful in the decision process to create positive change in our state. Progressive communities provide fertile ground for economic development.

### **Institute for Economic Advancement**

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