Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Van Buren woman asks to withdraw from race for Democratic nomination in Arkansas' 3rd District

November 13, 2025 by Michael R. Wickline

Diana Lawrence of Van Buren asked Wednesday to withdraw from Arkansas' 3rd congressional district race in the 2026 elections.

Lawrence filed on November 3 as a Democrat seeking the party's nomination in the 3rd congressional district, she said Wednesday in a letter to Arkansas Secretary of State Cole Jester, but "I am officially requesting to withdraw from said race."

Lawrence's departure from the race leaves Republican incumbent Steve Womack of Rogers and Democratic candidate Robb Ryerse of Springdale seeking the congressional seat in the 2026, according to the secretary of state's website.

Lawrence said Thursday in an interview that her withdrawal from the race is "more family related" because she is a grandmother.

"I thought Robb Ryerse would probably in the end be a better candidate," she added.

In 2028, Ryerse lost to Womack for the Republican nomination in Arkansas' 3rd district. Lawrence noted that she previously made unsuccessful bids for a Wisconsin State Assembly seat on three occasions.

Michael R. Wickline
mwickline@adgnewsroom.com

Mike Wickline covers state politics, and he has covered the state Legislature for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette since November 2000. He previously spent several years covering the Idaho Legislature for the Lewiston Morning Tribune.

Shared and paid for by Diana Lawrence for Congress (2026), DianaLawrenceCongress.com