

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## Office of the Governor



### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, on July 4, 1776, the delegates from the thirteen colonies to the Second Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence, and in the words of John Adams to his beloved wife, Abigail: “[T]he greatest Question was decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among Men. A Resolution was passed without one dissenting Colony ‘that these united Colonies, are, and of right ought to be free and independent States, and as such, they have, and of Right ought to have full Power to make War, conclude Peace, establish Commerce, and to do all the other Acts and Things, which other States might rightfully do...’”; and

**WHEREAS**, the tradition of annual patriotic celebrations on July 4<sup>th</sup> became widespread after the defeat of the British in the War of 1812, and Congress declared July 4<sup>th</sup> to be a federal holiday on June 28, 1870; and

**WHEREAS**, under the provisions of Mississippi Code Ann. § 3-3-7(1), the fourth day of July is recognized as Independence Day and declared a legal holiday in the State of Mississippi.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and applicable statutes of the State of Mississippi, and consistent with the Federal holiday schedule, do hereby authorize the closing of all offices of the State of Mississippi on Thursday, July 4, 2024, in observance of Independence Day.

**IN ADDITION**, I hereby authorize the executive officers of all state agencies, in their discretion after considering the interests of the people of the State of Mississippi and the staffing needs of their respective agencies, to close all offices of the State of Mississippi on Friday, July 5, 2024, in further observance of Independence Day, and to staff their respective agencies as needed during the holiday weekend.

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

**DONE** in the City of Jackson, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.



Handwritten signature of Tate Reeves in blue ink.

**TATE REEVES**  
**GOVERNOR**

**BY THE GOVERNOR**

Handwritten signature of Michael Watson in blue ink.

**MICHAEL WATSON**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**