



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scott E. Spencer

President & CEO

Sterling Bank Breaks Ground on New Little Rock Branch, Expanding Commitment to Arkansas Communities

November 21, 2025, Poplar Bluff, MO – Sterling Bank of Poplar Bluff, MO, broke ground on its newest full-service banking facility in Little Rock, AR on Thursday, November 6th, 2025, marking the bank's fourth location in Arkansas and its first in Central Arkansas. Announcing the expansion, President and CEO Scott E. Spencer said, "This new location represents an important step forward for Sterling Bank. We're excited to strengthen our presence in Arkansas and bring our community-focused approach to the area." Sterling currently operates locally from a smaller location at 1811 Rahling Road.

The future location at the corner of Rahling Road and Kirk Road will offer an upscale banking environment and will feature a large community room designed for customers, community partners and organizations to use for meetings and events. Construction is expected to be completed by late 2027. Spencer noted, "We want this space to be more than a branch. We want it to be a resource - a place where the community can come together."

Spencer emphasized the bank's longstanding commitment to serving customers with personalized, relationship-driven service. "Sterling Bank is deeply committed to community banking - where relationships come first," he said. "Expanding into Little Rock allows us to build new partnerships and support the local businesses and organizations that make this community thrive."

Sterling proudly offers a full range of products, services and lending solutions. Sterling Bank provides first-time home buyer programs, offers complex loan expertise, and specializes in serving the affordable housing industry.

Arkansas President Johnathon Welch announced that Vice President Zak Maestri will lead the Little Rock location. Maestri, who joined Sterling Bank in 2024, has more than twelve years of banking experience. Welch praised Maestri's leadership, saying, "We are excited to serve customers in Central Arkansas and believe Zak is the ideal person to guide our efforts in Little Rock." Welch concluded, "We look forward to expanding our footprint here and becoming a trusted partner to the people and businesses we serve."

About Sterling Bank

Sterling Bank is the wholly owned subsidiary of Sterling Bancshares, Inc. Sterling Bank is headquartered in Poplar Bluff, Missouri and operates 16 locations across three states: eight throughout Southeast Missouri, two in St. Louis, one in Kansas City, one in the Chicago suburb of St. Charles, Illinois and four in Arkansas.

As of September 30, 2025, Sterling Bank has assets of \$1,506,593,306 and gross loans of \$1,018,913,900 with \$1,754,789,228 loans under management.

Sterling Bank offers a full array of retail and commercial products from checking accounts, savings accounts, loan products, and market rate deposit products. Sterling Bank specializes in lending for the affordable housing industry.

Visit Sterling Bank's website to learn more: www.sterbank.bank.

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Construction partners include Dille Pollard Architecture – architectural services, Commerce Construction Company, Inc. - construction services, Emma Lambeth Designs – interior design services, Crafton Tull – engineering services, and Case Engineering, Inc. – engineering services.

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