

Governor 1-Shutdown

MEH

1/11 (Fri PM & Sat AM)

Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson says he hopes President Trump doesn't declare a national emergency to get funding for a boarder wall with Mexico. Speaking with reporters today (Fri), Hutchinson said that should only be considered as a last resort.

News01 0:21 "...to get together."

The governor said he's carefully watching the impact the shutdown is having on Arkansas. 10 employees of the Department of Finance and Administration, whose salaries are paid for with federal dollars because they oversee federal funds, are not being paid. If the shutdown continues into the spring, Hutchinson said he's concerned about the Buffalo National River because of the amount of tourist revenue that brings to the state.

Governor 2-Taxes

MEH

1/11 (Fri PM & Sat AM)

Ahead of Monday's start of the 2019 Arkansas General Assembly, Governor Asa Hutchinson says he'll make sure no residents see an increase in their state income taxes. A key proposal to be taken up by lawmakers is Hutchinson's plan to cut taxes for the state's top earners from 6-point-9 percent to 5-point-9 percent. Speaking to reporters today (Fri), the governor noted it was discovered that about 200-thousand people would see their taxes go up.

News02 0:21 "...of the options."

One possibility, Hutchinson said, is allowing people to revert to their previous income tax rate if they would see an increase. He also defended his proposal saying it's needed to make Arkansas more competitive with other states.