MISSISSIPPI

A GUIDE TO THE MAGNOLIA STATE

2015

PUBLISHED BY
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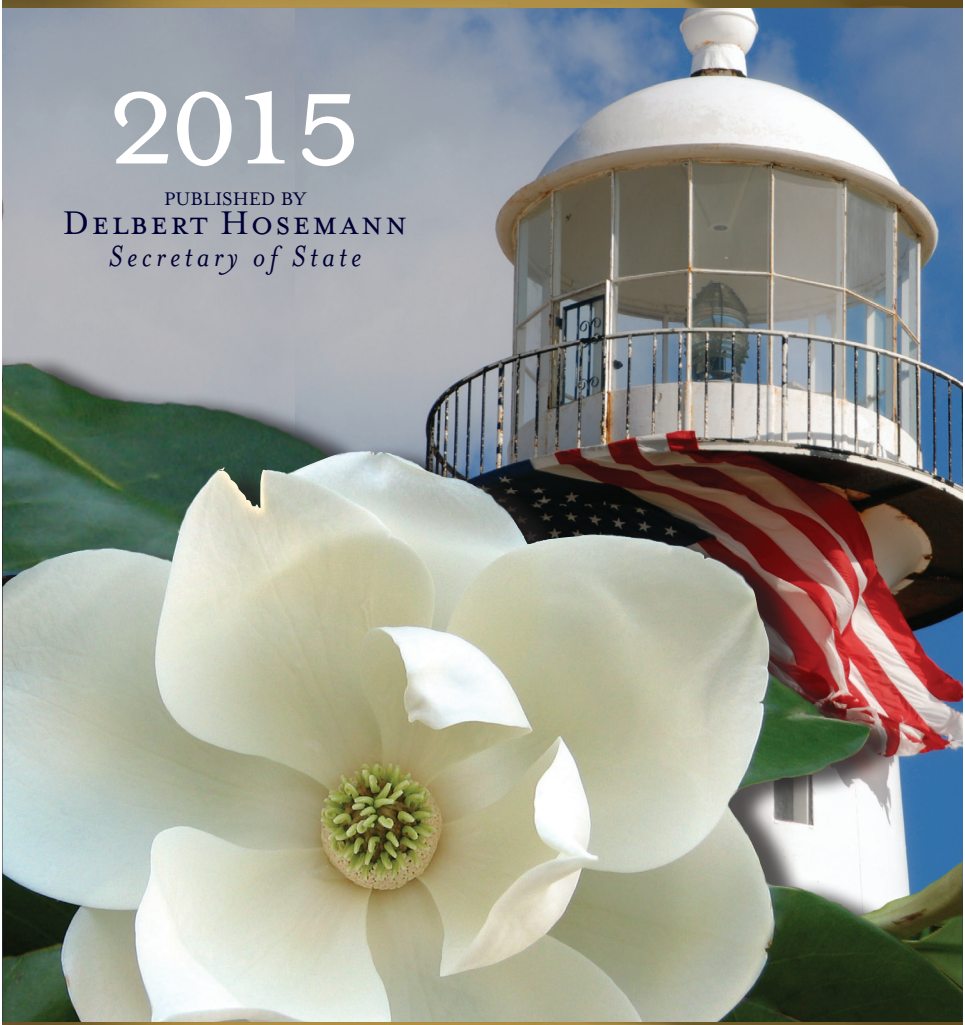
Secretary of State



MISSISSIPPI

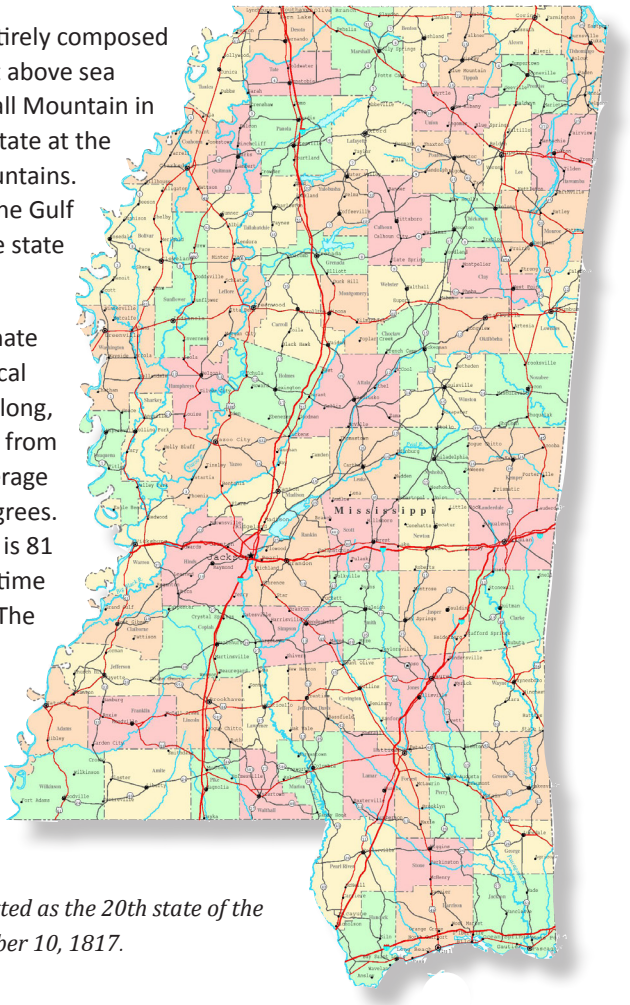
Mississippi is the 20th state admitted to the Union. Nicknamed both “The Magnolia State” and “The Hospitality State,” Mississippi took its name from the Mississippi River which originates from the Indian word misi-ziibi, meaning “Great River” or “Father of Waters.” David Holmes was chosen as the first governor of the State.

With a population of almost 3 million and a land mass of 48,434 square miles, Mississippi is the 32nd most extensive and the 31st most populous of the 50 states. The state’s density is 63.5 persons per square mile. Mississippi is heavily forested, with more than half of the state’s area covered by wild trees, including pine, cottonwood, elm, hickory, oak, pecan, sweetgum and tupelo.

The State of Mississippi is entirely composed of lowlands. Situated at 806 feet above sea level, the highest point is Woodall Mountain in the northeastern corner of the state at the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains. The lowest point is sea level at the Gulf Coast. The mean elevation in the state is 300 feet above sea level.

For most of the year, the climate is mild, but becomes semi–tropical on the Gulf Coast. Summers are long, making it possible to grow crops from March through October. The average temperature in January is 48 degrees. The average temperature in July is 81 degrees, but more common daytime temperatures range in the 90’s. The average rainfall is 52 inches, and fall is the driest season.

The State Capital is Jackson.



Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state of the United States on December 10, 1817.

The interior dome of the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson contains 750 lights which illuminate a blind-folded lady representing "Blind Justice" and four scenes: two Indians, a Spanish explorer and a Confederate general.

STATE SYMBOLS

Mississippi's Coat of Arms was adopted in 1894. Inscribed on the scroll is the state motto Virtute et Armis – "By Valor and Arms."

The Great Seal - The state seal has been in use since Mississippi became a state in 1817. The Seal was amended by an act of the 2014 Legislature to include the words "In God We Trust."

State Flag - Designated in 1894, the state flag incorporates the national colors – red, white, and blue – and 13 stars for the original states of the Union. The flag was adopted by popular vote on April 17, 2001.

State Bird - Found in all sections of Mississippi, the mockingbird was selected as the official state bird by the Women's Federated Clubs and by the State Legislature in 1944.

State Flower and Tree - In 1900, the school children of Mississippi elected the magnolia as the state flower. In 1952, the Legislature selected the magnolia as the official state tree.

State Waterfowl - Wood duck

State Song - "Go Mississippi"

State Fish - Largemouth or black bass

State Insect - Honeybee

State Shell - Oyster shell

State Water Mammal - Bottlenosed dolphin

State Fossil - Prehistoric whale

State Land Mammals – Red fox and Whitetailed deer

State Beverage - Milk

State Stone - Petrified wood

State Butterfly - Spicebush swallowtail

State Dance - Square dancing

State Toy - Teddy bear

State Soil - Natchez Silt Loam

Native Dominion

Upon the first arrival of Europeans, the region now included in the State of Mississippi was inhabited by three powerful Indian tribes: the Choctaws, the Chickasaws, and the Natchez.

1540–1541

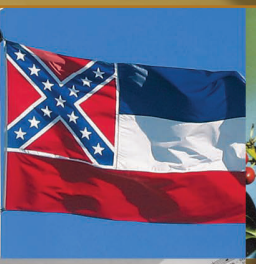
Hernando DeSoto, Spanish explorer becomes the first known European to enter Mississippi. In the spring of 1541, he reaches the Mississippi River a few miles south of Memphis.

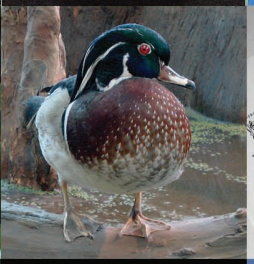
1673

Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet begin exploring the Mississippi River on May 17. They reach Mississippi in July and explore as far south as the mouth of the Arkansas River near present-day Rosedale before turning back.

1682

Robert Cavalier de La Salle navigates the Mississippi River to its mouth and claims all lands drained by the river for France.





French Dominion, 1699–1763

1699

Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur D'Iberville, and his brother, Jean Baptiste, Sieur De Bienville, found the first European settlement at Fort Maurepas on the present site of Ocean Springs.

1716

Fort Rosalie is built on the site of present–day Natchez.

1729

French settlers at Fort Rosalie are massacred by Natchez Indians in an effort to drive Europeans from Mississippi, and hundreds of slaves are set free.

1732

The French, with help from the Choctaws, retaliate for the massacre at Fort Rosalie. The Natchez Indians are destroyed and cease to exist as a separate tribe.

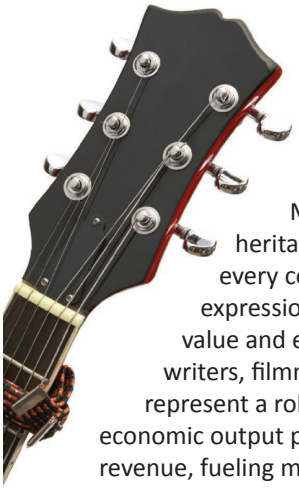
1736

Bienville leads French troops in an attack on the Chickasaw Indians near present–day Lee County. He is defeated at the Battle of Ackia.

English Dominion, 1763–1779

1763

After the French and Indian War, Mississippi, along with all French territory east of the Mississippi River, passes into English control.



CREATIVE CULTURE

Mississippi has a long, rich cultural heritage, touching the lives of people in every corner of the globe. Our ideas and the expressions of our creativity have both lasting value and economic power. Our artists, architects, writers, filmmakers and other creative professionals represent a robust economic force, whose combined economic output produces more than $2 billion in annual revenue, fueling more than 40,000 jobs across the State.

Contemporary music is rooted in Mississippi. The blues grew out of the Delta, and other genres of popular music have been strongly influenced by Mississippians - gospel, country, R&B, rock, and jazz. Treks along the ever-growing Mississippi Blues Trail draw visitors from around the world to our State.

A remarkable number of writers have emerged from Mississippi - William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams, Margaret Walker Alexander, Richard Wright, Willie Morris, John Grisham and Kathryn Stockett, just to name a few. Richard Ford is the state's most recent Pulitzer Prize recipient, honored in 1996 for his novel *Independance Day*.

Roots of Mississippi traditions can be traced though annual events that celebrate various influences on our culture – events such as the Choctaw Indian Festival, the Mississippi State Fair, the Blessing of the Fleet, the Neshoba County Fair, and the Delta Blues Festival.

Vicksburg National Military Park, established by the U.S. Congress in 1899, is one of the most densely-monumented battlefields in the world. More than 1,000 historic structures are located on the grounds of this 1,700 acre park.

Established in the 19th century, the Neshoba County Fair has become a summer tradition for Mississippians who appreciate good music, colorful cabins, horse races, politics, and fun.

Spanish Dominion, 1779–1798

1779

Bernardo Galvez, governor of Spanish Louisiana, captures Natchez.

1781–1783

The Treaty of Paris, between the United States and Britain, provides for the transfer of West Florida which includes the southern half of Mississippi to Spain. America gains possession of Mississippi north of the 32 degree 28 minute parallel.

1797

America gains control of Natchez as Spain yields control of all land in Mississippi north of the 31st parallel. U.S. surveyor Andrew Ellicott was instrumental in the negotiation of this treaty.

1798

Mississippi is organized as an American territory. The first territorial governor is Winthrop Sargent.

1801

Mississippi advances to the second stage of territorial government

1801–1802

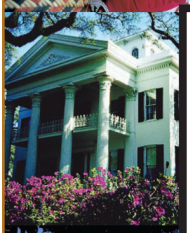
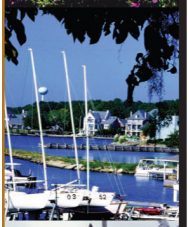
Mississippi moves its territorial capital from Natchez to Washington, a small town near the Natchez Trace.

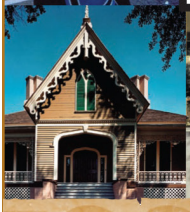
A treaty with the Indians allows the Natchez Trace to be developed as a mail route and major road.

FAME

Mississippi takes great pride as the home of an astonishing number of influential people. Listed below are just a few of the authors and entertainers who have called our State their own.

Elvis Presley – King of Rock and Roll, born in Tupelo
John Grisham – best-selling author, lived in Oxford
Faith Hill – country superstar, born in Jackson, lived in Star
Alice Walker – author and civil rights leader, lived in Meridian
Morgan Freeman – actor, lives near Clarksdale
Oprah Winfrey – TV talk show host, born in Kosciusko
Jim Henson – creator of the Muppets, born in Greenville
Leontyne Price – opera singer, born in Laurel
Sela Ward – actor, born in Meridian
Walter Anderson – artist, lived in Ocean Springs
B.B. King – blues musician, born in Itta Bena
Marty Stuart – country singer, born in Philadelphia
William Faulkner – author, born in New Albany, lived in Oxford
Robin Roberts – TV personality, lived in Pass Christian
Jimmy Buffet – musician, born in Pascagoula
Eudora Welty – author, born in and lived in Jackson
Bo Diddley – rock and roll musician, born in McComb
Willie Morris – author, born in Jackson, lived in Yazoo City
Margaret Walker Alexander – author, lived in Jackson
Jimmie Rodgers - Father of Country Music, lived in Meridian



1803
The Louisiana Purchase opens the Mississippi River for commerce.

1805
The Treaty of Mount Dexter gives the U.S. government 4.5 million acres of land in exchange for canceling the debts owed by Native Americans. The area includes the Piney Woods region of the state.

1812
The War of 1812 begins.

Mississippi's boundary east of the Pearl River is extended south to the Gulf of Mexico.

1816
The Treaty of Fort Stephens with the Choctaws opens 3 million acres of land around the Tombigbee Prairie for settlement.

State of Mississippi

1817
The Mississippi territory is divided. The western half becomes the twentieth state, Mississippi, on December 10, 1817. David Holmes becomes its first governor.

MISSISSIPPI TRIVIA

- At 26 miles long, the Mississippi Gulf Coast is home of the world's longest one of these. What is it?
- Which popular beverage was first put into bottles in Vicksburg in 1894?
- In 1882, the world's first heavyweight championship fight took place in Mississippi City, now a part of Gulfport. What term was first coined during this bout?
- Jackson's Davis Planetarium was the first organization to do what?
- The largest antebellum mansion in Mississippi burned to the ground in 1890. What is its name?
- A William T. Sherman necktie was on display at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson for many years. What is its historical significance?
- Mississippi has a ghost town. Do you know its name?
- Friendship Cemetery in Columbus is known as "The place where flowers healed a nation." What national holiday is said to have had its start there?
- There is a magnificent oak tree in Long Beach that is more than 500 years old. Do you know its name?
- The only genre of music commonly recognized as truly original to America had its roots in Mississippi. What is it and where was it started?
- There is a unique plantation located near Edwards. Boasting more than 3,000 varieties, what plant is grown there?
- Why is the Pascagoula River called "The Singing River?"
- The trophy from what famous 1870 riverboat race is on display at the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg?
- James Dodson Byron of Clinton developed what essential element of the space program?
- What youth organization was founded in Holmes County in 1907?
- Emerald Mound is the second largest one of these in the United States. What and where is it?
- Mississippi has more of this type of farm than any other state. What is it?
- A world-famous hat maker called Dunn's Falls his home after the Civil War. Who was he?
- The first chapter of this school–oriented association was founded in Mississippi in 1909. What is it?

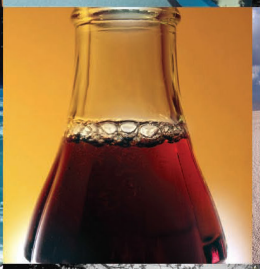
1820
Andrew Jackson and Thomas Hinds negotiate the Treaty of Doak's Stand, giving the U.S. 5 million acres of land that once belonged to the Choctaws.

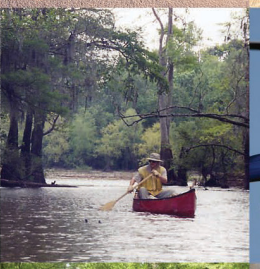
1822
The state capital is moved to Jackson and built on the site of Lefleur's Bluff. Jackson, named for Major General Andrew Jackson, was one of the first planned cities in the country.

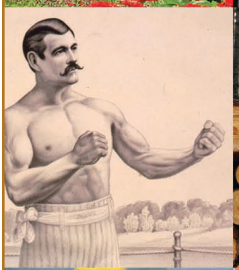
1830
The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek cedes all Choctaw territory east of the Mississippi River to the U.S. Government. Most of the Choctaws leave the state.

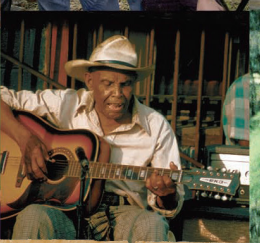
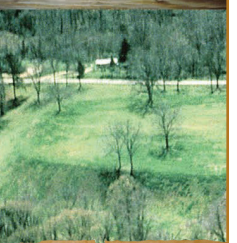
1832
The Treaty of Pontotoc cedes all Chickasaw land east of the Mississippi (including north Mississippi territory) to the U.S. Government. The Chickasaws leave the state for Oklahoma. The move of the Indians to Oklahoma is known as the Trail of Tears.

1839
Mississippi Legislature passes laws protecting the property rights of women.







1842

Governor Tilghman M. Tucker becomes the state's first chief executive to occupy the newly completed Governor's Mansion, still used today.

1850

Mississippi is given title to more than 3 million acres of swamp and overflow land. By now, 310 miles of levees have been built along the Mississippi River. The Delta is drained, cleared, and becomes available for cultivation.

1861

Mississippi secedes from the Union on January 9. In July, Ship Island is captured by Union forces, giving them control of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

1863

President Abraham Lincoln presents the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, abolishing slavery in all Confederate states.

On July 4, after a long siege, Union soldiers gain control of the Mississippi River.

1864

Union soldiers, led by General William T. Sherman, conduct a devastating march from Jackson to Meridian. The city of Jackson is nicknamed "Chimneyville" after an illustration of its burned ruins is published in the Illustrated Newspaper.

Bay St. Louis

Lake Rhymes

North Creek Golf Course

Natchez Trace Parkway

Cat Island - Mississippi Gulf Coast

1865
General Robert E. Lee surrenders on April 9, signaling the end of the Civil War.

1867
A military government is established in Mississippi after the reconstructed government of Mississippi is rejected by the U.S. Congress.

1869
Under the leadership of Governor James L. Alcorn, Mississippi ratifies a constitution which establishes a statewide public school system and protects the voting and civil rights of former slaves.

1870
Hiram R. Revels becomes the first black senator in U.S. history.

Mississippi is readmitted to the Union on February 23, 1870.

1875
Reconstruction ends.

1890
The State Constitution of 1890 is adopted.

ATTRACTIONS

Travel and tourism are big business in Mississippi, generating nearly $6 billion in revenue and attracting 20.8 million visitors to our unique places, events, cultural attractions, outdoor recreation, casinos, hotels and restaurants. The visibility of our State's attractions is at an all-time high, and tourism's impact on the State economy continues to increase.

Our festivals, events and cultural attractions are renowned. For more than 120 years, the Neshoba County Fair, dubbed Mississippi's Giant House Party, has been a longstanding annual tradition of colorful cabins, camaraderie and political stump speeches. The Canton Flea Market is one of the largest and most popular outdoor arts and crafts markets in the South. Mal's St. Paddy's Day Parade in Jackson is the second-largest of its kind in the U.S. and recently spun off a second parade, The Sweet Potato Queen's Zippity Doo Dah Parade. Another tradition, the Delta Blues and Heritage Festival, has attracted visitors from every continent since 1978.

Annual pilgrimages such as those in Natchez, Columbus and Holly Springs showcase historic homes, including many built during the antebellum and Victorian eras. The Crystal Springs Tomato Festival, Corinth's Slugburger Festival, Forest's Wing Dang Doodle Festival, and the Watermelon Festival in Mize all delight visitors with the sights, sounds and flavors of our State. All told, more than 400 unique events are held in Mississippi each year.

Music lovers flock to the Birthplace of America's Music to visit Elvis Presley's Tupelo birthplace, the Jimmie Rodgers Museum in Meridian as well as the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, the Delta Blues Museum and other Blues landmarks along Mississippi's storied Highway 61.

Blues Crossroads - Clarksdale

1907

The boll weevil arrives, destroying most of the state's cotton crop.

William H. Smith organizes the first of the state's "Corn Clubs," which led to the formation of the 4-H Clubs of America.

1923

Two women, Senator Belle Kearny and Representative Nellie Nugent, are elected to the State Legislature.

1927

The Mississippi River floods about 3 million acres of Delta Land, making The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 the worst flood in Mississippi's history.

1936

The State Legislature passes an amendment to balance agriculture with industry (BAWI Program). The Industrial Commission and the Advertising Commission are created to implement the program.

1939

Oil is first discovered in Mississippi. The state's first oil well is brought in near Tinsley, in Yazoo County, about 40 miles northwest of Jackson.

A small sign marks the location of this now abandoned well.

Downtown Jackson

The Mississippi Blues Trail provides information and insight to the journey through the storied Mississippi Delta and beyond with interpretive markers posted at 152 sites statewide. Mississippi recently launched a Country Music Trail, with 17 markers dedicated to date. Work is also underway to construct a new GRAMMY® museum in Cleveland.

Mississippi's scenic beauty offers abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation. The 310 miles of the historic Natchez Trace Parkway within Mississippi provide a popular route for bikers and sightseers. Hikers and other nature lovers can choose from 27 state parks and abundant lakes and waterways. Hunting and fishing are also immensely popular. More than one million acres are available for hunting. Along the Gulf, Mississippi has the longest man-made beach in the U.S.

Every four years, the Capital City of Jackson hosts the International Ballet Competition at Thalia Mara Hall, drawing a worldwide audience for the acclaimed dance showcase.

Mississippi Children's Museum - Jackson

1941–1945
World War II promotes an industrial boom in the state.

1954
Brown vs. Board of Education, the Supreme Court's landmark decision that separate but equal facilities are unconstitutional, lays groundwork for desegregation.

1962
James Meredith enters the University of Mississippi, signaling the beginning of the end to segregation in the state's public universities and colleges.

1963
Medgar Evers, field secretary for the NAACP, is assassinated focusing public awareness on the struggle of the Civil Rights Movement.

1964
Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, outlawing segregation in public places.

Clockwise from top left: *The Great Mississippi River Balloon Race is held every October in Natchez. Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale is a mecca for music enthusiasts. The Historic Canton Courthouse has been featured in numerous films including "A Time to Kill." Eudora Welty's home in Jackson's Belhaven neighborhood is open to fans of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author.*

1968

Robert Clark is the first black Mississippian elected to the Legislature in the 20th Century.

Judge O. H. Barnett rules that Choctaw Indians are subject to their tribal laws, reversing an 1830's ruling.

1969

Hurricane Camille wreaks havoc upon Mississippi's Gulf Coast and areas inland.

A unitary system of public education is mandated by federal courts, bringing an end to segregation in public schools.

1976

Evelyn Gandy begins her term as Lieutenant Governor. She is the first woman elected to this office and the first one elected to three different statewide offices.

1982

Governor William F. Winter calls a special legislative session resulting in adoption of the historic Education Reform Act, the pioneer of nationwide school reform.

Mississippi hosts the International Ballet Competition for the first time.

1983

Judge Lenore Prather becomes the first woman State Supreme Court Justice in Mississippi.

ECONOMIC INNOVATION

Mississippi's tradition of conservative fiscal management, pro-business policies and a balanced budget mandated by the State constitution have fueled small-business development and creative entrepreneurship. Our state's attractive business climate, abundant natural resources and enviable quality of life have also captured the attention of many of the world's leading corporations.

When you consider Mississippi's near-ideal geographic position in the Americas, it is no wonder our State has become a magnet for transportation, distribution and logistics businesses. We are surrounded by 800 miles of navigable waterways—the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Rail systems offer 2,541 miles of track, and five interstate highways providing easy access to markets east and west, north and south.

Aurora Flight Sciences

We are not just shipping products; we are also producing them. Mississippi is currently ranked as the fifth fastest-growing state for gross international exports. In 2011, we exported $10.9 billion in shipments, a 33% increase over the previous year. Canada, Panama, Mexico, China and Columbia were our top trading partners. Mississippi's resurging manufacturing sector deserves much of the credit for the State's economic growth. Our successes recently prompted Forbes to proclaim "Manufacturing Booms in Mississippi" in their online series, Reinventing America.

Toyota Motors manufacturing plant in Blue Springs

1985–1986

Judge Reuben Anderson becomes the first black Supreme Court Justice in Mississippi.

Mike Espy is elected the first black congressman from Mississippi since Reconstruction.

1988–1989

A voluntary county unit system law is signed by Governor Ray Mabus.

Richard H. Truly, a native Mississippian, becomes the first astronaut to head NASA.

1991

Kirk Fordice is elected the first Republican governor since Reconstruction.

1993–1994

Congressman Mike Espy becomes the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Governor Ray Mabus is nominated by President Bill Clinton to the ambassadorship to Saudi Arabia.

1996

Trent Lott becomes the U.S. Senate Majority Leader.

HOW DO I ?

☑ Apply for a job in Mississippi?
Visit the Mississippi Department of Employment Security website to search for openings. www.mdes.ms.gov

☑ Form a Mississippi Corporation or LLC? Search for a business entity in Mississippi?
Visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's website and click on Business Services tab. www.sos.ms.gov

☑ Find information about or locate a nearby hospital?
Visit the Mississippi Department of Health website. www.msdh.state.ms.us

☑ Find fishing condition reports?
Current Mississippi fishing condition reports are located at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks website. www.mdwfp.com

☑ Find historic Mississippi landmarks?
Historic Mississippi landmarks may be found at the National Register of Historic Places. www.nps.gov/nr

☑ Find Mississippi maps and highway information?
Maps of the State of Mississippi can be found on the website of the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). www.goMDOT.com

☑ Find my school or district website?
Mississippi school or school district websites may be found by visiting the Mississippi Department of Education website. www.mde.k12.ms.us

☑ Find my Mississippi State Representative or Senator?
Discover more about the Mississippi State House of Representatives and State Senate on the Mississippi Legislature website. www.billstatus.ls.state.ms.us

☑ Find out about the arts and culture in Mississippi?
The Mississippi Arts Commission is one of the best places to start your search of the arts in Mississippi. www.arts.state.ms.us

☑ Find out more about the Mississippi Blues Trail?
The Mississippi Blues Trail website offers a wealth of information about the historic trail. www.msbluestrail.org

1998–1999

Records of the now defunct Sovereignty Commission are unsealed to the public.

Osceola McCarty, a laundress from Hattiesburg, gives $150,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi for scholarships.

2000–2001

Mississippi Supreme Court declares that Mississippi does not have an official state flag.

The State flag is adopted by popular vote on April 17, 2001.

2003

Ronnie Musgrove signs two historic bills placing education funding before all other state funding.

2005

The Natchez Trace Parkway is completed. 1938–2005.

Hurricane Katrina devastates the Mississippi coast and floods 80% of New Orleans. Damages were estimated at $75 billion.

2006

Eudora Welty House opens to the public.

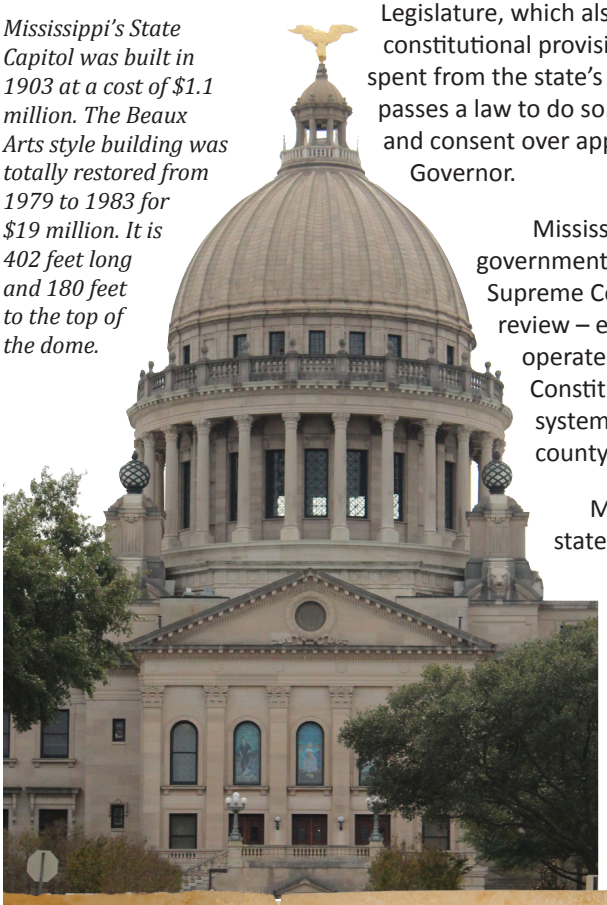
The Mississippi Legislature establishes the Mississippi Commission on Civil Rights Education.

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Mississippi Constitution separates the total powers of state government into three distinct departments: executive, legislative and judicial.

The state executive branch, headed by the Governor, has the duty and responsibility of implementing governmental programs and policies established by law.

The legislative branch consists of 52 Senators and 122 Representatives. The 1890 Mississippi Constitution places sole law-making authority in the bi-cameral Legislature, which also has the power of the purse, a constitutional provision stipulating no money may be spent from the state's treasury unless the Legislature passes a law to do so. The Senate exercises advice and consent over appointments made by the Governor.



Mississippi's State Capitol was built in 1903 at a cost of $1.1 million. The Beaux Arts style building was totally restored from 1979 to 1983 for $19 million. It is 402 feet long and 180 feet to the top of the dome.

Mississippi's judicial branch of government, headed by the state Supreme Court, has the power of judicial review – ensuring our government operates according to the Mississippi Constitution. The state's trial court system includes circuit, chancery, county, justice and municipal courts.

Mississippi is one of only five states which elects its state officials in odd-numbered years. Mississippi holds elections for these offices every four years, always in the year preceding a federal Presidential election.

On a local level, county and municipal governments are also established according to Mississippi law.

2007
Toyota breaks ground in Blue Springs on the $800 million automobile manufacturing plant, boosting Mississippi's role as an auto manufacturing hotspot.

2008
The University of Mississippi hosted the first presidential election debate between Democratic nominee Barack Obama and Republican nominee John McCain.

2010
A BP Oil rig blowout caused the nation's worst offshore oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico creating an environmental disaster along the Gulf Coast and triggering a far-reaching economic impact.

2011
The Mississippi River flooded causing $2.8 billion in damage and tested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' system of levees, reservoirs and floodways.

2013
Drawing world-wide acclaim, University of Mississippi Medical Center physician Hannah Gay cures a baby infected at birth with HIV.

STATEWIDE
ELECTED OFFICIALS

Phil Bryant
Governor

Known for strong integrity and commitment to an accountable government, Phil Bryant was sworn in as Mississippi's 64th governor on January 10, 2012. He was elected in November 2011, capturing 62 percent of the vote.

Prior to becoming governor, Bryant served one term as Mississippi's 37th lieutenant governor. He also served Mississippi as state auditor and represented his legislative district in the Mississippi House of Representatives for five years.

As lieutenant governor, Bryant continued his long-standing mission to ensure accountability in state government. Bryant initiated web casting of the Senate proceedings, so taxpayers could see their government in action and hold their elected officials accountable. He also led the fight to pass the most comprehensive ethics reform in nearly 25 years.

Tate Reeves
Lt. Governor

Delbert Hosemann
Secretary of State

Jim Hood
Attorney General

Stacey Pickering
State Auditor

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Lynn Fitch
State Treasurer

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Cindy Hyde-Smith
Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

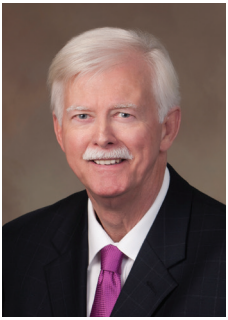
Lynn Posey
District 1
Central

Steve Renfroe
District 2
Southern

Brandon Presley
District 3
Northern

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Dick Hall
District 1
Central



Tom King
District 2
Southern

Mike Tagert
District 3
Northern

SUPREME COURT

The Mississippi Supreme Court is the court of last resort among Mississippi's state courts. Decisions of the Chancery, Circuit and County Courts and of the Court of Appeals may be appealed to the Supreme Court. Nine Supreme Court justices are elected in non-partisan elections from three districts for staggered, eight-year terms.

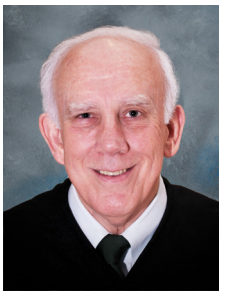
Each Supreme Court justice participates in deciding appeals from the entire state. Decisions are by a majority vote of the court.

William L. Waller Jr.
Chief Justice

Jess H. Dickinson
Presiding Justice

Michael K. Randolph
Presiding Justice

Ann H. Lamar
Associate Justice



James W. Kitchens
Associate Justice

David A. Chandler
Associate Justice

Leslie D. King
Associate Justice

Randy G. Pierce
Associate Justice

Josiah D. Coleman
Associate Justice

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(601) 359-2182

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Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 359-3694
FAX (601) 359-2407

Administrative Office of Courts
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Jackson, MS 39201
P.O. Box 117
Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 576-4630
FAX (601) 576-4639

Mississippi State Law Library
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Jackson, MS 39201
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FAX (601) 359-2912

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President Pro Tempore
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Secretary of the Senate
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Speaker of the House
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Speaker Pro Tempore
Room 302
(601) 359-3304

Clerk of the House
Room 305
(601) 359-3360

2015 LEGISLATURE

SENATE
(BY DISTRICT)

Giles Ward
President Pro Tempore

Chris Massey (1)
Bill Stone (2)
Nickey Browning (3)
Rita Parks (4)
J. P. Wilemon, Jr. (5)
Nancy Adams Collins (6)
Hob Bryan (7)
Russell Jolly (8)
Gray Tollison (9)
Steve Hale (10)
Robert L. Jackson (11)
Derrick T. Simmons (12)
Willie Simmons (13)
Lydia Chassaniol (14)
Gary Jackson (15)
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Will Longwitz (25)
John Horhn (26)
Hillman T. Frazier (27)
Sollie Norwood (28)
David Blount (29)
Dean Kirby (30)
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Sampson Jackson, II (32)
Videt Carmichael (33)
Haskins Montgomery (34)
Perry Lee (35)
Albert Butler (36)
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Kelvin E. Butler (38)
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Joey Fillingane (41)
Chris McDaniel (42)
Phillip Gandy (43)
John Polk (44)
Billy Hudson (45)
Philip Moran (46)
Tony Smith (47)
Deborah J. Dawkins (48)
Sean Tindell (49)
Tommy Gollott (50)
Michael Watson (51)
Brice Wiggins (52)

The eagle atop the State Capitol Building's dome is made of copper coated with gold leaf. Its wingspread is 15 feet and the statue stands eight feet tall.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
(BY DISTRICT)

Philip Gunn
Speaker of the House

Greg Snowden
Speaker Pro Tempore

Lester (Bubba) Carpenter (1)
Nick Bain (2)
William Tracy Arnold (3)
Jody Steverson (4)
John G. Faulkner (5)
E. Forrest Hamilton (6)
Wanda Taylor Jennings (7)
John Thomas (Trey) Lamar (8)
Clara Henderson Burnett (9)
Nolan Mettetal (10)
Lataisha Jackson (11)
Brad Mayo (12)
Steve Massengill (13)
Margaret Ellis Rogers (14)
Mac Huddleston (15)
Steve Holland (16)
Brian Aldridge (17)
Jerry R. Turner (18)
Randy P. Boyd (19)
Chris Brown (20)
Donnie Bell (21)
Preston E. Sullivan (22)
Jim Beckett (23)
Mark Kevin Horan (24)
Gene Alday (25)
Chuck Espy (26)
Ferr Smith (27)
Tommy Taylor (28)
Linda F. Coleman (29)
Robert E. Huddleston (30)
Sara Richardson Thomas (31)
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Linda Whittington (34)
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Pat Nelson (40)
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Reecy L. Dickson (42)
Michael T. Evans (43)
C. Scott Bounds (44)
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Bobby B. Howell (46)
Bryant W. Clark (47)
Jason White (48)
Willie L. Bailey (49)
John W. Hines (50)
Rufus E. Straughter (51)
Bill Kinkade (52)
Bobby Moak (53)
Alex Monsour, Jr. (54)
Oscar Denton (55)
Philip Gunn (56)
Edward Blackmon, Jr. (57)
Rita Martinson (58)
Brent Powell (59)
John L. Moore (60)
Ray Rogers (61)
Tom Weathersby (62)
Deborah Butler Dixon (63)
William C. Denny, Jr. (64)
Mary H. Coleman (65)
Cecil Brown (66)
Earle S. Banks (67)
Credell Calhoun (68)
Alyce Griffin Clarke (69)
James (Jim) Evans (70)
Adrienne Wooten (71)
Kimberly Campbell Buck (72)
Brad A. Oberhousen (73)
Mark Baker (74)
Tom Miles (75)
Gregory L. Holloway, Sr. (76)
Andy Gipson (77)
Randy Rushing (78)
Blaine (Bo) Eaton (79)
Omeria Scott (80)
Steve Horne (81)
Charles L. Young, Jr. (82)
Greg Snowden (83)
William Shirley (84)
America (Chuck) Middleton (85)
Sherra Hillman Lane (86)
Johnny W. Stringer (87)
Gary V. Staples (88)
Bobby Shows (89)
J.L. Warren (90)
Bob Evans (91)
Becky Currie (92)
Timmy Ladner (93)
Robert L. Johnson, III (94)
Patricia Willis (95)
Angela Cockerham (96)
Sam C. Mims, V (97)
David W. Myers (98)
Bill Pigott (99)
Ken Morgan (100)
Hank Lott (101)
Toby Barker (102)
Percy W. Watson (103)
Larry Byrd (104)
Dennis DeBar, Jr. (105)
Herb Frierson (106)
Douglas D. McLeod (107)
Mark Formby (108)
Manly Barton (109)
Jeramy D. Anderson (110)
Charles Busby (111)
John O. Read (112)
H.B. (Hank) Zuber (113)
Jeffrey S. Guice (114)
Randall Patterson (115)
Casey Eure (116)
Scott DeLano (117)
Greg Haney (118)
Sonya Williams-Barnes (119)
Richard Bennett (120)
Carolyn Crawford(121)
David W. Baria (122)

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Congressman Gregg Harper - 3rd Dist.
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FAX (202)225-5797

Congressman Steven Palazzo - 4th Dist.
Washington, D.C. Office
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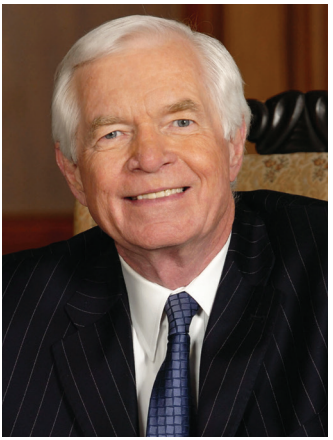
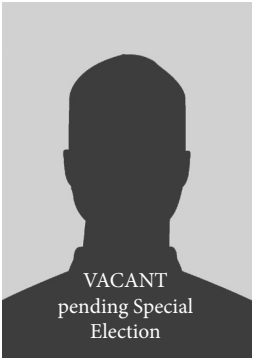
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5772
FAX (202) 225-7074

FEDERAL



Senator Thad Cochran
(R-Miss)

Senator Roger Wicker
(R-Miss)



VACANT
(Congressman, 1st Dist..)

Bennie Thompson
(D-Congressman, 2nd Dist.)

Gregg Harper
(R-Congressman, 3rd Dist.)

Steven Palazzo
(R-Congressman, 4th Dist.)

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Page 2 - Interior dome - Anna Lois Callen; exterior - Lea Anne Brandon

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Page 5 - Courtesy of Vicksburg National Military Park: 3 (Mississippi monument)

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Page 9 - Photos courtesy of the Mississippi Development Authority/Division of Tourism

Page 10 - Blues Crossroads - Lea Anne Brandon

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Page 15 - Capitol - Anna Lois Callen

Mississippi's Coat of Arms was first declared official by the 1894 Legislature but was later reaffirmed by law in 2001. Featured on the crest, the unofficial state motto "Virtute et Armis" is translated from Latin: By Valor and Arms.

Answers to the Mississippi Trivia Section:

- The Mississippi Gulf Coast has the world's largest man-made beach.
- Joseph Biedenharn, owner of Biedenharn Candy Company in Vicksburg, installed a bottling machine in his store, and became the first to bottle Coca-Cola.
- The term "knockout" was first used during the heavyweight fight in 1882.
- The Davis Planetarium was the first organization to make a commercial movie in space.
- Windsor, near Port Gibson, was the largest antebellum mansion in Mississippi.
- In 1890, it burned to the ground (presumably at the hands of a careless smoker). All that remains of the Windsor mansion are its 23 remaining monolithic columns.
- A Sherman necktie is an iron rail heated over a fire and bent around a tree. This was the method Sherman used to render useless the railway system in the South.
- Four miles south of Alcorn is the ghost town of Rodney. One of the last remaining landmarks of the former town is the Rodney Presbyterian Church.
- On April 25, 1866, the ladies of Columbus decorated both Confederate and Union graves with flowers. As a direct result, Americans now celebrate what has come to be known as Memorial Day, the annual observance of recognition of our war dead.
- Friendship Oak measures over 50 feet in height, with a trunk over 17 feet wide.
- The Mississippi Delta is the birthplace of Blues music.
- The world's only cactus plantation is located near Edwards.
- To escape enslavement by the Biloxi Indian tribe, the Pascagoula Indians joined hands and began to chant a song of death as they walked into the river.
- In 1870, two riverboats, the Robert E. Lee I and the Natchez VI, raced each other 1,200 miles up the Mississippi River. The winning trophy is on display in Vicksburg.
- James Dodson Byrd developed the plastic used as a heat shield in the NASA Space Program.
- The 4-H club was founded in Holmes County in 1907.
- Emerald Mound, the second largest Indian ceremonial mound in the U.S., is located northeast of Natchez, on the Natchez Trace Parkway.
- Mississippi has more tree farms than any other state.
- After the Civil War, John B. Stetson became a famous hat maker, learning and practicing his trade at Dunn's Falls (near Meridian).
- The first chapter of the Parent Teacher Association was founded in Mississippi in 1909.
- General Frank Gregory was one of the principal developers of the helicopter.

Delbert Hosemann

Secretary of State

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