

Mississippi Executive Branch

Governor TATE REEVES

As the 65th Governor of Mississippi, Tate Reeves is a conservative leader who has focused on the principles of guarding the taxpayers' dollars, improving educational opportunity, and growing new careers so that the state's best and brightest can stay and raise their families at home.

Tate is a strong supporter of public safety and Mississippians' Second Amendment Rights. He is proud to have the support of Mississippi's pro-life community as he fights for the rights of the unborn.

In 2003, Tate was elected as the first Republican and youngest treasurer in the state's history. His business training in the banking sector made him the state's foremost advocate for balancing the state budget while minimizing state debt.

He was elected in 2011 and re-elected four years later as lieutenant governor, managing the state Senate. His conservative management helped fill the state's "rainy day fund" and reduce the overall debt burden. He fought for transparency in how agencies spend tax dollars and stronger reporting requirements on taxpayer-funded incentive programs.

His commitment to long-term growth that creates better careers led Tate to propose the largest tax cut in state history through the Taxpayer Pay Raise Act, which lowered the personal income tax and allowed more Mississippi employers to invest in jobs and better compete in the global marketplace.

Tate's upbringing in Florence's public schools made him driven to reform the education system to increase opportunity for all Mississippians. He worked to increase investment in the classroom and enacted reforms to save money, strengthen achievement and clearly communicate school performance.

Tate is past chairman of the Republican Lieutenant Governors Association. He served as a member of the inaugural Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows program focused on education issues. He also has been named a Legislator of the Year by the Mississippi Municipal League.

Tate is a Rankin County native and a graduate of Florence High School. He is an honors graduate of Millsaps College and holds a



bachelor's degree in economics. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

Tate and his wife Elee Williams Reeves, a Tylertown native, are the proud parents of three daughters, Tyler, Emma and Madeline. The Reeves family attends Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church.

Duties: The Governor is the Chief Executive Officer of the state, charged with executive direction and supervision of

the general administration of the State. In this capacity, he or she sees that the laws are faithfully executed, supervises the official conduct of executive officers, acts as commander-in-chief of the state militia, and appoints officials as prescribed by law.

The Governor is responsible for the presentation of a balanced budget to the Legislature and approval or veto of legislation passed by the Legislature. He or she may call extraordinary sessions of the Legislature when he or she deems it necessary, and may issue pardons, executive orders, and extraditions of fugitives from other states.

The office provides staff assistance and liaison in all areas of state government administration and researches agency programs and policies.

A number of officers are appointed by the Governor. Among these are the Adjutant General, the Commissioner of Public Safety, and the chief executive officers of the departments of Banking and Consumer Finance, Mississippi Development Authority, Environmental Quality, and the State Tax Commission. The Governor also appoints members to numerous executive and administrative boards and commissions who, in turn, appoint executive officers to the departments they lead. Some of these departments are Finance and Administration, Health, Corrections, Education, and the State Personnel Board. The Governor serves a term of four years and may be re-elected for an additional term. Miss.Const. 1890, Article 5, §§ 116-125. Miss. Code Ann. § 7-1-1 et seq. (1972).

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Lieutenant Governor DELBERT HOSEMANN

Elected in November 2019 with more than 60 percent of the vote, the Honorable Delbert Hosemann is serving as Mississippi's 33rd Lieutenant Governor. During his campaign, he advocated for increasing transparency in State government, supporting small businesses, shoring up Mississippi's roads and bridges, providing better access to healthcare, ensuring every child has access to a high quality public education, and building a skilled workforce for the future.



In his first legislative session presiding over the 52-member Mississippi Senate, he has remained committed to making Mississippi an even better place for our children and grandchildren. In addition to tackling community mental healthcare and prison reform, Hosemann has overseen Senate action to increase teacher pay, streamline the State's workforce development efforts, and support law enforcement.

First elected to public office in 2007, Hosemann previously served three terms as Secretary of State. A true fiscal conservative, he is renowned for maximizing the agency's productivity and emphasizing quick, accurate customer service on a smaller budget than the previous administration.

Dedicated to ensuring the integrity of every Mississippian's vote, Hosemann was lauded for his commitment to fair and honest elections in Mississippi. During his tenure as Chief Elections Officer, the Secretary of State's Office dispatched observers in the State to the polls and increased training opportunities for local election officials. Hosemann also twice succeeded in the U.S. Supreme Court in the fight to redistrict the State Legislature.

Since the 2014 Primary Election, every Mississippian who votes at the polls is required to present an acceptable form of photo identification before casting a regular ballot. To date, Mississippi is one of the only states to implement Voter ID without federal intervention or litigation, saving millions in taxpayer dollars. Through an award-winning voter education campaign, Hosemann reached

Mississippians statewide to provide information about the new requirement.

A military veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, Hosemann's commitment to military voting has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense. In 2015, he was invited among a delegation of Secretaries of State to visit remote areas of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait to promote increasing voter turnout among military men and women. Mississippi leads the Nation in allowing online voting for servicemembers.

As a business lawyer and small business owner, Hosemann has always emphasized the importance of economic development in our State. As part of an overall Business Reform Plan, Hosemann facilitated policy groups to revamp how Mississippi attracts, retains, and grows business and industry. Through various proposals to the Legislature, Mississippi now has the leading securities, charities, and limited liability company laws in the Nation. Hosemann's landmark recommendation on trademark laws received global recognition by the International Trademark Association. Hosemann also drafted the nation's premier Athlete Agent Act which governs sports agents in Mississippi.

In October 2015, the Secretary of State's Office launched Y'all Business, a website which set the national standard for aggregate demographic, economic, and consumer information. The agency was awarded the Esri 2016 SAG award, among other state, national, and international accolades. In January 2016, the agency initiated Mississippi Business One Stop Shop (BOSS), which assists entrepreneurs in starting and registering their business in Mississippi.

As Secretary of State, Hosemann also served as State Land Commissioner. Shortly after taking office in 2007, he fulfilled a major campaign promise to make all 16th Section leases (more than 600,000 acres) available for inspection on the agency's website. Increased transparency has allowed school boards to make better financial decisions in determining

Lieutenant Governor DELBERT HOSEMANN

lease amounts, and has given Mississippians greater access to public hunting and other lands. A major source of funding for public schools in Mississippi, 16th Section land revenue topped \$1 billion during Hosemann's tenure.

Funds generated from tidelands leases and assessments have also reached record amounts under Hosemann's leadership. In 2012, a \$1 million donation secured by Hosemann resulted in the acquisition and preservation of tidelands. In 2013, Hosemann obtained funding from a coalition of state and federal sources to purchase more than 200 acres of Cat Island, a protective barrier island located off the Mississippi Gulf Coast. After years of negotiation, Hosemann finalized the acquisition of an additional 492 acres of Cat Island in 2016.

Hosemann's persistence in protecting investors led to \$200 million nationwide settlement agreement in a securities lawsuit initiated by the State of Mississippi. Because of his involvement in complex securities issues, the National Association of Secretaries of State tapped Hosemann to co-chair the organization's Securities Committee.

Throughout his public service career, Hosemann has worked tirelessly to provide children with autism and other developmental disorders with better access to health insurance and services. Autism Speaks, the nation's leading autism science and advocacy organization, awarded Hosemann the Executive of the Year award in 2018.

Previously, Hosemann served as chairman of the Board of Mississippi Blood Services, treasurer of the Jackson Medical Mall Association, and member of the Board of Directors for the Jackson State University Development Foundation. He is a member of the North Jackson Rotary Club and is a Paul Harris Fellow. His accomplishments include receiving the George L. Phillips Community Service Award from the U.S. Department of Justice for his efforts in the Hurricane Katrina First Responder Assistance Project. He was awarded the J. Tate Thigpen Award for exemplary leadership, support, and commitment to the American Red Cross. Hosemann has also been awarded the Kirk Fordice Freedom Award by the National Rifle Association for his support of the Second

Amendment, and served as chairman of the Republican Secretaries of State Committee.

In his spare time, Hosemann is an avid hunter and jogger. He is a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, and belongs to the Delta Wildlife Foundation and Ducks Unlimited. He has competed in both the New York Marathon and the Boston Marathon, represented Mississippi in the Senior Olympics, and participated in the Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon.

A Warren County native, Hosemann's professional background is in Business and Taxation Law. He earned his bachelor's degree in business from the University of Notre Dame, his Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law, and his Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University. He is a former partner of Phelps Dunbar, LLP, and was selected to the Best Lawyers in America for 18 consecutive years.

Hosemann has been married to his wife Lynn for 49 years. They are extremely proud of their three children: Kristen, Chad, and Mark; and grandchildren Grace, Nora Lynn, Carson, Charlie, Manse, Charlotte, and Howard Delbert.

Duties: In addition to the Governor, the Mississippi Constitution makes provision for a Lieutenant Governor who acts as president of the state Senate. The Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate, rules on points of order, appoints standing committees of the Senate, appoints all select and conference committees as ordered by the Senate, and refers all bills. He or she serves as a member of the Senate Rules and Joint Legislative Budget Committees, votes only in cases of ties, speaks from the floor while the Senate is in Committee of the Whole, and signs all finally approved bills and resolutions.

The Lieutenant Governor serves a term of four years and may be re-elected for an additional term. Miss. Const. 1890, Article 5, §§ 128-132, and 136. Miss. Code Ann. §§ 5-1-13, 5-1-43, and 5-1-47 (1972).

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Secretary of State MICHAEL WATSON

Secretary of State Michael David Watson, Jr., was born and raised in Mississippi. He is a husband to his loving wife Lauren, father of three beautiful young daughters, the son of a shipyard worker and bank teller. After his work as a pipe fitter, Michael's father entered the ministry and continues to serve as pastor at Liberty Church in Gautier. His mother passed away shortly before Michael became Mississippi's thirty-sixth Secretary of State.



Prior to taking office as Secretary of State in January 2020, Michael served three terms in the State Senate where he represented District 51 in Jackson County. During his time in the Mississippi Legislature, he authored the Fetal Protection Act, which strengthened the penalties for injuring an unborn child. He also wrote Mississippi's first comprehensive law to tackle illegal immigration, as well as legislation to allow alternate-track diplomas—one of the first efforts to return a focus to career and technical training for high school students. More of Michael's proposals came to fruition in the State Senate, including the Catastrophe Savings Accounts which allows for pretax savings accounts to be used on deductibles or other catastrophe-related expenses, and the Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act that provides scholarships for parents with a special needs child, allowing them the ability to choose which education option best fits their child. In addition, Governor Phil Bryant asked Michael to introduce the legislation adding "In God We Trust" to our state seal. During his time in the State Senate, Michael became known as a conservative fighter for his work to preserve Mississippians' rights and religious liberties, and to limit government overreach and spending. Michael brings these same conservative principles to the Secretary of State's office.

A graduate of Pascagoula High School and the University of Mississippi, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and a law degree, Michael began his work in public service in the summer of 1999, serving as an intern for then U.S. Senate Majority Leader

Trent Lott. That experience strengthened his desire to one day enter public service in order to improve the quality of life for all Mississippians.

As Secretary of State, Michael is focused on protecting the integrity of our elections by continuing strong enforcement of Mississippi's Voter ID law. Michael is also dedicated to

bringing about a more efficient and effective state government by working to reduce regulations and red tape so small businesses can grow and flourish in a free market economy. As a native of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Michael understands the importance of properly managing Tidelands and other public lands. He is committed to keeping the decisions in the hands of local officials as much as allowed by law while monitoring these decisions to ensure Mississippians receive fair value.

During his campaign for Secretary of State in 2019, Michael announced a landmark proposal to fix Mississippi's process for issuing and renewing driver's licenses. To address this growing problem, Michael developed the innovative "SIP" plan, which stands for "Service, Information and Professionalism," that would move the driver's services division (commonly referred to as the DMV) from the Mississippi Department of Public Safety to be under the direction and management of the Secretary of State's office. Michael is continuing his work to make the SIP plan a reality by supporting legislation transferring the DMV to the Secretary of State's office so he can implement technology and customer service improvements to speed up the process for people obtaining or renewing a driver's license, and to help resolve delays in the commercial driver's license system.

During his time in the private sector, Michael opened his own firm where he focused on business law, construction law and probate law. He is a member of the National Rifle Association (NRA), the American Council of Young Political Leaders, the Mississippi Bar Association, the Ole Miss Alumni Association and the Ole Miss Hall of Fame. He and his family spend time volunteering

Secretary of State MICHAEL WATSON

with the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and the Dream Program. As a dedicated family man, Michael and his wife, Lauren, have three daughters—Gracie Pierce, Annie and Cora Elizabeth. The Watsons are members of First Presbyterian Church in Pascagoula and enjoy visiting church families all over Mississippi.

Duties: The Secretary of State directs a service and information agency with major statutory functions: administration of the Mississippi Corporation Law, the Uniform Commercial Code, the Uniform Securities Law, and the Elections Code; administration and supervision of the 16th Section School Trust Lands, the Tidelands Trust, lieu lands, and tax-forfeited property; and issuance of documents and publications of the state, including those for the executive and legislative branches; investigation of charity and securities fraud; enforcement of campaign finance and lobbyist reporting requirements. Issuing notary commissions, registering correspondence

schools, administering the state’s trademark and service mark laws, service of process, and administering the Administrative Procedures Act are other responsibilities. The Constitution also designates the Secretary of State as the “keeper of the Capitol.”

The Secretary of State is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Const. 1890, Article 5 §§ 133 and 136. Miss. Code Ann. § 7-3-1 et seq. (1972).

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Attorney General LYNN FITCH

Lynn Fitch was sworn in as Mississippi's 40th Attorney General and first ever woman Attorney General on January 9, 2020.

Raised in Holly Springs, Mississippi, Attorney General Fitch earned both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Juris Doctorate at the University of Mississippi. At 23, she began practicing law as a Special Assistant Attorney General and was later in private practice as a bond lawyer. She has over 35 years of legal experience in both private practice and public service.

Before becoming the State's chief legal officer, Attorney General Fitch served as Mississippi's elected State Treasurer for eight years, from January 2012 to January 2020. Prior to that she was selected by Governor Barbour to serve as Executive Director of the Mississippi State Personnel Board (MSPB), and served as Deputy Executive Director at the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) and as Counsel for the Mississippi House of Representatives Ways and Means and Local and Private Legislation Committees.

General Fitch was active on the national level as State Treasurer, serving as a vice president for the National Association of Treasurers and as Chair of the State Financial Officers Foundation. She has already been appointed to the executive committee of the National Association of Attorneys General.

General Fitch was selected as Outstanding Woman Lawyer of 2012, recognized as a Woman Trailblazer by the Mississippi Bar Association, honored as a Mississippi Business Journal Leader in Finance in 2016 and Leader in Law in 2010, and named a 2015 Honoree of the Women in Government Leadership Program by Governing Magazine. In 2017, General Fitch was named one of Mississippi's Top 50 Most Influential and was honored with the prestigious Susie Blue Buchanan award by the Mississippi Bar Association's Women in the Profession Committee.



Attorney General Fitch has also been an active member of the boards of several charitable organizations, including First Responders of Mississippi and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Goodwill Industries, and the American Red Cross.

Duties: Attorney General Lynn Fitch is the Chief Legal Officer and Advisor for the State of Mississippi on both criminal

and civil matters. Her office's responsibility is to represent public officials and government agencies and to issue legal opinions that interpret state law. Most importantly, she represents the people of the State of Mississippi.

The Attorney General serves on several boards and commissions, including, but not limited to the State Bond Commission, the Tort Claims Board, the License Tag Commission, the State Board of Election Commissioners, and the Occupational Licensing Review Board.

General Fitch also serves as the Chairperson of Governor Reeves' Mississippi Cybersecurity Task Force.

The Attorney General is elected to four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Const. 1890, Article 6, § 173. Miss. Ann. § 7-5-1 et seq. (1972).

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State Treasurer DAVID McRAE



David McRae is a fourth-generation Mississippian. His great-grandfather, Sam McRae, grew up on a farm in Rankin County and opened his first S.P. McRae department store in Jackson at the turn of the century. Dedicated to customer service, the store remained one of the premier department store chains in the southeast for more than 100 years.

That same customer-service mindset is at the center of what McRae is working to accomplish as State Treasurer.

His primary responsibility is to manage the cash flow that keeps state agencies operating on a daily basis, but it also comes with a seat on 17 different boards and commissions.

Additionally, McRae has prioritized the distribution of Unclaimed Property within the Office of the State Treasurer. During his first two months in office, more than \$3 million was returned to the people of Mississippi. McRae also oversees College Savings Mississippi, helping lift the financial burden of a college education for thousands of young people.

Prior to serving as State Treasurer, McRae was involved in the family business, serving as Managing Partner of McRae Investments. He is active in civic and community organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, Friends of Children's Hospital, and the American Heart Association.

McRae earned his law degree from Mississippi College, during which time he served as Chief Justice of the Honor Court and worked for Justice Jess Dickinson at the Mississippi Supreme Court. He lives in Ridgeland with his wife, Katherine, and their three children.

Duties: The Office of the State Treasurer has many different divisions, including Cash Management, Investments, Bonds, Collateral, Unclaimed Property, and College Savings Mississippi. Among the Treasurer's duties and responsibilities are maintaining

all the state's financial records including receipts, deposits and disbursements of funds that flow through the state's coffers. Those funds come from multiple sources including the federal government, proceeds from the issuance of bonds, interest payments and income and sales tax.

The Treasurer also is responsible for investing

state funds, serves as custodian of securities held by other agencies, pays state warrants, manages the Unclaimed Property Program, and administers Mississippi's two 529 College Savings Programs: MPACT, Mississippi's Prepaid Affordable College Tuition Program and MACS, Mississippi's Affordable College Savings Program.

The Treasurer serves as a member of more than a dozen Boards, including Mississippi Windstorm Underwriting Association Board, Mississippi Guaranty Pool Board, State Bond Commission, Public Employees Retirement Board, Mississippi Business Finance Corporation, Development Bank Board, License Tag Commission, Tort Claims Board, Economic Development Strategic Planning Task Force, State Prison Emergency and Management Board, Private Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Learning (MEFA), the Historic Properties Trust Fund Advisory Committee, and Chairman of the College Savings Plan of Mississippi Board.

The Treasurer is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Constitution 1890. Article 5. SS 125, 134 and 136. Miss. Code Ann. § 7-9-1 et seq. (1972)

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State Auditor SHAD WHITE

Shad White, Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), grew up in Sandersville, Mississippi – population 731 – in a blue-collar family. His father and grandfather were oilfield pumpers, and his mother and grandmother were teachers. On the weekends, his father was music minister at their small country church, and his mother played the organ. Today his father serves as mayor of their small town.



After attending public school, Auditor White earned his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Mississippi. He studied as a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, earning a master's in economic history. Auditor White holds a law degree from Harvard Law School, where he learned the meaning of fighting for values that might be unpopular. While there, Auditor White served as President of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal association, and brought speakers to campus to defend the legality of public prayer, the morality of work and free enterprise, and the importance of traditional moral values.

In 2011, Auditor White served as Director of Policy to then-Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant. He later practiced law in the private sector, served as a special prosecutor in Rankin County, and served as Director of the Mississippi Justice Institute. At the Mississippi Justice Institute, Auditor White filed and led cases against public officials when they violated Mississippi's open government and ethics laws. He has also taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Mississippi, earned a certificate in forensic accounting, and previously worked as a fellow at a national think tank on state policy.

Auditor White was appointed to serve as the 42nd State Auditor of Mississippi on July 6, 2018.

Shortly after taking office, White launched an effort to cut fat from the Auditor's office budget. The office has moved and reduced the cost of a satellite office and trimmed fat wherever possible, down to eliminating unnecessary Wi-Fi hotspots. Auditor White also

focused on transparency. The Auditor's office began posting all its contracts and requests for proposals online at www.osa.ms.gov/transparency. He also commissioned an audit of his own office and published the findings of the audit and remediation plan on the agency website. Finally, Auditor White started a new initiative that identified where state

government had cyber security weaknesses and vulnerabilities to hackers.

Auditor White also chose new leadership to run the office's critical Investigations Division in his first few months in office. The re-energized Investigations Division demanded over \$4 million in taxpayer dollars back from individuals who embezzled or misappropriated money during White's first 18 months in office. Major cases included a demand for over \$980,000 for embezzlement by two community college employees, large demands to two of the longest serving chancery clerks in Mississippi, and many others.

Auditor White ran unopposed and was elected to a full four-year term as State Auditor in November 2019 after establishing a tough, no-nonsense reputation. Shortly after beginning the new term, White announced the arrest of six individuals connected to the Mississippi Department of Human Services – including the former executive director – in the largest embezzlement scheme in state history, drawing national news coverage in *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and others.

Beyond the notable criminal cases, Auditor White has also pointed out significant waste of taxpayer dollars since he took office. Reports from the Auditor's office have shown that Mississippi's outside-the-classroom spending in K-12 education has increased while student enrollment and inflation-adjusted spending on teacher pay has decreased. A November 2019 education report from Auditor White's office showed Mississippi spent a higher percentage of K-12 public education money on administrative expenses than any other

State Auditor SHAD WHITE

southern state except Washington, DC. Auditor White has also recommended shuttering government boards that have outlived their purpose and consolidating the back-office functions of small government agencies.

Auditor White is dedicated to being a tough, energetic watchdog of your hard-earned money. Since he was appointed, his office has pursued aggressive consequences for embezzlers regardless of whether they were Republicans or Democrats.

Today Auditor White, his wife Rina, and their daughter Zara live in Rankin County and are faithful members at St. Richard Church.

Duties: The State Auditor is responsible for auditing state agencies, county governments, school districts, community and junior colleges, and universities; conducting investigations into abuse of public funds and violations of law; providing best practices for all public offices of regional and local subdivisions of

the state, systems of accounting, budgeting and reporting financial facts relating to said offices in conformity with legal requirements and with generally accepted accounting principles; conducting inventory audits of all state property; and auditing the quality of data and data controls in public schools. The State Auditor is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Const. 1890, Article 5, § § 113, 115, 134, and 136. Miss. Code Ann. § 7-7-1, et seq. (1972).

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Commissioner of Insurance MIKE CHANEY

Mike Chaney, Mississippi's 11th Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal, is currently serving his fourth term in office. First elected in 2007, Chaney brought extensive business knowledge and experience to the office combined with 15 years of service in the Mississippi House and Senate.

His priorities throughout his terms in office remain steadfastly committed to consumer protection and application of technology for efficiency of the department to serve the state and consumers. He is leading the department in making strides in healthcare reform; disaster recovery from flood, tornado, and hurricane events; bail bond industry reform; and reductions in state fire deaths.

An active member of the NAIC, Chaney serves on numerous committees, task forces, and working groups. Among the issues he is involved in addressing are examination



oversight, accounting practices, producer licensing, health insurance and managed care, senior issues, and catastrophe, property, and casualty insurance.

As Commissioner, he was inducted into the Insurance Hall of Fame at his alma mater, Mississippi State University. Chaney was honored with the 2018 Healthcare Leadership

Award by the Community Health Center Association of Mississippi. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Mississippi Risk Management and Insurance program and its Professional Society. He has been named one of the top insurance professionals by Insurance Business America Magazine, and was named a Healthcare Hero by the Mississippi Business Journal.

Commissioner Chaney has served on numerous community development entities and corporate boards. He is also a Rotarian and

Commissioner of Insurance MIKE CHANEY

Paul Harris Fellow.

He is a veteran of the United States Army, serving in Vietnam. Chaney and his wife, Mary have three children and eight grandchildren.

Duties: The Insurance Commissioner is charged with execution of all laws relative to insurance companies, corporations, associations and fraternal orders, their agents and adjusters. This office licenses and regulates the practices of all insurance companies, agents, burial associations, fraternal societies, bail bondsmen, and other entities engaged in the business of insurance. The Insurance Commissioner licenses manufacturers and dealers of mobile homes and regulates their practices, including inspecting their manufacturing techniques and standards. The office enforces the liquefied compressed gas inspection program. The Commissioner also enforces the Mississippi Conveyance Safety Act (2013) which sets standards of competency for

Elevator Mechanics and Elevator Inspectors by requiring training and certification by organizations approved by the State Elevator Safety Division. The State's standard fire code is administered by the Commissioner through the department's State Fire Marshal Division. The Insurance Commissioner also serves as State Fire Marshal and Chairman of the State Fire Academy.

The Insurance Commissioner is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Code Ann. § 83-1-1 et seq. (1972)

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Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce ANDY GIPSON

J. Andrew ("Andy") Gipson was sworn in on April 2, 2018, as the eighth Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce upon appointment to the office by Governor Phil Bryant. Gipson, his wife Leslie, and their four children, Joseph, Benjamin, Abigail, and Sarah, live on their working family farm in Simpson County, where they manage a cow/calf operation and a tree farm.

As your Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, Gipson is committed to leading efforts to grow Mississippi agriculture and create new opportunities for Mississippi's next generation. Expanding agricultural trade and market opportunities for Mississippi's farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses is one of his priorities, along with ensuring fairness and equity in the marketplace and protecting Mississippians through sound regulatory practices. Additionally, Gipson has launched an Agricultural Workforce Development Initiative,



which includes internships through the department, as well as a timber market development initiative.

Gipson is an active member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and serves as vice-president of the Southern United States Trade Association, which develops and promotes markets for agricultural products. Serving as

past-president of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture, Gipson works to protect and promote regional agriculture.

Prior to becoming Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce and in addition to his work on the farm, Gipson served as a State Representative in the Mississippi Legislature from 2008 to 2018, representing the citizens of Simpson, Rankin, and Smith counties in District 77. During his legislative service, Commissioner Gipson served as chairman of the House Judiciary B Committee for seven years and chairman of the Ethics

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce ANDY GIPSON

Committee for three years, as well as served on several House committees, including the Agriculture, Appropriations, Ways and Means, County Affairs, Insurance, Municipalities, and Transportation committees.

Commissioner Gipson has received numerous awards and honors. In 2014, he was named Pro-Life Legislator of the Year by Pro-Life Mississippi. The National Rifle Association bestowed its Defender of Freedom Award on Gipson in 2013. In 2012 and 2018, he was selected as the Mississippi Legislative Conservative Coalition's Conservative Legislator of the Year. Mothers Against Drunk Driving named him Legislator of the Year in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Commissioner Gipson received a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College where he double-majored in Christian Studies and Political Science. He received his law degree from Mississippi College School of Law, summa cum laude, and he is a practicing business attorney. He is also an ordained Baptist minister and evangelist.

He is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association, National Rifle Association, and the Lion's Club.

Duties: The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce was created in 1906 by the Mississippi Legislature to foster and promote the business of agriculture under the management and control of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce.

The Department's Market Development division promotes Mississippi agricultural products, both nationally and internationally, through such programs as Genuine Mississippi and the Agritourism Registration Program. This division also publishes the Mississippi Market Bulletin. The Department operates the Mississippi Farmers Market and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum.

The Department performs regulatory functions in the areas of aquaculture inspection for all non-native species of fish and game fish for stocking and food consumption purposes; agricultural theft; meat, fruit, and vegetable inspection; feed, seed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendment inspection; weights and measures; grain dealer and grain warehouse licensing; pulpwood measurement; insect and plant disease inspection and quarantine; pesticide inspection; egg inspection; retail food inspections; sanitation excluding food services; rendering plant inspection; syrup labeling inspection; honey and honey product labeling inspection; and catfish and catfish product labeling inspection. The Department operates a seed testing laboratory and a metrology laboratory.

In addition to overseeing the Department, duties of the Commissioner include leadership through service on the following state boards: Mississippi Board of Animal Health, Mississippi Central Farmers Market Board, Mississippi Fair Commission, Mississippi Land, Water, and Timber Resources Board, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Permit Board, State Seed Board, and State Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Code Ann. § 69-1-1 et seq. (1972).

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Public Service Commissioner - Central District (1) BRENT BAILEY

Commissioner Brent Bailey won his Republican Primary in August 2019, then was elected to serve as the Mississippi Public Service Commissioner from the Central District in November.

Commissioner Bailey is a graduate of Carthage High School. He attended East Central Community College before transferring to Mississippi State University to earn his degree in Agriculture and Biological Engineering in 1994 while earning a letter and scholarship as a football walk-on.

Prior to taking office, Commissioner Bailey served as State Activities Coordinator with the 25x'25 Initiative since October 2006, working with a broad cross-section of Mississippians and Southeastern stakeholders to mobilize support for energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions, and to convey consumers' role in a new national energy strategy. He has also worked with agriculture and forestry leaders to identify resiliency and adaptation measures that ensure food and energy security, economic development, and conservation goals are met.

Before joining the 25x'25 Initiative, he worked at private companies and nonprofit



organizations, including Pickering, Inc. and the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation. Commissioner Bailey has also participated in numerous rule-making proceedings and continues to represent the interests of consumers at the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

Commissioner Bailey is active with numerous state and regional initiatives focusing on natural resource conservation and fair energy policies. He received the MSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Achievement Award for contributions to the economic viability of the state agriculture and forestry sectors.

A sixth generation Mississippian, Commissioner Bailey has lived in Madison County with his wife Rhonda for the past 17 years.

Contact Information:
(601) 961-5430/f(601) 961-5824
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central.district@psc.ms.us

Public Service Commissioner - Southern District (2) DANE MAXWELL

Chairman Dane Maxwell is a Marine Corps veteran, retired law enforcement officer, businessman, and the former Mayor of Pascagoula.

He has previously served at the Public Service Commission in numerous capacities, including former Commissioner Curt Hebert's Chief of Staff.

As a successful entrepreneur of two national businesses, Maxwell has decades of experience in solving problems in the private sector and plans to bring this experience to the Commission to help bolster economic



development and job creation in Mississippi.

He is married to his wife, Donna. Together they have 3 daughters, Lyndsey, Shannon, and Taryn, and one grandson.

Contact Information:
(228) 374-2160/f(228) 374-2166
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Public Service Commissioner - Northern District (3) BRANDON PRESLEY

Commissioner Brandon Presley was elected Public Service Commissioner for the Northern District of Mississippi in 2007, re-elected in 2011, 2015 and most recently in 2019 without opposition. Elected to the Public Service Commission at age 30, he was the youngest Commissioner ever elected in Mississippi. Prior to his election to the Public Service Commission, he served as Mayor of Nettleton from 2001 to 2007, having been elected at the age of 23, making him one of the youngest mayors in Mississippi history.



Public Service Commissioners from the eleven (11) Southern States and Puerto Rico, and is a former member of the board of directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NNRI).

Commissioner Presley is a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School program for State and Local Government Executives.

Commissioner Presley is a lifelong resident of Nettleton, where he is a member of the Enon Primitive Baptist Church. He is past-President and current member of the Nettleton Lions Club and is a member of the Nettleton Civitan Club.

Commissioner Presley currently serves as President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and on the advisory committees for New Mexico State University's Center for Public Utilities and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). He has also served as President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, which is composed of

Contact information:

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Nettleton Direct:

(662) 963-1471/(f)(601) 963-1475
1-800-637-7722

Qualifications: Public Service Commissioners serve a four-year term and may succeed themselves in office. A Public Service Commissioner must be a qualified elector, a resident of the Supreme Court District in which election is sought, at least 25 years of age, and a citizen of the State five years next preceding the day of election. The qualifying fee is \$500.

Duties: Communication, electric, gas, water, and sewer utilities are under the supervision and regulations of this Commission. It is the Commission's responsibility to ensure rates and charges for service are just and reasonable, the approved rate schedules are adhered to, the service rendered is reasonably adequate,

and that facilities constructed or acquired are required for the convenience and necessity of the public. In carrying out its responsibility, the Commission must answer complaints, make investigations, and conduct both formal and informal meetings.

Contact information:

Mississippi Public Service Commission
Woolfolk Building
501 North West Street
Suite 201A
Jackson, MS 39201
www.psc.state.ms.us

Transportation Commissioner - Central District (1)

WILLIE SIMMONS

Willie Simmons is currently serving his first term as Central District Transportation Commissioner which covers 22 counties with a population of approximately one million people.



Bypass in Leland among many others. He also served as Chairman of the Corrections Committee and Vice Chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee.

Simmons served as a Mississippi State Senator for more than 26 years. For the last eight years, he served as Chairman of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee. Under his leadership in the Senate, over \$5B was spent throughout the state on the construction and upgrade of federal and state roads, county and municipal streets and bridges; also, millions of dollars on public transit, ports railroads, airports and other infrastructure support systems. He played an integral role on projects such as the repair of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Jackson; the upgrade and repair of Highway 8 in Cleveland; the Highway 82

Simmons served as Deputy Commissioner of Corrections prior to joining the Mississippi State Senate. Before that time, he served as a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. He is a graduate of Alcorn State University; and received a M. S. Degree and Ed.S. Degree from Delta State University. He is married to Rose Sibley Simmons and they have four children and ten grandchildren.

Transportation Commissioner - Southern District (2)

TOM KING

King is serving his third term as Southern District Transportation Commissioner and is the Chair of the Mississippi Transportation Commission. He previously served as a state lawmaker since 1993 when he was elected to the House of Representatives where he remained until 1999. In 2000, he began his tenure in the Senate, where as Chairman of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee, King authored resolutions that honored the achievements of persons throughout his district and the state. Most notably, King authored Senate Bill 3181, the \$300 million bond bill for highways and bridges, and Senate Bill 3014, the John Paul Frerer Bicycle Act, which promotes safety for cyclists on roadways. King also authored Senate Bill 2514 that created the Mississippi Wireless Communications Commission, which ensures that the state's emergency responders and law enforcement have the means to communicate regardless of any disaster that may occur.

King is a Veteran of the Vietnam War, having served his country in the Air Force as an Air



Policeman. He is affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, American Legion and VFW. He has received many professional awards and honors including 2011 Mississippi Municipal League Legislator of the Year, 2010 Hattiesburg's Veteran of the Year, American Legion Meritorious Service Award in 2007 and Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Legislator of the Year in 2002.

As Transportation Commissioner, King represents approximately one million citizens in the southern 27 counties of Mississippi. He is the first Republican to hold the post of Transportation Commissioner in the Southern District.

King was born in Hattiesburg. He attended Petal High School and graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi. He currently lives in Hattiesburg with his wife, the former Susan Lynn Patterson, and has two children and two grandchildren. King and his wife are members of Petal-Harvey Baptist Church, where he serves as a Deacon.

Transportation Commissioner - Northern District (3) JOHN CALDWELL

John Caldwell is currently serving his first term as Northern District Transportation Commissioner. Born the seventh of nine children to Elizabeth and Joe Caldwell, John lives in Nesbit just a few miles from land once farmed by his family. John is married to Lee Perkins Caldwell. The couple has four children and eight grandchildren. John is a Marine combat veteran of Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit among other awards. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserves as a Colonel with extensive operational and logistical experience over land, air and sea.



transported each day safely logging over two million miles annually. He worked in the transportation industry in the months that followed gaining experience in heavy truck and bus dealership operations, railroad operations, heavy truck and off-road vehicle maintenance, GPS/ELD/DOT compliance and more.

Commissioner Caldwell has accumulated multiple decades of experience in leadership, transportation, fleet management and logistics. He has a Bachelor of Science from Arkansas State University and an MBA in Public Administration from Columbia Southern University.

As a small business owner in Southaven, John was elected to consecutive terms as a DeSoto County Supervisor serving from 1996 through 2003. After that he served fourteen years as the Transportation Director for the largest school district in Mississippi managing a fleet of over 350 buses, drivers, mechanics and staff. While director, 20,000 students were

Qualifications: Transportation Commissioners serve a four-year term and may succeed themselves in office. A Transportation Commissioner must be a qualified elector and a resident to the Supreme Court District in which election is sought. The qualifying fee is \$500.

Duties: The Transportation Commissioner, in accordance with state statute, has the authority and responsibility for the control and supervision of all modes of transportation in the state dealing with aeronautics, highways, public transit, and rail safety. The Transportation Commission appoints an Executive Director of the Department of Transportation whose duty is to carry out the policies set by the Commission.

The Department of Transportation has

full and general supervision over all matters relating to airport development, highway construction and maintenance, weight enforcement, public transit, and rail planning. The Department also works with State Colleges, Universities, and other state agencies in transportation related matters.

Commission Website:

www.gomdot.com

Contact Information:

Mississippi Department of Transportation
401 N. West St.
Jackson, MS 3 9201
(601) 359-7074/f(601) 359-7834
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