STATE AGENCIES

Government Offices, Agencies, and Departments. ......................... 529

(A listing of appointed Boards and Commissions can be accessed at www.sos.ms.gov.)
GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AGENCIES, & DEPARTMENTS

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
(601) 313-6232/f(601) 313-6251
1410 Riverside Dr., Jackson 39202
P.O. Box 5027, Jackson 39296-5027
ng.ms.msarng.list.public-affairs@mail.mil
Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 33-3-7
Major General Janson D. (Durr) Boyles, Adjutant General (Appointed by Governor)
The Office of the Adjutant General is responsible for providing the State of Mississippi and the United States of America with a ready force of more than 12,275 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen, equipped and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or man-made. The Adjutant General directs the Mississippi Military Department and oversees the development and coordination of all policies, plans, and programs of the Mississippi National Guard in concert with the Governor and legislature of the state.

Katie Blount, Executive Director (Appointed by Board of Trustees)
The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is a comprehensive historical agency which collects, preserves, and provides access to the archival resources of the state, administers museums and historic sites, and oversees statewide programs for historic preservation, government records management, and publications. The department comprises five divisions – Administration, Archives and Records Services, Historic Preservation, Museums, and Programs and Communication.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
(601) 359-1100/f(601) 354-6290
121 N. Jefferson St., Jackson 39201
P.O. Box 1609, Jackson 39215
webmanager@mdac.ms.gov
www.mdac.ms.gov
Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 69-1-1
Andy Gipson, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce (Elected by Voters)
The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce promotes and regulates agricultural-related businesses within the state and promotes Mississippi's products throughout both the state and worldwide.

Lynn Fitch, Attorney General (Elected by Voters)
The Attorney General serves as the chief legal officer and advisor for the State. Responsibilities are to serve as lawyer for the state, its public officials, and government agencies, and to issue legal opinions which interpret existing State law. The Attorney General has the sole power under Mississippi law to bring or defend a lawsuit on behalf of the state. The Attorney General is also empowered to act as counsel to state agencies and to defend them or bring suit on their behalf, either in person or by assistants. The major divisions and sections of this office are: Civil Litigation, Consumer Protection, Crime Prevention and Victim's Services, Criminal Litigation, Cyber Crime, Domestic Violence, Medicaid Fraud Control, Opinions and Local Government, Prosecutors' Training, Public Integrity which includes: Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement, Child Desertion, DUI, Insurance Fraud, and Vulnerable Persons.
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR  
(601) 576-2800/f (601) 576-2687  
501 N. West St., Ste. 801, Jackson 39201  
P.O. Box 956, Jackson 39205-0956  
auditor@osa.ms.gov  
www.osa.ms.gov  
Reference: Miss. Constitution Article 5  
Shad White, State Auditor  
(Elected by Voters)  
The Department of Audit is the definitive authority in matters pertaining to the use of public funds. The Office of the State Auditor serves its customers and protects the public’s trust by independently assessing state and local governmental and other entities to ensure that public funds are properly received, are legally, effectively, and efficiently spent, and are accounted for and reported accurately.

OFFICE OF THE STATE BOND ATTORNEY  
(601) 583-7300  
1978 Hood Blvd., Ste. 325, Hattiesburg 39401  
derekarrington@comcast.net  
Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 31-13-1  
Derek Arrington, State Bond Attorney  
(Appointed by Governor)  
The State Bond Attorney reviews all proposed public bonds and renders a written opinion on whether all procedures have been properly followed and whether the proposed bonds are legal, valid and binding.

DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND CONSUMER FINANCE  
601-321-6901/f (601) 321-6933  
P.O. Box 12129, Jackson 39236  
rhoshunda.kelly@dbcf.ms.gov  
www.dbcf.ms.gov  
Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 81-1-61  
Rhoshunda Kelly, Commissioner  
(Appointed by Governor)  
The Department of Banking and Consumer Finance is responsible for the execution of all laws relating to corporations, and carrying on a banking business in the State of Mississippi. The Department is charged with the primary examination and regulatory supervision of all State chartered commercial banks, State chartered thrift institutions, State chartered credit unions, independent trust companies, consumer finance companies, premium finance companies, motor vehicle sales finance companies, credit availability lenders, pawn brokers, title pledge lenders, consumer loan brokers, check cashers, mortgage lenders, the sale of commercial exchange, and debt management service providers.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES  
(601) 359-4368  
750 North St., Jackson 39205  
P.O. Box 346, Jackson 39205  
contactus@mdcps.ms.gov  
www.mdcps.ms.gov  
Andrea A. Sanders, Commissioner  
(Appointed by Governor)  
The Department of Child Protection Services mission is to lead Mississippi’s efforts in keeping children and youth safe and thriving by: strengthening families; preventing child abuse, neglect and exploitation; and promoting child and family well-being and permanent family connections.

Our vision is that Mississippi’s children will grow up in strong families, safe from harm and supported through partnerships to promote family stability and permanency.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
(601) 359-5600  
301 N. Lamar St., Jackson 39202  
www.mdoc.ms.gov  
References: Miss. Code Ann. § 47-5-8  
Burl Cain, Commissioner  
(Appointed by Governor)  
The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) is responsible for maintaining custody and control of individuals convicted and sentenced for felony crimes in state courts. MDOC’s mission is to enhance public safety by providing safe and secure facilities, effective supervision, and rehabilitative services that
transform lives. The Agency's vision is to be a professional organization that is honorable, innovative, and fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Burl Cain brings more than 40 years of experience in prison operations and is a proven leader, recognized nationally, through his transformative and innovative work during his previous tenure in the Louisiana prison system. The Commissioner's priorities include recruitment of qualified and capable officers and support staff, removing security threats and contraband, improving the quality and safety of the prison environment for inmates and employees, providing moral guidance and spiritual development for inmates while remaining financially accountable; and reducing the recidivism rate through providing educational and rehabilitative programs for individuals during their incarceration while also preparing them for successful re-entry into society.

The agency is divided into divisions including Institutions, Community Corrections, Administration and Finance, Programs, Medical, Investigation, Technology, Legal, and Communications. The Agency maintains and supervises three state prison facilities, has oversight over three privately operated facilities, 15 regional facilities, community work centers, restitution centers and other facilities across the state. Through the Community Corrections Division, MDOC supervises probation and parole agents in the monitoring of individuals released from incarceration but still under the jurisdiction of the state until the completion of their sentence.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
(601) 359-3513
P.O. Box 771, Jackson 39205-0771
www.mdek12.org
Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-1

Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Education (Appointed by State Board of Education)

The State Department of Education operates under the direction and supervision of the State Superintendent of Public Education. The State Department of Education is organized into functional divisions as established by the State Board of Education, including any divisions established by law and prescribing the duties of the directors of such divisions. It oversees public education in Mississippi from pre-kindergarten through grade 12.
The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency mission is to safeguard Mississippi and her citizens by fostering a culture of preparedness, executing timely response during a disaster, and quickly restoring quality of life post-event.

1. Preparedness—provides emergency planning, training and exercise assistance to state agencies and local governments.
2. Response—coordinates the State’s response to natural or man-made emergencies through the State Warning Point and State Emergency Operations Center.
3. Individual Assistance – leads recovery operations for homeowners, renters, and members of our communities with disabilities after a storm.
4. Public Assistance—manages a federal grant for county, municipal, and state governments in a federally declared event.
5. Mitigation—manages grants that help prevent damage and loss of life and property in future disasters.
6. Human Resources – oversees all Human Resource related items to include travel and benefits.
8. Finance and Accounting – controls all financial matters for the agency including accounts payable, accounts receivable, grant payments, and annual reporting.
9. Logistics - manages the flow of commodities and goods, along with other resources during the response and recovery to disasters.
10. Information Technology Services – oversees all technological programs, property, and systems within MEMA.
Liz Welch, Executive Director  
(Appointed by Governor)

The Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration is the primary agency responsible for State government financial and administrative operations including employee payroll, vendor payments, employee insurance, construction, maintenance, and protection of State buildings in the Capitol Complex, financial information management systems, management of the state's vehicle fleet, and numerous other related activities. As the executive branch agency for fiscal and asset management, it provides services, solutions, regulations, and guidance to its customers.

Tate Reeves, Governor  
(Elected by Voters)

The Governor's Office provides staff assistance to the governor in his role as chief executive of the state. It also serves as a liaison in all areas of state government administration and researches agency programs and policies.

Dr. Thomas E. Dobbs, State Health Officer  
(Appointed by State Board of Health)

The Mississippi State Department of Health’s mission is to protect and advance the health, well-being and safety of everyone in Mississippi.

Robert G. “Bob” Anderson, Executive Director  
(Appointed by Governor)

The Department of Human Services offers Mississippians, young and old, tangible help today to create lasting hope for tomorrow. It is also authorized to promote integration of the many services and programs within its jurisdiction at the client level thus improving the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and providing easier access to clients; to develop a statewide comprehensive service delivery plan in coordination with the Board of Health, the Board of Mental Health, and the Department of Finance and Administration; and to employ personnel and expend funds appropriated to the department to carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to the department by law.

David C. Johnson, Executive Director  
(Appointed by ITS Board)

The Department of Information Technology Services was created to assure cost effective and efficient information technology solutions for the agencies and institutions of the State of Mississippi. This responsibility includes the purchasing of technology equipment, services, and solutions and managing and operating of technology systems and communication facilities for state agencies and institutions.
Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr., Commissioner of Higher Education (Appointed by IHL Board of Trustees)

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning is responsible for the management and control of the eight public universities and units that comprise the IHL system. The Board is also responsible for demonstrating accountability to the people of Mississippi and effectively communicating the accomplishments, needs, and values of the system of universities to the public. By strengthening and maintaining a viable comprehensive planning, management, and evaluation process, the Board facilitates effective decision making, resource allocation and utilization, fiscal accountability, and program review and evaluation. The Commissioner of Higher Education is responsible for assisting the IHL Board in the administration of its policies and bylaws.

Mike Chaney, Insurance Commissioner
(Elected by Voters)

The Mississippi Insurance Department enforces the laws and regulations enumerated in Mississippi Code to create an environment conducive to a competitive marketplace for the sale of insurance products and services while providing citizens with the maximum amount of consumer protection. The Department's aim is to create the highest degree of economic security, quality of life, public safety and fire protection for the state's citizens at the lowest possible cost.

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director
(Appointed by the Governor)

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is a separate governing agency, created in 1994 by the Mississippi Legislature, with the mission to enhance, protect and conserve the state's marine interests. MDMR manages all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economical uses of these resources that are consistent with environmental concerns and social changes.

Drew Snyder, Executive Director
(Appointed by Governor)

Medicaid is a national health care program. It helps pay for medical services for low-income people. For those eligible for full Medicaid services, Medicaid is paid to providers of health care. Providers are doctors, hospitals, and pharmacists who accept Medicaid.

The mission of the Division of Medicaid is to ensure access to health services for the Medicaid eligible population in the most cost efficient and comprehensive manner possible and to continually pursue strategies for optimizing the accessibility and quality of health care.
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
1101 Robert E. Lee Bldg.,
239 N. Lamar St., Jackson 39201
(601) 359-1288/f(601) 359-6295
www.dmh.ms.gov

Wendy Bailey, Executive Director
(Appointed by State Board of Mental Health)
Supporting a better tomorrow by making
a difference in the lives of Mississippian with
a mental illness, substance use disorder and/or
intellectual and developmental disability one
person at a time.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC BROADCASTING
(601) 432-6565/f(601) 432-6311
3825 Ridgewood Rd., Jackson 39211
www.mpbonline.org

Ronnie Agnew, Executive Director
(Appointed by Board)
Mississippi Public Broadcasting provides
relevant instructional and public affairs
programming to Mississippian through its
statewide television and radio network. MPB
enhances the work of educators, students, parents
and learners of all ages by providing informative
programming and educational resources. MPB's
locally produced programming focuses on
the people, resources and attractions that
reflect Mississippi's unique culture and diverse
heritage. MPB is a PBS and NPR affiliate.

Children's television programs constitute
a major portion of the daytime and weekend
morning schedules. MPB provides a valuable
resource to Mississippian in disseminating
information as part of the state's emergency
preparedness and response system. Since 1970,
MPB has won more than 350 national, regional
and statewide awards, including Emmy®, Edward
R. Murrow and Parents' Choice® Awards.

OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER
(601) 576-2315
239 N. Lamar St., Ste. 601, Jackson 39201
P.O. Box 3510, Jackson 39207
info.ospd.ms.gov
www.ospd.ms.gov
Reference: SB 2563

André de Gruy, State Defender
(Appointed by Governor)
The Office of State Public Defender provides
representation to indigent persons including
those charged with death penalty eligible offenses
in the state courts of Mississippi at the trial level
and on direct appeal where the death penalty
has been imposed. The office also provides
representation to indigent persons convicted
of felony offenses and youth court matters on
appeal to the Supreme Court of Mississippi and
limited representation in child welfare matters
in the youth court. The Office trains and
provides technical assistance to public defenders
practicing in all Mississippi courts.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
(601) 987-1212
P.O. Box 958, Jackson 36205
www.dps.state.ms.us

Sean Tindell, Executive Director
(Appointed by Governor)
The mission of DPS is to make Mississippi
a safer place for the state's residents. DPS
currently has over 1,400 employees working
within multiple divisions, including the
Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, the
Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, the
Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the Mississippi
Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy,
the Office of Capitol Police, the Driver
Service Bureau, the Mississippi Office of
Homeland Security, the Mississippi Forensics
Laboratory, the State Medical Examiner's
Office, Commercial Trucking Enforcement,
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION
(601) 961-5400/f(601) 961-5815
P.O. Box 1174, Jackson 39215-1174
501 N. West St., Jackson 39201
www.psc.ms.gov
References: Miss. Code Ann. § 77-1-1
Brandon Presley, Northern District Commissioner
Brent Bailey, Central District Commissioner
Dane Maxwell, Southern District Commissioner
(Elected by Voters)

The Public Service Commission regulates telecommunications, electric, gas, water, and sewer utilities. The Agency is charged with assuring rates and charges for services are just and reasonable, the service rendered is reasonably adequate, and any facilities constructed or acquired are required for the convenience and necessity of the public. Additionally, the Agency exercises safety jurisdiction over gas pipelines and has area jurisdiction over all public utilities. In carrying out its responsibilities, the commission answers complaints, makes investigations, and conducts both formal and informal hearings.

DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES
(601) 853-5100/f(601) 855-5205
1281 Hwy. 51, Madison 39110
P.O. Box 1698, Jackson 39215
www.mdrs.ms.gov
Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-33-155

Chris M. Howard, Executive Director
(Appointed by Governor)

The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services is our state agency which provides resources to help Mississippians with disabilities find new careers, live more independently, overcome obstacles, and face new challenges.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
(601) 923-7300/f(601) 923-7318
500 Clinton Center Dr., Clinton 39056
P.O. Box 22828, Jackson 39225
webmaster@dor.ms.gov
www.dor.ms.gov
Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 27-3-1

Chris Graham, Executive Director
(Appointed by Governor)

The Department of Revenue is the primary agency for collecting tax revenues that support state and local governments in Mississippi. It is responsible for titling and registration of motor vehicles, monitoring ad valorem assessments throughout the state to ensure consistent appraisal and valuation of properties among the municipalities and counties of the state, enforcement of Mississippi’s Prohibition and Local Option Law, and operating as the wholesale distributor of alcoholic beverages.

Effective July 1, 2010, the tax collection agency for Mississippi is now known as the Department of Revenue.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
(601) 359-1350/f(601) 359-1499
P.O. Box 136, Jackson 39205-0136
administrator@sos.ms.gov
www.sos.ms.gov
Reference: Miss. Constitution Article 5

Michael Watson, Secretary of State
(Elected by Voters)

The Office of the Secretary of State is dedicated to being both a service and information agency. There are eight divisions of the Secretary of State’s Office.

The Regulation and Enforcement Division regulates pre-need/perpetual care providers, enforces scrap metal laws in the State, and oversees administrative procedures for state government.

The Business Services Division administers Mississippi’s Corporation, Limited Liability Company, and Uniform Commercial Code laws and handles filings related to business formations and other business regulation. The Division issues notary commissions, registers correspondence schools, and administers trademark, service mark, and non-profit laws and serves as a default agent for service of process.

The Communications and Publications Division receives and issues documents and publications of the State, including the Official and Statistical Register, known as the “Blue Book.”

The Elections Division administers Election Code and enforces campaign finance and lobbying requirements, as well as acts as Chief Elections Officer for the State.
The Policy and Research Division acts as a research and development arm for the Agency, looking for new ways to streamline services and develop potential legislation.

The Public Lands Division administers and supervises all State lands, including 16th Section School Trust Lands, the Tidelands Trust, lieu lands, and tax-forfeited property.

The Securities Division administers Mississippi’s Uniform Securities Laws and investigates securities fraud.

The Charities Division administers charities and nonprofits in the state, in addition to investigating charities fraud.

**OFFICE OF STATE AID ROAD CONSTRUCTION**

(601) 359-7150/f(601) 359-7141
412 Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson 39216
P.O. Box 1850, Jackson 39215
mail@osarc.ms.gov
www.osarc.ms.gov

*Harry Lee James, P.E., State Aid Engineer (Appointed by Governor)*

The Office of State Aid Road Construction administers Mississippi’s State Aid Road Program to assist Mississippi’s 82 counties in the construction and maintenance of secondary, non-state owned roads and bridges. State Aid also administers the Local System Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program for the repair or replacement of the most needy bridges in Mississippi.

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

(601) 359-7001/f(601) 359-7834
401 N. West St., Jackson 39201
P.O. Box 1850, Jackson 39215-1850
www.mdot.ms.gov

*Brad White, Executive Director (Appointed by Commissioners)*

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is the operational agency of the Mississippi Transportation Commission tasked to maintain and improve the highway, rail, maritime, public transportation, and aviation infrastructure in the state.

**OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER**

(601) 359-3600/f(601) 359-2001
P.O. Box 138, Jackson 39205
bwilson@treasury.ms.gov
www.treasury.ms.gov
Reference: Miss. Constitution Article 5

*David McRae, State Treasurer (Elected by Voters)*

The fiduciary responsibilities of the Treasurer’s Office include the issuance of State debt, responsibility for the timely payment of principal and interest on the state’s bond and note obligations, and receiving, disbursing, and investing State funds.

The State Treasurer also represents the executive branch on various boards and commissions. These entities work for the realization of many fundamental aspects of a quality life—from the development of essential infrastructure such as clean water and affordable housing, to the development of young minds for future economic contributions to the workplace.

The Treasury Department oversees the collateralization process for all institutions approved as a public depository in the Statewide Public Funds Collateral Program. On a daily basis, the Treasury monitors collateralization requirements maintained for all of the institutions holding public funds in order to provide a better level of assurance to our public entities that their funds are properly safeguarded.

**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS**

(601) 432-2400/f(601) 432-2024
1505 Eastover Dr., Jackson 39211
www.mdwfp.com
Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 49-4-4

*Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director (Appointed by Commissioners)*

The mission of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks is to conserve and enhance Mississippi’s wildlife, fisheries, and parks, provide quality outdoor recreation, and engage the public in natural resource conservation.