



# EXECUTIVE



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*Article 5 and Article 6 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 authorize  
the duties and responsibilities of the statewide elected officials.*

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## Governor Phil Bryant

Phil Bryant was sworn in for his second term as Mississippi's 64th governor on January 12, 2016. Before becoming the state's chief executive, Bryant was lieutenant governor from 2008-2011. He also served as state auditor and represented his legislative district in the Mississippi House of Representatives for five years.

The son of Dewey C. and Estelle R. Bryant, a diesel mechanic and a mother who stayed home with her three boys, Bryant learned early the value of hard work and the importance of education. The Moorhead native earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from Hinds Community College and completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds a master's degree in political science from Mississippi College, and before assuming his role as governor, Bryant served as an adjunct professor of government there.

Gov. Bryant began his career as a deputy sheriff in Hinds County and later worked as an insurance investigator before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1991. In 1996, then Gov. Kirk Fordice appointed him state auditor, a position he was re-elected to in 1999 and 2003.

As governor, Phil Bryant has led Mississippi in implementing transformational public education reforms, promoting economic development and building a competitive business climate that attracts major employers like Yokohama Tire Corporation and Continental Tire. Under Gov. Bryant's administration, 27,518 jobs have

been announced along with \$5.2 billion in new investments. He is also an avid outdoorsman and is a longtime member of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action.

Gov. Bryant and his wife, First Lady of Mississippi Deborah Bryant, have two adult children, Katie Bryant Snell and Patrick Bryant, and are active members of St. Marks United Methodist Church in Brandon.

**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* **Tate Reeves**

Re-elected in 2015 as Mississippi's Lieutenant Governor, Tate Reeves stands ready to guide the state toward a brighter future by improving educational achievement for students, supporting the creation of high-skilled jobs and responsibly managing taxpayers' money.

Reeves leads the 52-member Senate with a focus on keeping government spending under control, reforming education and making Mississippi a better place to raise a family.

Under his leadership, Mississippi has a balanced budget that spends more on education and adequately funds other priorities while reducing taxpayers' overall debt burden.

### **Supporting Job Creation**

The Legislature approved several measures to make Mississippi an even better place to do business. Reeves believes government should create an environment to encourage the private sector to create more jobs.

In an effort to make the state's tax policy flatter and fairer, he proposed the largest tax cut in state history through the Taxpayer Pay Raise Act, which lowers the personal income tax; allows for self-employed Mississippians to increase deductions; and eliminates the corporate franchise tax. Under the plan adopted by the Legislature, every taxpayer will see a tax cut.

He supported helping job creators increase investment in their businesses by reducing the unemployment tax rate and boosting investment in workforce training at community and junior colleges.

The Legislature also made the state more competitive in a global marketplace by allowing businesses to claim a tax credit on inventory held in the state, which will encourage companies to invest more capital in creating jobs.

Legislators also reformed the state's workers' compensation law to ensure a fairer and impartial relationship between the worker and employer with provisions to better define the employee's choice of physician, implement stronger measures against workplace drug and alcohol use and increase certain benefits. The changes boost Mississippi's reputation as a place to do business and strengthen the state's right-to-work policies.

### **Strengthening Education**

Mississippi made record investments in education spending and enacted reforms to save money, strengthen achievement, and clearly communicate school performance.

Reeves successfully advocated for more transparent school district ratings, which led to a new grading system for schools based on A, B, C, D and F.

The first steps toward school choice were taken with the creation of public charter schools and scholarships for students with special needs. Reeves fought to boost the state's literacy rate with legislation to end social promotion of students who cannot read at grade level.

After decades of legislators talking about school district consolidation, Reeves took action by pushing for administrative consolidation, significantly reducing the number of districts in Mississippi.

The Education Commission of the States awarded Mississippi the 2016 Frank Newman Award for State Innovation for these transformational reforms to improve student learning.

### **Working for Transparent Government**

He fought for transparency for how agencies spend taxpayers' dollars. Agencies are now required to post budget requests on the legislative budget website and disclose each source of revenue. Stronger reporting requirements were

placed on taxpayer-funded incentive programs. Reeves secured a commitment from the Department of Finance and Administration and the State Personnel Board to develop statewide contracts for services, not just commodities, which will help state agencies take advantage of bulk purchasing power and reduce costs.

He pushed the passage of the Attorney General “Sunshine Act,” which requires an open and transparent process for awarding legal contracts. The boards of public hospitals, which are supported by taxpayer dollars, are required to operate in the sunlight so employees, patients and taxpayers can monitor the fiscal management of the facilities.

### **Enhancing Mississippi Values**

Reeves pushed several measures to strengthen public safety and make Mississippi a safe place to raise a family. The Legislature has passed laws to allow for the prosecution of attempted murder and to closely monitor sex offenders using GPS devices. He is committed to protecting Mississippians’ Second Amendment Rights by supporting laws to reduce the cost of concealed carry permits and clarify the limits on the ability of cities and counties to restrict the carrying of firearms.

Several new laws protect the state’s most vulnerable citizens – children. Reeves’ initiative to help school districts hire trained law enforcement for campus protection will place more officers in schools. The Child Protection Act requires health care professionals, members of the clergy, educators, child care providers and law enforcement to report cases of suspected child abuse. Also, the Legislature has taken steps to protect the health of the mother by requiring doctors performing abortion to have admitting privileges at a local hospital and prohibiting abortions after 20 weeks.

### **Public Service Recognition**

Reeves is past chairman of the Republican Lieutenant Governors Association. He was named one of the top 40 politicians under 40 by The Washington Post. He is a member of the inaugural Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows program focused on education issues. Reeves was named a 2013 Charter Champion by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

Reeves received the 2012 State Legislative

Achievement Award from the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform for passage of the Attorney General “Sunshine Act.” He was named Legislator of the Year by the Mississippi Municipal League in 2012.

Previously, Reeves was elected as Mississippi’s 53rd Treasurer in 2003 and re-elected to a second term four years later with 61 percent of the vote, the highest percentage of any candidate running for statewide office. He was the first Republican and youngest treasurer in the state’s history.

Reeves has been named a “Rising Star(s) in the Republican Party” by Rising Tide magazine – the publication of the Republican National Committee. He also was selected by the Aspen Institute’s Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership as one of the “Top Young Elected Officials” to its Fourth Class of Aspen-Rodel Fellows. Reeves was recognized by his NAST peers as the recipient of the Jesse M. Unruh Award which recognized his outstanding service to the association, the profession and to his state.

Reeves 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. Reeves has continued to be an active alumnus and remains involved with his alma mater by serving as a member of the investment policy board for the Millsaps College General Louis Wilson Fund and a member the Advisory Committee of the Else School of Management.

Reeves holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation (CFA) and is a member of the CFA Society of Mississippi and the CFA Institute, an organization that leads the investment industry by setting the highest standards of ethics and professional excellence. In 1996, he was the recipient of the Mississippi Society of Financial Analysts Award.

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

**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* **Delbert Hosemann**

The Honorable Delbert Hosemann has served as Mississippi's Secretary of State since January 2008 and is now in his third term in office. A true fiscal conservative, Secretary Hosemann has operated the Agency millions of dollars under appropriation since taking office by streamlining operations while emphasizing high quality service.

Dedicated to ensuring the integrity of your vote, Secretary Hosemann is committed to fair

and honest elections in Mississippi. As Chief Elections Officer for the State of Mississippi, Secretary Hosemann has led a crusade against those who would cast ballots illegally. In an effort to protect voters' rights and increase transparency, the Secretary of State's Office now dispatches observers in the State during elections and issues a Report on Elections to the State Legislature and the public on their findings. Secretary Hosemann also twice led the successful Legislative redistricting fight in the United States Supreme Court.

Since the June 3 Primary Election in 2014, 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, Secretary Hosemann reached Mississippians statewide to educate voters on the new requirement.

A military veteran of the United States Army Reserves, Secretary Hosemann's commitment to military voting was recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense, which invited him in 2015 to join a delegation of Secretaries of State to remote areas of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait to insure the military voting process. Mississippi was the first state in the Nation to allow online voting for our servicemen and women.

As a business lawyer and small business owner, Secretary Hosemann realizes the importance of economic development in our State. His goal is to make Mississippi the most business-friendly state in the Nation, particularly for small businesses. As part of his overall Business Reform Plan, Secretary Hosemann facilitates business reform study groups to revamp how Mississippi attracts, retains, and encourages businesses. Through various business reform proposals to the Legislature, Mississippi now has the leading Securities, Charities, and Limited Liability Company laws in the nation. Secretary Hosemann's landmark recommendation on trademark laws received global recognition by the International Trademark Association. Secretary Hosemann also drafted the nation's premier Athlete Agents 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 economic and business information provided by any State. The Agency was awarded the Esri 2016 SAG award for Y'all Business. In January 2016, the Agency initiated Mississippi BOSS, another pro-business website, designed for prospective business owners to start and register their business in Mississippi.

The Secretary of State also serves as State Land Commissioner. After taking office, Secretary Hosemann fulfilled a campaign promise to post all 16th Section leases on the Agency's website. This posting enables school boards to make sound financial decisions when determining lease amounts and gives Mississippians greater access to public hunting lands. Because of Secretary Hosemann's commitment to reforming 16th Section land practices, revenue generated from these lands has increased by more than \$30 million since Secretary Hosemann took office to more than \$80 million per year. This money goes directly back to the hands of Mississippi school children.

Funds generated from tidelands leases and assessments have also reached record amounts under Secretary Hosemann's leadership. In 2012, more than \$9 million was generated to ensure public access to our Coastal areas. In addition, a \$1 million donation was made to the State of Mississippi for the acquisition and preservation of tidelands. In 2013, Secretary Hosemann obtained funding from a coalition of state, federal, and international sources to purchase more than 200 acres of Cat Island located off the Mississippi Coast. After years of negotiation, Secretary Hosemann finalized the acquisition of an additional 492 acres of Cat Island in 2016. No State funds were expended in acquiring the land, which will be maintained in its natural state for future generations. In 2014, federal funding and private donations were used to purchase the Baldwin Property, which is 2,485.5 acres of ecologically sensitive habitat located at the mouth of the Pearl River in Hancock County. Again, no State dollars were used to purchase this property.

The Secretary of State also successfully recovered more than \$200 million for investors in a 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 Secretary Hosemann to Co-Chair the organization's Committee on Securities.

Secretary Hosemann was Chairman of the Board of Mississippi Blood Services, Treasurer of the Jackson Medical Mall Association, and served on the Board of Directors for Jackson State University Development Foundation. He is a member of the North Jackson Rotary Club and was a Paul Harris Fellow. Some of his accolades include 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. In addition, Secretary Hosemann was awarded the Kirk Fordice Freedom Award by the NRA for his support of the Second Amendment. Secretary Hosemann also served as Chairman of the Republican Secretaries of State Association.

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

A Warren County native, Secretary Hosemann comes to the Secretary of State's Office with a background in Business and Taxation Law. He earned a bachelor's degree in business from Notre Dame University, a Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law, and a Masters 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.

Secretary Hosemann has been married to his wife Lynn for 46 years. They are extremely proud of their three children: Kristen, Chad, and Mark; and grandchildren Grace, Nora Lynn, Carson, and Charlie.

**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* **Jim Hood**

As Attorney General of Mississippi, Jim Hood is an aggressive prosecutor and dedicated public servant who is committed to protecting the citizens of our state and to making Mississippi a safer place to live. General Hood is a passionate advocate for crime victims and a champion of

children. He works tirelessly to prevent children from being abused and exploited, and to rescue those who have already fallen prey to those who do them harm. He founded the nation's leading Cyber Crime Unit and Fusion Center. Based in the Attorney General's office, the Cyber Crime Fusion Center is the hub from which state, federal, and local agencies investigate and prosecute internet predators who target children and vulnerable adults.

As a prosecutor, Attorney General Hood tried more than 100 jury cases while serving as District Attorney. He successfully prosecuted several historic cases, including the prosecution and conviction of Edgar Ray Killen for the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers. As District Attorney, he also successfully prosecuted death penalty cases, including one which he originally won a conviction, and later, as Attorney General, argued and won an appeal of the case before the United States Supreme Court.

As Attorney General, Hood has established a Vulnerable Adults Unit, a Bureau of Victim Assistance to include a Domestic Violence Unit, an Identity Theft Unit, and a Crime Prevention and Victims Services Division to better protect Mississippians. He has launched initiatives to prevent workplace and school violence, and stalking and domestic assault. General Hood has developed and distributed numerous publications to assist and educate both consumers and other public service entities in areas such as cybercrime, consumer protection, domestic violence, human trafficking, victim's assistance, election, and government law.

After Hurricane Katrina ravaged Mississippi, bringing with it unscrupulous opportunists who victimized citizens, Hood worked to strengthen laws to protect consumers, while ceaselessly prosecuting offender's cases of home repair fraud, price gouging, identity theft, and financial scams. He has recovered more than \$860 million for Mississippi taxpayers from large corporate violators.

Hood has also placed emphasis on protecting the utility ratepayers of Mississippi by ensuring that public utilities that hold monopolies on power operate with the utmost transparency so that consumers are not overcharged. Attorney General Hood will continue to fight for better protection for children, senior citizens and consumers in Mississippi.



Attorney General Hood served as President of the National Association of Attorneys General thru June 2015. Hood's NAAG leadership initiative, "Protecting our Digital Lives: New Challenges for Attorneys General" brought national attention to online dangers that threaten the financial and personal information of consumers as well as the importance of intellectual property rights. Hood spearheaded a national emphasis with other Attorneys General on hazardous counterfeit products, cyber initiatives, and child protective programs. Attorney General Hood serves on the Executive Committee as well as Co-Chair of both the Law Enforcement and Prosecutorial Relations and Gaming Committees of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG).

Now serving a fourth term in office, Attorney General Hood serves on the National Board of Directors for: The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; The Jason Foundation, a youth suicide prevention program; The National Association of Model State Drug Laws; and as a Non-Regional Director for the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C). The office boasts numerous federal partnerships with agencies to include the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force, the FBI Public Corruption Working Group, the Office of Inspector General Social Security Administration Cooperative Disability Investigative Unit, the Food & Drug Administration Task Force, and the Homeland Security Task Force.

Hood received his J.D. from the University of Mississippi in December 1988. After graduation he served as a clerk with the Mississippi Supreme Court, as an Assistant Attorney General for five years, and as District Attorney for the Third Judicial District for eight years. He was educated in the public schools of Chickasaw County. He is a fifth generation Mississippian and an avid outdoorsman and hunter. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children—Rebecca, Matthew, and Annabelle.

**Duties:** The Attorney General is the chief legal officer and advisor for the State with responsibility to serve as lawyer for the State, its public officials, and governmental agencies. The Attorney General has the sole power under Mississippi law to bring or defend a lawsuit on behalf of the State. He or she is also empowered to act as counsel to state agencies and to defend them or bring suit on their behalf, either in person or through assistants.

The Attorney General employs a staff of attorneys, investigators, and office personnel,

chosen because of legal talents or other skills. The major duties, divisions, and sections of this office are Civil Litigation, Criminal Litigation, Consumer Protection, Crime Prevention Victim Services, Medicaid Fraud, Opinions and Local Government, Prosecutors Training, Public Integrity, and State Agencies.

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

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#### *State Auditor* **Stacey Pickering**

Elected as Mississippi's 41st State Auditor on November 6, 2007, Stacey Pickering was re-elected to his third term in November 2015 receiving over 65 percent of the vote in the General Election. Since taking office, Auditor Pickering has recovered more than \$25 million in embezzled, misappropriated and misspent taxpayer money on behalf of Mississippians. Over 1,250 cases have been investigated resulting in 39 public or elected officials being removed from office because of OSA investigations, and over

169 individuals have pled guilty or been found guilty by a jury of their peers with 69 individuals awaiting trial.

Throughout his career, Pickering has made tremendous strides in improving accountability and transparency in government and continues to promote fiscal responsibility. Pickering is committed to providing resources, education and evaluation for local and state governments to create a more efficient and performance-oriented government in Mississippi. Under his guidance, the Performance Audit Division has conducted 447 audits and reports highlighting opportunity for greater efficiency and effectiveness in government.

Under his leadership, the State Auditor's Office has earned accolades from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) of the United States for setting an example of best practices for the expenditure of one-time federal funds as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). In 2014, Auditor Pickering received the David M. Walker Award for excellence in accountability from GAO. In June 2012, Pickering was honored with the National State Auditor's Association's "National Excellence in Accountability Award" for his work on ARRA accountability and oversight, the first time Mississippi has ever received the award. In addition, the Department of Defense recognized him in 2009 and again in 2013 with a Patriot Award for his extraordinary support of its employees who serve in the Mississippi National Guard and Reserve.

Pickering currently serves on the Domestic Working Group for the Office of the Comptroller General of the United States. He also serves on the Executive Committee for the National Association of State Auditors and will serve as National Chairman in 2017.

Prior to serving as State Auditor, Pickering was elected to the Mississippi State Senate in 2003 to represent District 42 in Jones County. As Senator, he served as Chairman of the Local and Private Committee and Chairman of Enrolled Bills Committee. The American Legislative Exchange Council named him to the national policy task forces on Transportation and Homeland Security. Pickering helped organize the Mississippi Legislative Sportsman's Caucus, serving as founding Co-Chairman, and under his leadership, this group passed more pro-hunting legislation than any other caucus in

the nation during its first year. In 2004, he was named Legislator of the Year by the Mississippi Association of Realtors.

Pickering is a seventh-generation Mississippian. He was raised on the family dairy farm in the Hebron community of Jones County. A National 4-H scholarship winner, Pickering graduated from West Jones High School and went on to Jones County Junior College. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and a Master's Degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1993.

Pickering and his wife, Whitney, live in Laurel with their four children. They are active members of First Baptist Church of Laurel, where they teach Sunday School and he serves as a deacon. They have served as past Presidents of their children's school PTO and volunteer for the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. Pickering is a Mason, former volunteer firefighter, member of the National Rifle Association and Sigma Nu Fraternity. He serves on the Board of the Pine Burr Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and is a member of the Mississippi Air National Guard with the 186<sup>th</sup> AOG.

**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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## State Treasurer **Lynn Fitch**

Lynn Fitch was sworn in as Mississippi's 54th Treasurer on January 5, 2012. She is only the second female Treasurer in state history and the first Republican woman to hold that office. Lynn was elected to a second term with nearly 80 percent of the vote on November 3, 2015.

In her first term, Lynn saved taxpayers over \$69 million by being proactive in the way we manage state debt. She led the effort to reorganize MPACT, one of Mississippi's two 529 college savings programs, to make it more financially sound for savers and cost-neutral to taxpayers. She also helped to return over \$41 million in unclaimed property to its rightful owners. And, Lynn established the TEAM (Treasurer's Education About Money) initiative. This public-private partnership, in its first two years, has brought financial education to 48,000 students in over 300 schools and trained 800 teachers in personal finance, all at no cost to the schools, the teachers, or the students.

Raised in Holly Springs in Marshall County, Mississippi, Lynn earned both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Juris Doctorate at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. Lynn began her practice of law at the age of 23 as a Special Assistant Attorney General with the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, where she represented financial and economic development

state agencies. She was also in private practice as a bond lawyer with a focus on general and municipal bonds.

In 2009, Lynn was selected by Governor Haley Barbour to serve as Executive Director of the Mississippi State Personnel Board. Prior to leading MSPB, Lynn served as Deputy Executive Director of External Affairs at the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. She served as Counsel for the Mississippi House of Representatives Ways and Means and Local and Private Legislation Committees, as well. She has just completed two terms as Vice President for the Southern Region for the National Association of State Treasurers, and was recently elected National Chair of the State Financial Officers Foundation.

Lynn was a 2015 Honoree of the Women in Government Leadership Program by Governing Magazine. The Mississippi Women Lawyers Association selected her as the Outstanding Woman Lawyer of 2012, and the Mississippi Bar Association named her a Mississippi Bar Fellow. The Mississippi Business Journal named Lynn a Leader in Finance in 2016 and one of Mississippi's Top 10 Business Women in 2010. Lynn's commitment to community service extends to serving on the boards of several non-profits, including Goodwill Industries, Red Cross of Greater Jackson Area, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. In 2016, she served as Honorary Chair for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Central Mississippi.

**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: Mississippi's Prepaid Affordable

College Tuition Program (MPACT), and Mississippi's Affordable College Savings Program (MACS).

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. §§ 125, 134 and 136. Miss. Code Ann. § 7-9-1 et seq. (1972)

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*Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce*  
**Cindy Hyde-Smith**

Cindy Hyde-Smith was elected Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce in 2011, making history as Mississippi's first female elected to the post. She was re-elected in 2015. Prior to serving as Commissioner, Hyde-Smith served as a State Senator representing District 39 for 12 years. She served as Chairman of the Agriculture Committee and as an influential member of numerous other committees. As a State Senator, Hyde-Smith authored legislation and supported efforts to promote and protect all facets of the agriculture industry.

As Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, Hyde-Smith is committed to ensuring fairness and equity in the marketplace and protecting Mississippians through sound regulatory practices. She strives to ensure the states' farmers and ranchers can continue providing safe food and fiber at affordable prices to the citizens of Mississippi while maintaining the utmost in consumer confidence.

Hyde-Smith 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 and as secretary of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture. She has close affiliations with the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, Lincoln County Cattlemen's Association, Lincoln County Forestry Association, and the Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association.

Commissioner Hyde-Smith has received numerous awards and honors including Agriculture Legislator of the Year Award from the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts, Ambassador Award and Distinguished Service Award for outstanding and meritorious service from the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Achievement Award from Delta Council, and Outstanding Service to Small Farmers Award from Alcorn State University. She was named to The Governing Institute's Women in Leadership Class of 2017. She was selected to serve as co-chairman on the Agriculture Policy Advisory Council for President Donald Trump.

Commissioner Hyde-Smith and her husband Michael live in Brookhaven with their daughter Anna-Michael, the family's fifth generation farmer. Born in Brookhaven, Hyde-Smith is a graduate of Copiah Lincoln Community College and the University of Southern Mississippi. They are active members of Macedonia Baptist Church and serve on numerous community committees.

**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 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.

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.

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 and 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).

#### **Contact Information:**

Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce  
121 North Jefferson Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 359-1100/f(601) 354-6290  
[www.mdac.ms.gov](http://www.mdac.ms.gov)



### *Commissioner of Insurance* **Mike Chaney**

Mike Chaney, Mississippi's 11th Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal, is currently serving his third 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, catastrophe and property and casualty insurance.

As Commissioner, he was inducted into the Insurance Hall of Fame at his alma mater, Mississippi State University. 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 Paul Harris Fellow.

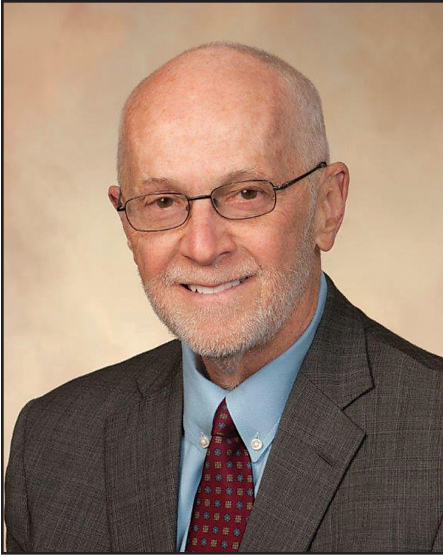
He is a veteran of the United States Army, serving in Vietnam. Chaney and his wife, Mary have three children and eight grandchildren.

**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 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)

#### **Contact Information:**

Commissioner of Insurance  
P.O. Box 79  
Jackson, MS 39205  
(601) 359-3569/f(601) 359-2474  
commissioner@mid.ms.gov  
www.mid.ms.gov



*Public Service Commissioner—  
Central District (1)*  
**Cecil Brown**

Cecil Brown is currently serving as Central District Public Service Commissioner, and Vice Chairman of the Commission.

Commissioner Brown was born in Meridian, Mississippi. He is a graduate of University of Mississippi, where he studied English and Mathematics. He is also a graduate of The University of Texas, where he received his Master's Degree in Accounting, and received the highest CPA exam score in the state.

Commissioner Brown has dedicated most of his career to public service; he started almost twenty-five years ago, serving as the State Fiscal Officer and Executive Director of the state Department of Finance and Administration. He later served as chief of staff to Governor Ray Mabus.

In 1999, Commissioner Brown was elected in the Mississippi House of Representatives.

During his 16 years in the legislature he worked on several committees, he served seven years as Chairman of the Education Committee, and eight years as a member of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

As Commissioner of the Central District Public Service Commission, he continues to work for the people of Mississippi to provide quality and affordable utility service.

He is married to Nancy, who is a retired public school teacher, and together they have four children and seven grandchildren.



*Public Service Commissioner  
Southern District (2)*  
**Sam Britton**

Commissioner Sam Britton was elected as the Public Service Commissioner—Southern District in 2015.

Samuel F. Britton, CPA/ABV, CVA, CFF, PFS, CGMA, CMAP, has worked as Managing Director at a national investment banking firm. He has also worked as a CPA in Public Accounting with experience in areas of governmental accounting and auditing, taxation, finance, business valuation, and mergers and acquisition. Sam worked at the Office of State Auditor and the Mississippi State Tax Commission.

Sam is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and also a graduate of Jones County Junior College.

Sam was named one of "Mississippi Leaders in Finance for 2014" by the Mississippi Business Journal. Sam is also a Mississippi Economic Council Leadership Class Graduate.

Sam is married to Robin Robinson, and they live in Laurel.



*Public Service Commissioner  
Northern District (3)*

## **Brandon Presley**

Brandon Presley was elected Public Service Commissioner for the Northern District of Mississippi in 2007, re-elected in 2011, and most recently re-elected in 2015 winning 31 of the district's 33 counties. 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.

Commissioner Presley currently serves as Chairman for the Mississippi Public Service Commission. He has also served as President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, which is composed of Public Service Commissioners from the eleven (11) Southern State and Puerto Rico. He currently serves as chairman of the Consumer Affairs Committee for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and also serves on the Natural Gas Committee. He is a former member of the board of directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NNRI). He currently serves on the advisory committee for the New Mexico's State University Center for Public Utilities.

Commissioner Presley, 38, 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.

**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 \$200.

**Duties:** For-hire transportation, 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  
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Jackson, MS 39201  
[www.psc.state.ms.us](http://www.psc.state.ms.us)

**Cecil Brown** - Central (1)  
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**Sam Britton** - Southern (2)  
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(223) 396-2643

17 JM Tatum Industrial Drive  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
(601) 545-4418



**Brandon Presley** - Northern (3)  
 (601) 961-5450/f(601) 961-5476  
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 northern.district@psc.state.ms.us

218 Main Street  
 Nettleton, MS 38858  
 (662) 963-1471  
 1-800-637-7722



*Transportation Commissioner  
 Central District (1)*

## **Dick Hall**

Hall is serving his fifth full term as Transportation Commissioner of the Central District, which covers 22 counties with a population of approximately one million people.

After serving 24 years in the Mississippi Legislature, Hall was appointed Central District Transportation Commissioner by Gov. Kirk Fordice in 1999 to fill the unexpired term of a former commissioner. Hall was elected later that year to his first full term as Commissioner and has been re-elected to four subsequent terms. Hall's experience in the Mississippi Legislature was extremely broad-based serving three terms as a Representative and three terms as a Senator. In both the House and the Senate, Hall chaired the Environment Committees of each chamber, respectively. Other chairmanships included the

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee — the first Republican to occupy this position in over 100 years. He also served as President of the Mississippi Republican-Elected Officials Association and as State Chairman of the United Republican Fund. Other honors have included being the first recipient of the Hugh L. White Free Enterprise Award and Conservation Legislator of the Year.

Born in Vicksburg, Hall grew up in Jackson and graduated from Central High School. After earning a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University, Hall served as a Field Artillery Officer in the U.S. Army. His dedication to public service does not end with government involvement. Hall's community participation has included serving on the Board of Directors of the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA and the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. He has served as Chairman of the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, the Mid-Mississippi March of Dimes and President of the Jackson Touchdown Club. He is also a board member of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation. Hall and his wife, Jennifer, reside in the Brandon area in Rankin County and attend Lakeside Presbyterian Church, where he serves as a Deacon.



*Transportation Commissioner  
Southern District (2)*

## **Tom King**

King is entering his second term as Southern District Transportation Commissioner. 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 his leadership brokered many bills designed to better the lives of Mississippians. 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, known as 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.

In his position 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 is no stranger to South Mississippi as he was born in Hattiesburg. He attended Petal High School and graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor's degree. 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)*

## **Mike Tagert**

Tagert has a broad background in intermodal transportation and economic development spanning the public and private sectors. Prior to being elected Commissioner in February 2011, Tagert was Administrator of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority,

responsible for promoting intermodal transportation and attracting private investment for job creation and economic growth. He signed an International Agreement with the Panama Canal Authority to promote future trade and transportation via the Gulf of Mexico and Northeast Mississippi. The agreement strengthens Mississippi's strategic position for handling freight in anticipation of changing global freight patterns.

Other accomplishments include leading the successful designation of the Marine Highway (M-65) Corridor, an all-water route between the Port of Itawamba and the Port of Mobile, Ala., to enhance freight capacity while reducing highway congestion. Tagert spearheaded various legislative initiatives including Mississippi's Interstate Pest Control Compact, aimed at promoting trade while protecting the environment and agriculture.

Tagert is a former member of the Trade and Transportation Advisory Council for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Earlier in his career, Tagert served as the Executive Director of the State Bureau of Plant Industry, a member of the Alabama Intermodal Infrastructure Advisory Board, Vice President of the Coalition of Alabama Waterway Associations and Vice President of Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc.

Tagert served in the United States Marine Corps and the Reserves for six years. He earned a bachelor's degree from Millsaps College in Jackson, and a Master of Public Policy degree from Mississippi State University. In his position as Transportation Commissioner, he represents approximately one million citizens in the northern 33 counties of the state. He is the first Republican to hold the post of Transportation Commissioner in the Northern District and only the second Republican to hold the post statewide.

He is married to the former Mary Love Mortimer of Kilmichael, and they have four children: Frances, Harlan, Wilkes and Henry.

**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 \$200.

**Duties:** The State of Mississippi vests oversight of its transportation resources and operations in a three-member elected Mississippi Transportation Commission representing three geographic areas in the state as defined by the Supreme Court Districts: Northern, Central and Southern. The Commissioners represent the electorate and have the authority and responsibility for the supervision of all modes of transportation in the state dealing with aeronautics, highways, ports, public transit and railroads. In accordance with state law, the Commission is responsible for planning, developing and coordinating a comprehensive, balanced intermodal transportation policy for the state. The Commission membership appoints its Chairman. The Commission appoints an Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to carry out the day-to-day policies and procedures of the agency. The Commission meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at its offices in Jackson; and at such sessions, the Commission may hear, continue and determine any and all matters coming before it. MDOT's headquarters and the Central District Commission office are located in Jackson. The Northern District Commission office is located in Tupelo. The Southern District Commission office is located in Hattiesburg.

**Contact Information:**

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www.GoMDOT.com

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
& TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION DISTRICTS**

