The United States Constitution vests all legislative powers of the federal government in a Congress consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives.
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The federal government is composed of three distinct branches: legislative, executive, and judicial, which powers are vested by the U.S. Constitution in Congress, the President, and the federal courts, including the Supreme Court, respectively. The powers and duties of these branches are further defined by acts of Congress, including the creation of executive departments and courts inferior to the Supreme Court.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH
The executive branch of the government is responsible for enforcing the laws of the land. The president, vice president, department heads (cabinet members), and heads of independent agencies carry out this mission.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
Courts decide arguments about the meaning of laws and how they are applied. They also decide if laws violate the Constitution—an authority known as judicial review. This authority is how federal courts provide checks and balances on the legislative and executive branches.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
Article I of the Constitution establishes the legislative or law-making branch of government. It has a bi-cameral Congress—the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

CONGRESS
Congress assembles at least once every year, beginning on the first Monday of December, in the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Powers granted to Congress by the Constitution include imposing and collecting taxes, paying the national debt, regulating international and interstate commerce, establishing military forces, sitting in tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court, and providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

THE SENATE
Each state is represented by two senators who are elected to six-year, staggered terms. Each senator represents his or her entire state. Reserved to the Senate are the powers of trying all impeachments and reviewing all presidential appointments requiring Senate approval. The Vice President of the United States is President of the Senate, but only votes in case of a tie. Senators must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the United States for nine years and an inhabitant of the state he or she represents. Senators serve a six-year term without term limits.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The House of Representatives is composed of members chosen every second year to represent the congressional districts of his or her state. Each state’s number of congressional districts is determined by population, with the total membership of the House of Representatives set at 435. Reserved to the House of Representatives is the origination of bills to raise revenue and the sole power of impeachment. The House of Representatives is led by a Speaker who is chosen by the members.

Representatives must be at least 25 years of age, citizens of the United States for seven years, and inhabitants of the state they represent. Representatives serve a two-year term without term limits.

Source: The Constitution of the United States of America/ ARTICLE 1 The Congress.
United States Senator

ROGER WICKER

Roger F. Wicker has represented Mississippi in the United States Senate since December 2007. During his time in the Senate, Wicker has championed pro-growth policies to create jobs, limit federal overreach, protect life, and maintain a strong national defense.

Wicker is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation for the 117th Congress. He served as chairman of the full committee during the 116th Congress.

Wicker is the second-highest ranking Republican member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. His other committee assignments include the Environment and Public Works Committee and the Rules and Administration Committee.

Wicker is the ranking member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and Vice President of the OSCE’s Parliamentary Assembly. Wicker also serves as a member of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Congressional Board of Visitors.

In the 115th Congress, Wicker authored the “Securing the Homeland by Increasing our Power on the Seas (SHIPS) Act,” which made it the policy of the United States to achieve the Navy’s requirement for a 355-ship fleet. This legislation was signed into law by President Trump as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Senator Wicker has been a strong advocate for economic development initiatives to help keep Mississippians competitive in a global marketplace. He has been honored by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) for his work on pro-growth, pro-manufacturing policies in Congress.

Senator Wicker has actively supported cancer survivorship programs and efforts to fight heart disease, diabetes, childhood obesity, and Alzheimer’s. He has been recognized as a “champion” of polio eradication for his work to wipe out polio worldwide. Senator Wicker is also the co-founder of the Senate Malaria and Neglected Tropical Disease Caucus.

He has been instrumental in bringing more research funding to Mississippi universities for a wide range of health-related projects to fight disease and improve quality of life. Most notably, Wicker authored the Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education (MD CARE) Act of 2001, which created NIH centers of excellence to coordinate and enhance muscular dystrophy research. The Wicker Project at Children’s National Medical Center is a leader in muscular dystrophy research.

Prior to his service in the Senate, Wicker was elected seven times, beginning in 1994, to represent Mississippi’s First Congressional District in the House of Representatives. Before being elected to Congress, he served in the state Senate on behalf of Lee and Pontotoc counties.

Senator Wicker served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force and then joined the Air Force Reserve. He retired from the Reserve in 2004 with the rank of lieutenant colonel. A native of Pontotoc, Mississippi, the Senator is the son of former Circuit Judge
Fred Wicker and the late Mrs. Wordna Wicker. He was educated in the public schools of Pontotoc and received his B.A. and law degrees from the University of Mississippi. Wicker is a member of the First Baptist Church Tupelo, where he served as chairman of the deacons, taught Sunday School, and where he still sings in the choir.

Senator Wicker is married to the former Gayle Long of Tupelo. They have three children: Margaret and son-in-law Manning McPhillips; Caroline and son-in-law Kirk Sims; and McDaniel Wicker and his wife, Kellee; and seven grandchildren: Caroline, Henry, Maury Beth, and Virginia McPhillips; Evelyn and Joseph Sims; and Philippa Wicker.

United States Senator
CINDY HYDE-SMITH

U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, a public servant committed to conservative principles, is the first woman elected to represent Mississippi in Washington, D.C. She won a six-year term in November 2020, following her April 2018 appointment to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by long-time Senator Thad Cochran and subsequent November 2018 special election victory to complete his term.

In the 117th Congress, Hyde-Smith serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Rules and Administration Committee.

As senator, Hyde-Smith is using the legislative process to improve the overall quality of life for all Mississippians, using her committee assignments to support policies and legislation to benefit the state and nation.

The first bill she introduced as a senator—the Migratory Bird Framework and Hunting Opportunities for Veterans Act to extend duck season to January 31 and establish a special weekend for youth,
veterans, and active military—became law in March 2019 as part of a larger package.

On the Senate Appropriations Committee, Hyde-Smith has used her subcommittee positions and influence to benefit Mississipians. The 12 annual appropriations bills she assisted in crafting for fiscal years 2019-2021 have supported funding for: shipbuilding on the Gulf Coast; Mississippi’s strong defense and aerospace sectors; Mississippi agriculture; rural broadband and health care; and border security, among other priority issues.

On the Senate Agriculture Committee, Hyde-Smith influenced the 2018 Farm Bill, which included provisions she authored pertaining to rural economic development, crop insurance for flood-prone regions, chronic wasting disease research, and forest health.

In early 2019, Hyde-Smith reinitiated the effort to address the catastrophic flooding in the Yazoo Backwater Area by securing commitments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency to revisit the previously vetoed project. Hyde-Smith secured funding for the Corps to complete environmental review of a new Proposed Plan for the Yazoo Area Pump Project and to carry out pre-construction project engineering and related activities.

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hyde-Smith established herself as a leader in helping to secure billions in funding for rural hospitals to address the coronavirus and to expand telehealth for Medicare beneficiaries. She also worked to secure support for agriculture producers, food banks, and small businesses.

Hyde-Smith has a strong social conservative voting record. She received an A+ rating for pro-life leadership from the Susan B. Anthony List. She is also a lifetime member of the NRA.

Prior to becoming a U.S. Senator, Hyde-Smith served as the Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, elected in 2011 and reelected in 2015.

Before leading the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Hyde-Smith served 12 years in the Mississippi State Senate, including eight years as chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

As a U.S. Senator, Hyde-Smith has received the Award for Conservative Achievement from the American Conservative Union Foundation and the Spirit of Enterprise Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Hyde-Smith also received numerous awards and honors for her work as a state legislator and champion of agriculture.

Hyde-Smith is a graduate of Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Hyde-Smith, her husband, Mike, and daughter, Anna-Michael, reside in Brookhaven. The Senator’s family raises beef cattle and are partners in a Brookhaven stockyard auction market. They are active members of Macedonia Baptist Church.

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On Tuesday, June 2, 2015, Trent Kelly was elected in a special election runoff to represent the First District of Mississippi in the 114th Congress.

Trent lives in Saltillo with his wife of 30 years, Sheila, and their three children John Forrest, Morgan, and Jackson. They are members of Saltillo First United Methodist Church.

Trent was born on March 1, 1966, in Union, Mississippi to parents John and Barbara Kelly. In 1984, he graduated from Union High School and graduated East Central Community College in 1986. He earned his bachelor’s degree and juris doctor from the University of Mississippi. In 2010, he received his master’s degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Trent has spent 35 years in the Mississippi Army National Guard as a Combat Engineer and is currently serving as a Major General. In 1990, he mobilized for Desert Storm as an Engineer Second Lieutenant. In 2005, he deployed as a major to Iraq with the 155th Brigade as the Operations Officer of the 150th Engineer Battalion. From 2009 to 2010, he deployed as a lieutenant colonel to Iraq as the Battalion Commander of Task Force Knight of the 155th Brigade Combat Team and commanded over 670 troops from Mississippi, Ohio, and Kentucky. He has received two Bronze Stars, Combat Action Badge, the Bronze, Silver, and Gold de Fleury Medals, and numerous other federal and state awards for his service.

Trent has worked at McRae's Department Store as a manager, maintained a private law practice in Saltillo, and served as Tupelo City Prosecutor and Forfeiture Attorney for North Mississippi Narcotics Unit. Prior to being elected to Congress, Trent served as a District Attorney for the First Circuit Judicial District (Lee, Pontotoc, Alcorn, Monroe, Itawamba, Prentiss, and Tishomingo) managing all felony cases.

In Congress, Trent serves on the House Armed Services Committee, serving as Ranking Member of the Intelligence and Special Operations Subcommittee. Trent also serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the House Budget Committee.
United States Congressman
Second District
BENNIE THOMPSON

Born in a state with a unique history of racial inequality, Congressman Bennie G. Thompson draws inspiration from the legacies of Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, Aaron Henry, and Henry Kirksey. The Bolton, Mississippi native considers it an honor to walk the path Mississippi civil rights icons paved decades ago.

Serving his 13th term in the United States House of Representatives, Thompson represents Mississippi’s Second Congressional District where he has spent his entire life fighting to improve the lives of all people.

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson is the longest-serving African American elected official in the State of Mississippi and the lone Democrat in the Mississippi Congressional Delegation.

He began his grassroots political activism being a civil rights champion through the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) while a student at Tougaloo College – a private historically black college in Jackson, Mississippi. He organized voter registration drives for African Americans throughout
the Mississippi Delta on behalf of the organization before graduating and following in the footsteps of his mother by becoming a schoolteacher. During his tenure educating the youth of Mississippi, a fire inside of Thompson was ignited pushing him to be a voice to the voiceless through elected office.

From 1969 to 1972, Thompson served as alderman of his hometown, Bolton, before serving as the city’s mayor from 1973 to 1980. During his time as mayor, Thompson improved the city’s infrastructure by paving roads, fixing the water and sewer systems, repairing and renovating dilapidated houses; all while spearheading the construction of city hall and re-evaluating the town’s real estate.

Thompson was a founding member of the Mississippi Association of Black Mayors where he instituted policies and provided services benefiting Bolton’s underserved. The selfless service Thompson provided his hometown was increased when he was elected as a Hinds County supervisor, a position he held from 1980 until 1993. The then-supervisor’s record of being a pragmatic local servant was embraced by constituents in Mississippi’s most populous county.

His record of effective problem solving, and coalition building served as the bedrock for his election to Congress in 1993, representing Mississippi’s largest Congressional District composed of the state’s capital city, Jackson, and the Mississippi Delta.

Congressman Thompson has channeled his passion for public service into action. In 2000, he authored legislation creating the National Center for Minority Health and Health Care Disparities which subsequently became law. After Hurricane Katrina ravaged the State of Mississippi, he aggressively advocated for disaster relief improvements within government agencies and provided oversight to ensure that federal funds were properly allocated for Gulf Coast recovery.

The following year, Thompson’s Washington colleagues expressed their overwhelming confidence in his leadership abilities and selected him to serve as the first Democratic chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee. As chairman, Thompson introduced and engineered passage of the most comprehensive homeland security package since September 11, 2001 – H.R. 1, the “9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007.”

The Congressman has also served on the Agriculture, Budget, and Small Business Committees while working to level the playing field. Thompson employs a progressive and realistic approach to overcome persistent disparities while being the unabashed champion for civil rights, equal education, and healthcare delivery in Mississippi.

Representative Thompson is a lifelong member of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Bolton, Mississippi. He has been married to his college sweetheart, London Johnson of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, since 1968. The couple has a daughter, BendaLonne; granddaughter, Jeanna; and grandson, Thomas Gordon. Thompson is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys gardening, reading, and listening to the blues.
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United States Congressman
Third District
MICHAEL GUEST

Congressman Michael Guest is serving his second term as the U.S. Representative for Mississippi’s Third Congressional District. Congressman Guest is a lifelong conservative Republican who believes in limited government, traditional Mississippi values, free market economic principles of lower taxes and fewer regulations, the right to life of the unborn, a strong national defense with full support of our men and women in the military, and our Second Amendment gun rights and all the other individual liberties guaranteed to us by the Constitution. Congressman Guest quickly proved himself an effective legislator when he became the first Republican freshman House Member to pass a piece of legislation in the 116th Congress. The Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act of 2019, signed into law by President Trump, promotes the identification and determent of terrorist travel and enhances the United States government’s ability to respond to terrorism. As a staunch advocate for American border security, Congressman Guest introduced the Operation Stonegarden
Authorization Act, which would support state law enforcement tasked with protecting the nation’s borders.

While taking an America-first approach to his service, Congressman Guest has focused on defending conservative principles and ideals from progressive activism. Congressman Guest has stood firm against the #DefundThePolice Movement, pro-abortion groups, Socialist policies, and other progressive agenda items. Congressman Guest has been recognized by the Susan B. Anthony List and the Family Research Council for his pro-life stance, the National Rifle Association for his strong defense of our Second Amendment rights, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses for his support of pro-growth policies.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Congressman Guest works to protect our nation from foreign threats. Congressman Guest is committed to securing our country’s southwest border to help curb the flow of illegal drugs into our communities, and he will be able to lead on this issue as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security’s Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations. He is also a member of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism.

Additionally, Congressman Guest serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) where he takes an active role in promoting trade, economic growth, and broadband expansion across Mississippi. As a representative of a state that borders the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi River, and Tennessee River/Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway, with countless other rivers and streams, has three major interstates crossing it, and terminates multiple large rail lines, Congressman Guest can serve Mississippi well through his membership on the Committee. He also serves on two of T&I’s most influential subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management and the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

Congressman Guest was appointed by House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy to serve a second term on the House Committee on Ethics, which is the panel responsible for ensuring the integrity of the institution of the House of Representatives.

Congressman Guest is a Rankin County resident and a graduate of Brandon High School. He and his family are members of Brandon Baptist Church, where Congressman Guest serves as a Sunday school teacher for young men in high school. He received a degree in accounting from Mississippi State University and his law degree from the University of Mississippi.

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United States Congressman
Fourth District
STEVEN PALAZZO

Congressman Steven M. Palazzo is proud to serve the people of South Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, which includes Mississippi's Gulf Coast and Pine Belt regions. As a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, current member of the Mississippi National Guard, and former member of the Mississippi House of Representatives, Congressman Palazzo has a record of service that began long before he was first sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives on January 5, 2011.

A Gulf Coast native, Steven was born and raised in Gulfport, Mississippi. After graduating high school, he followed his grandfathers' footsteps and enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve. During this time, he served overseas in the Persian Gulf War. Steven graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and in 1996 with a Master of Public Accountancy. In 1997, he became a Certified Public Accountant. After graduation, Steven worked offshore in the Gulf of Mexico on a deep-water drill ship. He also worked as a defense contractor in support of Operation Joint Forge in the Balkans and in Uzbekistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Later, Steven owned and operated Palazzo & Company, CPA a full-service accounting firm specializing in expat tax services with clients in over 25 foreign countries.

Steven currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee, where he sits on two Subcommittees: the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee, and the Homeland Security Subcommittee. His committee is responsible for allocating every dollar of federal discretionary spending. His subcommittee memberships allow him to advocate for funds to be allocated toward improving American security and ensuring efficient use of taxpayers’ dollars.

Since his first term, Steven has served on the Majority Whip team. He also spent five years as the chairman of the Space Subcommittee, overseeing the country's space program and ensuring America's continued access to space. He remains a strong supporter of space exploration, promoting the district's Stennis Space Center and serving as co-chair of the House Aerospace Caucus. He has been able to combine his previous experiences as an expatriate and CPA by serving as current Chairman of the Congressional Expatriate Caucus, advocating for Americans living and working overseas.

Before being selected for the Appropriations Committee, Congressman Palazzo also sat on the House Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees. His military experience provided the opportunity for Steven to lead as chairman on the House National Guard Caucus and serve on the Naval Academy Board of Visitors. In 2014, Steven received the Sonny Montgomery Eagle award for his outstanding service to the National Guard.

In these roles, he has been a consistent advocate for a strong national defense, a leader on veterans’ issues, and a champion.
for bringing fiscal common-sense back to Washington by supporting balanced budgets, pro-growth policies, and parity legislation. Congressman Palazzo believes in smart federal investment while cutting the true drivers of our national debt: mandatory spending.

He is an active member of the conservative Republican Study Committee, where he joins other like-minded House members to promote conservative legislation. He is also an active member of the Values Action Team, a group dedicated to advancing policy that promotes traditional values and amplifying the voices of like-minded citizens.

During his off-time, Steven enjoys fishing, hunting, shooting, reading, and spending time with his three children: Barrett, Aubrey, and Bennett.
U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
SPLIT-COUNTY DISTRICTS

Hinds County/Madison County Inset

Oktibbeha County Inset

Clarke County Inset
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FIFTH FEDERAL JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
(Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas)

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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS
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  - Aberdeen 39730-0704
- **Greenville** ............................... 305 Main St., Rm. 329 ........................................(662) 335-1651
  - Greenville 38701-0190
- **Oxford** .................................... 911 Jackson Ave. E., Rm. 369 ............................(662) 234-1971
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