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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor Tate Reeves Reschedules Special Election for House District 88**

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**JACKSON** — Today, Governor Tate Reeves announced that the special election for House District 88 is rescheduled for June 23, 2020 to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Consulting with our state's health officials and coordinating with Secretary Michael Watson and state election officials, Governor Reeves determined the need to reschedule to special election originally set for April 21, 2020.

"The health and well-being of all Mississippians must and always will be our top priority. We are closer to the beginning than the end of this outbreak, and conducting an election at this time would unnecessarily put our poll workers and voters at risk. We must protect our rights as Americans to a free and fair election, but not at the expense of the health and safety of our people. Stay home, stay healthy," said Governor Tate Reeves.

The Governor continues to monitor the elections calendar and consult with health officials as he looks at other upcoming elections in Mississippi while prioritizing the protection of public

health.

PDF version of the amended writ of election is available [here](#).

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



AMENDED WRIT OF ELECTION

TO THE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS  
OF JONES AND JASPER COUNTIES, MISSISSIPPI:

A vacancy exists in District 88 of the Mississippi House of Representatives due to the resignation of Ramona Q. Blackledge on January 31, 2020.

On February 10, 2020, I issued a Writ of Election setting April 21, 2020, as the date on which an election was to be held to elect a State Representative for District 88. On March 14, 2020, I declared a state of emergency to exist in the State of Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Health has advised me that due to health, safety and welfare of the Circuit Clerks and their staffs, poll workers, Election Commissioners, other office staff, and members of the public in polling places within District 88 and risk of possible transmission of COVID-19, the election scheduled for April 21, 2020, should be rescheduled.

Therefore, I do hereby amend said Writ of Election to set June 23, 2020, as the date on which an election will be held to fill the vacancy in House of Representatives District 88, as such district existed for the 2020 legislative elections.

The qualifying deadline shall remain unchanged and the candidates certified by the election commission on March 3, 2020, shall be the only candidates.

If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in the special election, then a runoff election shall be held on July 14, 2020, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-833.

All other relevant state laws not in conflict with the terms of this Writ of Election shall further apply.

The Election Commissioners of Jones and Jasper Counties shall govern themselves accordingly.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

  
TATE REEVES  
Governor



BY THE GOVERNOR

  
MICHAEL WATSON  
SECRETARY OF STATE