

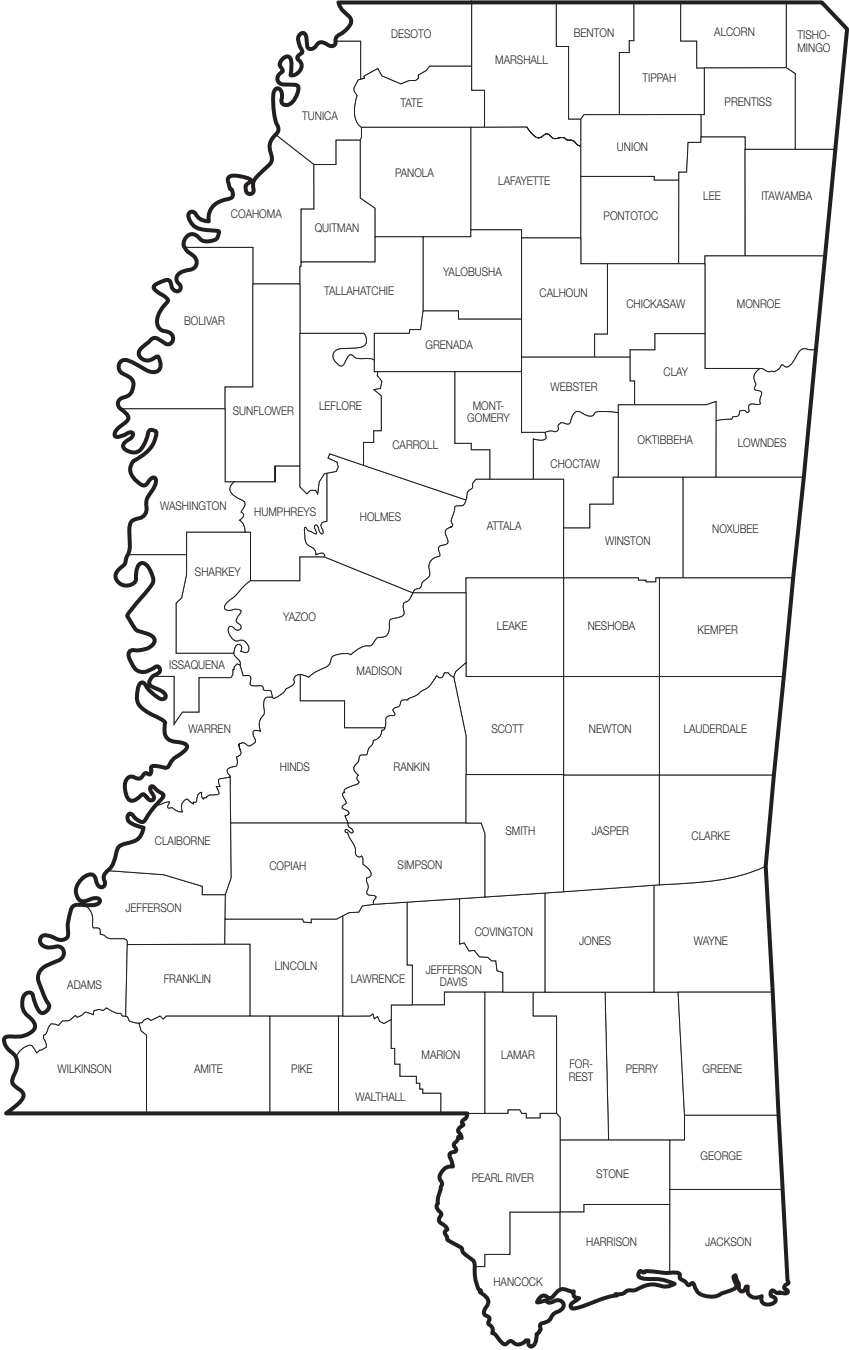


GENERAL INFORMATION

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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI



MISSISSIPPI STATE SYMBOLS



MISSISSIPPI'S STATE FLAG

By majority vote on April 17, 2001, the citizens of Mississippi adopted the following as Section 3-3-16 of the Mississippi Code:

"The official flag of the State of Mississippi shall have the following design: with width two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of its length; with the union (canton) to be square, in width two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the width of the flag; the ground of the union to be red and a broad blue saltire thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with thirteen (13) mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding with the number of the original States of the Union; the field to be divided into three (3) bars of equal width, the upper one blue, the center one white, and the lower one, extending the whole length of the flag, red (the national colors); this being the flag adopted by the Mississippi Legislature in the 1894 Special Session."

Although the 1894 Mississippi Legislature had adopted the flag described above, during the 1906 revision of the Mississippi State Code, the law designating an official state flag was not brought forward. On May 4, 2000, the Mississippi Supreme Court ruled that Mississippi did not have an official state flag. The election to select the official state flag was the recommendation of a 17-member commission appointed to study the issue by Governor Ronnie Musgrove. The 2001 Legislature passed a law setting the date for the special election. Voters chose between two designs.

The state flag may be displayed from all public buildings from sunrise to sunset; however, the state flag may be displayed from all public

buildings twenty-four (24) hours a day if properly illuminated. The state flag should not be displayed when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed. The state flag shall receive all of the respect and ceremonious etiquette given the American flag. Provided, however, nothing in this section shall be construed so as to affect the precedence given to the flag of the United States of America. Miss. Code Ann. § 3-3-15 (1972).

PLEDGE TO THE MISSISSIPPI FLAG

"I salute the flag of Mississippi and the sovereign state for which it stands with pride in her history and achievements and with confidence in her future under the guidance of Almighty God."

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-7 (1972)



THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

The State Seal is described in the Laws of the State of Mississippi, First Session, First General Assembly, 1817-1818: "The seal of this state, the inscription of which shall be 'the great seal of the state of Mississippi' around the margin, and in the center an eagle, with the olive branch and quiver of arrows in his claws," and has been in use since Mississippi became a state in 1817. The Great Seal was amended by an act of the 2014 Legislature to include the words "In God We Trust."



MISSISSIPPI'S COAT-OF-ARMS

In 1894, the Legislature declared the design above as official but upon revision of the Mississippi Code in 1906, the original law was not brought forward. In May 2000, the Supreme Court ruled Mississippi did not have an official Coat-of-Arms. Governor Ronnie Musgrove appointed a 17-member commission in order to study the issue which ultimately made the recommendation for the re-adoption of the Coat-of-Arms.

Governor Ronnie Musgrove signed Senate Bill No. 2285 in to law on February 7, 2001, making the above design the official Mississippi Coat-of-Arms:

"... a shield, blue in color, with an eagle upon it with extended pinions, holding in the right talon a palm branch and bundle of arrows in the left, with the word 'Mississippi' above the eagle; the lettering on the shield and the eagle to be in gold; below the shield two (2) branches of the cotton stalk, saltier wise, and a scroll below extending upward and on each side three-fourths (3/4) of the length of the shield; upon the scroll, which is to be red, the motto to be printed in gold letters upon white spaces, the motto to be 'Virtute et Armis'; this being the same Coat-of-Arms adopted by the Legislature in Chapter 37, Laws of the Extraordinary Session of 1894."

STATE LANGUAGE

English was designated the official language of the State in Chapter 439, General Laws of Mississippi 1987.



STATE FLOWER AND TREE

An election was held in November 1900 to select a State Flower. Votes were submitted by 23,278 school children. The magnolia received 12,745 votes, the cotton blossom 4,171, and the cape jasmine 2,484. A few votes were for other flowers. The magnolia was officially designated as the State Flower by the 1952 Legislature. In 1935, the Director of Forestry started a movement to select a State Tree for Mississippi. The tree was to be nominated and elected by school children of the state.

Four nominations were made: the magnolia, oak, pine, and dogwood. The magnolia received the majority. On April 1, 1938, the Mississippi Legislature officially designated the magnolia as the State Tree in Chapter 366, Laws of Mississippi 1938.

STATE SOIL

Natchez Silt Loam (*Typic Eutrudepts*) was designated the State Soil of Mississippi in Chapter 360, General Laws of 2003.

STATE DANCE

The square dance was adopted as the American folk dance of Mississippi, Chapter 303, General Laws of Mississippi 1995.

STATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE

The Grand Opera House of Meridian was designated the State Grand Opera House in Chapter 313, General Laws of Mississippi 1993.

STATE MUSEUMS

The Mississippi Code Ann. (1972) identifies Tupelo Automobile Museum as the State Automobile Museum, the Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum as the State Historical Industrial Museum, and the State Wildlife Heritage Museum in Leland as the Wildlife Heritage Museum.

OTHER OFFICIAL DESIGNATIONS

1. STATE BIRD

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

2. STATE REPTILE

The American Alligator (*Alligator Mississippiensis*) was designated the State Reptile by Senate Bill 2060 which was adopted by the Mississippi Legislature during the 2005 Regular Session.

3. STATE WATER MAMMAL

An act designating the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), commonly called the porpoise, as the State Water Mammal was approved April 12, 1974, as Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.

4. STATE FISH

The largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) was designated the State Fish of Mississippi, Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.

5 AND 6. STATE LAND MAMMALS

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) was designated the State Land Mammal of Mississippi by Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974. The red fox was also named State Land Mammal in the 1997 Legislative Session.

7. STATE WILDFLOWER

The Coreopsis was designated the State Wildflower in 1991, Chapter 339 of the General Laws of Mississippi.

8. STATE BUTTERFLY

An act designating the spicebush swallowtail (*Pterourus troilus*) as the State Butterfly of Mississippi was approved in 1991, as Chapter 315 of the General Laws of Mississippi.

9. STATE INSECT

The honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) was designated the State Insect of Mississippi in Chapter 317, General Laws of Mississippi of 1980.

10. STATE FOSSIL

A Senate Concurrent Resolution designating the pre-historic whale as the State Fossil was adopted March 26, 1981.

11. STATE STONE

A Senate Concurrent Resolution designating petrified wood as the State Stone was adopted May 14, 1976.

12. STATE WATERFOWL

The wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) was designated the State Waterfowl of Mississippi in Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.

13. STATE SHELL

An act designating the oyster shell (*Crassostrea virginica*) as the State Shell was approved April 12, 1974, as Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.

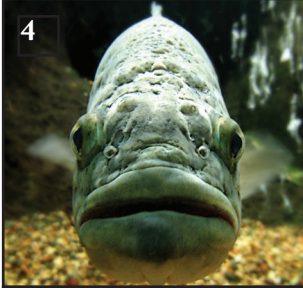
14. STATE BEVERAGE

An act to designate milk as the State Beverage was adopted by the Mississippi Legislature during the 1984 Regular Session, in Chapter 394, General Laws of Mississippi.

15. STATE TOY

The Teddy Bear is designated the state toy of Mississippi, in recognition of the Mississippi connection to the origin of the Teddy Bear inspired by President Theodore Roosevelt's bear hunt in the Delta, in Chapter 361, General Laws of Mississippi 2003.

OTHER OFFICIAL DESIGNATIONS



GO, MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Official State Song - Adopted by Legislature 1962

Words and Music by
HOUSTON DAVIS

INTRO.

Brightly

Musical notation for the Intro, featuring a piano accompaniment in E-flat major (three flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is played in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat).

VERSE

Musical notation for the Verse, featuring a piano accompaniment in E-flat major (three flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is played in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are: States may sing their songs of praise, with wav - ing flags and hip - hoorays, let cym - bals crash and let bells ring 'cause here's one song I'm proud to sing.

CHORUS

Musical notation for the Chorus, featuring a piano accompaniment in E-flat major (three flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is played in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are: 1. GO, MIS - SIS - SIP - PI, keep roll - ing a - long, 2. GO, MIS - SIS - SIP - PI, you're on the right track, 3. GO, MIS - SIS - SIP - PI, straight down the line, GO, MIS - SIS - SIP - PI, you can - not go wrong, GO, MIS - SIS - SIP - PI, and this is a fact, GO, MIS - SIS - SIP - PI, ev - 'ry - things fine, GO, MIS - SIS - SIP - PI, we're sing - ing your song, GO, MIS - SIS - SIP - PI, you'll nev - er look back, GO, MIS - SIS - SIP - PI, It's your state and mine.

Musical notation for the final part of the Chorus, featuring a piano accompaniment in E-flat major (three flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is played in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are: M - I - S, - S - I - S, - S - I - P - P - I. M - I - S, - S - I - S, - S - I - P - P - I. M - I - S, - S - I - S, - S - I - P - P - I.

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Adapted from original publication.

STATE SONG – “GO, MISSISSIPPI”

Words and music by Houston Davis

The Jackson Board of Realtors undertook the task of finding a satisfactory song to represent the State of Mississippi. They selected through an advisory committee a song entitled, “Go, Mississippi” by Houston Davis. On May 17, 1962, the Mississippi Legislature officially designated “Go, Mississippi” as the official song of the State of Mississippi. General Laws of Mississippi of 1962, Chapter 654.

“GO, MISSISSIPPI”

VERSE 1

States may sing their songs of praise,
With waving flags and hip-hoo-rays,
Let cymbals crash and let bells ring
'Cause here's one song I'm proud to sing.

CHORUS

Go, Mississippi, keep rolling along,
Go, Mississippi, you cannot go wrong,
Go, Mississippi, we're singing your song
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

VERSE 2

Go, Mississippi, you're on the right track,
Go, Mississippi, and this is a fact,
Go, Mississippi, you'll never look back
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

VERSE 3

Go, Mississippi, straight down the line,
Go, Mississippi, ev'rything's fine,
Go, Mississippi, It's your state and mine
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

VERSE 4

Go, Mississippi, continue to roll,
Go, Mississippi, the top is the goal.
Go, Mississippi, you'll have and you'll hold
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

VERSE 5

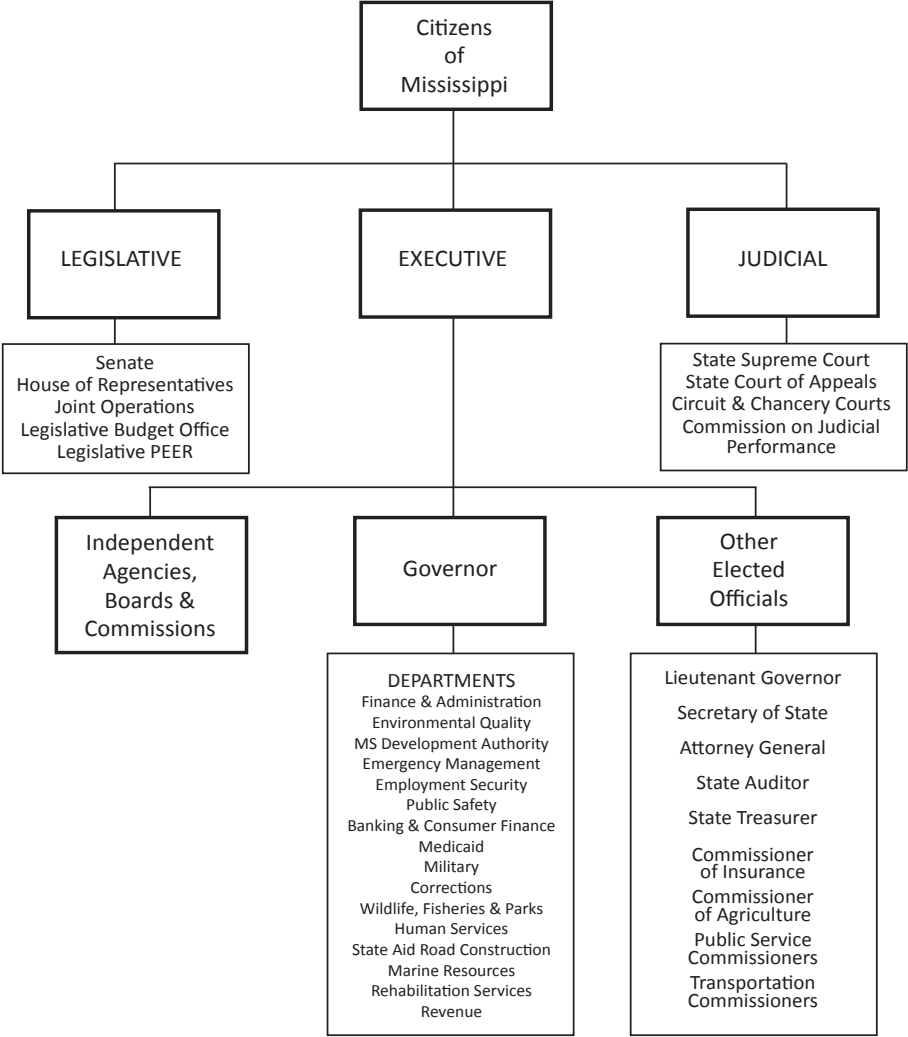
Go, Mississippi, get up and go,
Go, Mississippi, let the world know
That our Mississippi is leading the show
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

STATE MOTTO

“Virtute et armis”—A Latin phrase which translates “By Valor and Arms”—has not been adopted by the Legislature as an official motto as such, but has appeared on the State Coat-of-Arms since 1894. It was suggested by James Rhea Preston, a former Mississippi Superintendent of Education.

The Mississippi motto supposedly has its roots and inspiration from another motto created by Lord Gray de Wilton “Virtute Non Armis Fido” which means “I trust in virtue not arms.”

MISSISSIPPI STATE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



HOW DO I?

Apply for a job in Mississippi?

Visit the Mississippi Department of Employment Security website to search for openings.

www.mdes.ms.gov

Form a Mississippi Corporation or LLC? Search for a business entity in Mississippi?

Visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's website and click on Business Formation and Services.

www.sos.ms.gov

Start a business in Mississippi?

Visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's one stop shop for step by step instructions on starting your business.

www.ms.gov/sos/onestopshop

Assist businesses in starting or expanding in your area of the State?

Y'all Business, a website created by the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, aims to promote economic development by offering useful information to businesses looking to come to Mississippi or businesses looking to expand in Mississippi.

www.yallbusiness.sos.ms.gov

Update your voter registration information? See your sample ballot for a Statewide Election?

Find your voting precinct?

Visit the Secretary of State's Y'all Vote website to access Mississippi's online voter information center.

www.yallvote.sos.ms.gov

Find information about or locate a nearby hospital?

Visit the Hospital Locator website or the Mississippi Department of Health website.

www.msdh.ms.gov

Find fishing condition reports?

Current Mississippi fishing condition reports are located at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks website.

www.mdwfp.com

Find historic Mississippi landmarks?

Historic Mississippi landmarks can be found at the National Register of Historic Places.

www.nps.gov/nr

Find Mississippi maps and highway information?

Maps of the State of Mississippi can be found on the website of the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT).

www.mdot.ms.gov

Find information on my child's school or local school district?

Mississippi public school or school district websites can be found by visiting the Mississippi Department of Education's website.

www.mde.k12.ms.us

Find my Mississippi State Representative or Senator?

Find out more about the Mississippi State House of Representatives and State Senate on the Mississippi Legislature's website.

www.legislature.ms.gov

Find out about the arts and culture in Mississippi?

The Mississippi Arts Commission is one of the best places to start your search of the arts in Mississippi.

www.arts.ms.gov

Find out more about the Mississippi Blues Trail?

The Mississippi Blues Trail website offers a wealth of information about the historic trail.

www.msbluestrail.org

Find more information about tourism in Mississippi?

The Visit Mississippi website features events and landmarks in each region and offers a trip planning guide for your next road trip around the Magnolia State.

www.visitmississippi.org

Find more information about Mississippi's government, economy, education, and tourism?

The official website for Mississippi government contains numerous links to topical websites.

www.ms.gov