



# EXECUTIVE





EXECUTIVE

*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 Tate Reeves

As the 65<sup>th</sup> Governor of Mississippi, Tate Reeves continues to build on his strong record as a conservative leader who fights to guard taxpayers' dollars, improve educational opportunity, and grow new careers so that our state's best and brightest can raise their families and thrive here at home. In his inaugural address, Governor Reeves promised that this would be an administration for all Mississippi. He committed to a mission to create a climate where good careers are plentiful with every Mississippian prepared to pursue them, as he has every single day of his time serving our state.

Upon taking office, Governor Reeves inherited a crumbling corrections department and a scandal-plagued human services department. He took immediate action to stem the existing issues and begin the process of rebuilding, shedding light on the issues and installing the best leadership to help him turn the departments around to work for the people of Mississippi. While tackling the inherited issues within government agencies to provide for the safety and human dignity of all Mississippians, Governor Reeves simultaneously led our state through historic flooding and tornadoes and a worldwide pandemic – all within his first 100 days in office.

Governor Reeves has continued to make history throughout his public service career. When elected in 2003 for his first public office, Governor Reeves became the youngest state treasurer in our country and the first Republican to hold the office in Mississippi. His business training in the banking sector made him our state's foremost advocate for balancing the state budget while minimizing state debt. He was elected in 2011 and re-elected

four years later as the 32<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Governor, leading the Mississippi Senate. His conservative management helped fill our state's Rainy Day Fund to over \$550 million – the most in state history – and reduce the overall debt burden. He fought for transparency in how agencies spend tax dollars and stronger reporting requirements on taxpayer-funded incentive programs.

His commitment to long-term growth that creates better careers led Governor Reeves to propose the largest tax cut in state history through the Taxpayer Pay Raise Act, lowering the personal income tax and enabling more Mississippi employers to invest in jobs and better compete in the global marketplace. Governor Reeves' upbringing in Florence's public schools made him driven to reform the education system to increase opportunity for all Mississippians. He has worked to increase investment in the classroom and enacted reforms to save money, strengthen achievement, and effectively communicate school performance. His new mission for our state is to give us more national board-certified teachers per capita than any state in the nation.

Governor Reeves remains committed to his inaugural promise to defend the loving culture that underpins our quality of life and grow our economy that lifts all of our families. He has pledged to work every day to make that promise a reality for all Mississippi. A Rankin County native, Governor Reeves is a graduate of Florence High School and an honors graduate of Millsaps College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

Governor Reeves and his wife, Elee, are the proud parents of three daughters, Tyler, Emma, and Maddie.

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## **LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Delbert Hosemann**

Elected in November 2019 with more than 60 percent of the vote, the Honorable Delbert Hosemann is serving as Mississippi's 33<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant Governor. He previously served as Secretary of State. Lt. Governor Hosemann is committed to serving the public with open and fair government. He advocates for increasing State government transparency, growing small businesses, shoring up Mississippi's roads and bridges, providing better access to healthcare, and ensuring every child receives a high-quality education. As the President of the 52-member State Senate, he remains committed to making Mississippi an even better place for our children and grandchildren.

Beginning his tenure amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Mississippi Legislature appropriated \$1.25 billion in federal relief funds to purchase personal protective equipment, create a small business grant program, expand broadband to rural communities, and increase ICU-bed capacity. The Legislature limited liability for businesses and healthcare entities related to COVID-19 exposure. Under his leadership, the Senate has consolidated workforce development efforts, increased training opportunities for high-skill jobs, and retooled economic development incentives to be competitive and performance-based. In two years, the Legislature has doubled its investment in pre-K, raised teacher pay, increased funding for classroom supplies, and provided every student with a computer or tablet. Legislators also respectfully retired the state flag and allowed citizens to vote on a new design.

Raised in Warren County, Mississippi, Lt. Governor Hosemann comes to the position with substantial experience in the private sector as

a businessman and tax lawyer. He is a former partner of Phelps Dunbar, LLP. He received his undergraduate degree in Business from the University of Notre Dame, a law degree from the University of Mississippi, and a Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University. Prior to attending law school, Lt. Governor Hosemann served his country in the United States Army Reserve. Lt. Governor Hosemann's tenure as Secretary of State was marked by several major accomplishments, including requiring 16<sup>th</sup> Section land, a revenue source for public schools, to be leased for fair value. By the end of his third term, the Office raised more than \$1 billion for public education. He was also instrumental in acquiring over 20,000 acres of now public land.

As Secretary of State, Lt. Governor Hosemann revised Mississippi's business laws, automated legal filings, and fought to enact a constitutional Voter ID law. While other states are still embroiled in expensive litigation related to Voter ID, Mississippi's law has increased security in elections and remains unchallenged. Lt. Governor Hosemann also advocated to provide better access to health insurance for children with autism and other developmental disorders. Autism Speaks, the nation's leading autism science and advocacy organization, named Lt. Governor Hosemann Executive of the Year in 2018.

In his spare time, Lt. Governor Hosemann is an avid hunter and runner. He belongs to the National Rifle Association and is a past recipient of the NRA's Kirk Fordice Freedom Award. He is also a member of the Delta Wildlife Foundation and Ducks Unlimited. He has completed both the New York Marathon and the Boston Marathon. He and Lynn, his wife of 50 years, are members of St. Richard Catholic Church. They are extremely proud of their three children: Kristen, Chad, and Mark; and grandchildren Grace, Nora Lynn, Carson, Charlie, Manse, Charlotte, and Howard Delbert.

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## SECRETARY OF STATE **Michael Watson**

Secretary of State Michael David Watson, Jr., was born and raised in Mississippi. He is a husband to his loving wife, Lauren, father of three beautiful young daughters, the son of a shipyard worker and bank teller. After his work as a pipefitter, Michael's father entered the ministry and continues to serve as pastor at Liberty Church in Gautier. His mother passed away shortly before Michael became Mississippi's 36<sup>th</sup> Secretary of State. A graduate of Pascagoula High School and the University of Mississippi, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and a law degree, Michael began his work in public service in the summer of 1999, serving as an intern for then-U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott. That experience strengthened his desire to one day enter public service in order to improve the quality of life for all Mississippians.

Prior to taking office as Secretary of State in January 2020, Michael served three terms in the State Senate, where he represented District 51 in Jackson County. He authored the Fetal Protection Act, which strengthened the penalties for injuring an unborn child. He also wrote Mississippi's first comprehensive law to tackle illegal immigration, as well as legislation to allow alternate-track diplomas – one of the first efforts to return a focus to career and technical training for high school students. More of Michael's proposals came to fruition in the State Senate, including the Catastrophe Savings Accounts and the Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act. In addition, former Governor Phil Bryant asked Michael to introduce the legislation adding "In God We Trust" to our state seal. During his time in the State Senate, Michael became known as a conservative fighter

for his work to preserve Mississippians' rights and religious liberties and to limit government overreach and spending. Michael brings these same conservative principles to the Secretary of State's Office.

As Secretary of State, Michael is focused on protecting the integrity of our elections by emphasizing the importance of clean voter rolls and continuing strong enforcement of Mississippi's Voter ID law. Since taking office, he's fought to push legislation to ensure only United States citizens are registered to vote in Mississippi. Michael is also dedicated to bringing about a more efficient and effective state government by working to reduce regulations and red tape so small businesses can grow and flourish in a free market economy. During his first year as Secretary of State, he launched the Tackle the Tape initiative, which aims to help increase economic opportunities for all Mississippians by promoting competition and encouraging innovation and job growth.

As a native of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Michael understands the importance of properly managing Tidelands and other public lands. He is committed to keeping the decisions in the hands of local officials as much as allowed by law while monitoring these decisions to ensure Mississippians receive fair value. During his time in the private sector, Michael opened his own firm where he focused on business law, construction law, and probate law. He is a member of the National Rifle Association (NRA), the American Council of Young Political Leaders, the Mississippi Bar Association, the Ole Miss Alumni Association, and the Ole Miss Hall of Fame. He and his family spend time volunteering with the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, and the Dream Program. As a dedicated family man, Michael and his wife, Lauren, have three daughters – Gracie Pierce, Annie, and Cora Elizabeth. The Watsons are members of First Presbyterian Church in Pascagoula and enjoy visiting church families all over Mississippi.

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## ATTORNEY GENERAL

### Lynn Fitch

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

Raised in Holly Springs, Mississippi, Attorney General Fitch earned both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Juris Doctorate at the University of Mississippi. At the age of 23, she began her legal career as a Special Assistant Attorney General at the Mississippi Attorney General's Office. She continued her career in private practice as a bond lawyer, accumulating more than 35 years of legal experience, both in private practice and public service.

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

General Fitch was active on the national level as State Treasurer, serving as Vice President for the National Association of Treasurers and as Chair of the State Financial Officers Foundation. She has already served on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Attorneys General, and she is currently serving as Co-Chair of the National Association of Attorneys General Human Trafficking Committee.

General Fitch was selected as Outstanding Woman Lawyer of 2012, recognized as a Woman Trailblazer by the Mississippi Bar Association,

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

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

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## STATE AUDITOR

### Shad White

Shad White, Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), grew up in Sandersville, Mississippi - population 731 - in a blue-collar family. His father and grandfather were oilfield pumpers, and his mother and grandmother were teachers. On the weekends, his father was music minister at their small country church, and his mother played the organ. Today his father serves as mayor of their small town. Shad went on to earn degrees from the University of Mississippi, the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and Harvard Law School.

Shad was appointed 42<sup>nd</sup> State Auditor of Mississippi in July 2018 and won election to the office after establishing a tough, no-nonsense reputation

during his first year on the job. Prior to becoming Auditor, Shad served as a special prosecutor, won ethics cases against politicians who broke the law, and earned a certificate in forensic accounting (the use of accounting to discover fraud) from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He also serves in the military as an officer in the Mississippi National Guard attached to the 186<sup>th</sup> Air Wing in Meridian.

The Auditor's office has made multiple notable arrests since Shad became State Auditor. The amount of stolen or misspent public money demanded back for the taxpayers increased by millions under Shad's leadership. The Auditor's office has pursued aggressive consequences for embezzlers regardless of whether they were Republicans or Democrats. Shad was elected with no opposition to a full four-year term in 2019.

Today Shad, his wife Rina and their daughters live in Rankin County and are faithful members at St. Richard Church.

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## STATE TREASURER David McRae

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

the center of what McRae is working to accomplish as State Treasurer. His primary responsibility is to manage the cash flow that keeps state agencies operating on a daily basis, but it also comes with a seat on more than a dozen different boards and commissions.

McRae has prioritized the distribution of Unclaimed Property. During his first year in office, more than \$20 million was returned to the people of Mississippi. McRae has also protected the state's strong credit ratings, resulting in a 2020 debt restructuring deal that saved taxpayers \$36 million. Additionally, he oversees College Savings Mississippi, helping lift the financial burden of a college education for thousands of young people. Prior to serving as State Treasurer, McRae was involved in the family business, serving as Managing Partner of McRae Investments. He is active in civic and community organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, Friends of Children's Hospital, and the American Heart Association. McRae earned his bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University and his law degree from Mississippi College. He lives in Ridgeland with his wife, Katherine, and their three children. They attend Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson.

The Office of the State Treasurer has many different divisions, including Cash Management, Investments, Bonds, Collateral, Unclaimed Property, and College Savings Mississippi. Among the Treasurer's duties and responsibilities are maintaining all the state's financial records, including receipts, deposits and disbursements of funds that flow through the state's coffers. Those funds come from multiple sources, including the federal government, proceeds from the issuance of bonds, interest payments and income and sales tax. The Treasurer also is responsible for investing state funds, serves as custodian of securities held by other agencies, pays state warrants, manages the Unclaimed Property Program, and administers Mississippi's two 529 College Savings Programs: MPACT, Mississippi's Prepaid Affordable College Tuition Program, and MACS, Mississippi's Affordable College Savings Program.

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## COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

### Andy Gipson

J. Andrew ("Andy") Gipson serves as Mississippi's eighth Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce. He was elected in 2019 following an appointment by Governor Phil Bryant in March 2018. As Commissioner, Gipson successfully launched Genuine MS®, the Agricultural Workforce Development Initiative, the County Correspondents Program, and the Wild Hog Control Program. He also created an office to promote and expand forestry and timber markets.

Gipson serves as Vice President of the Southern United States Trade Association and Past President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture. He is an active member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, and the Simpson County Development Foundation. Prior to serving as Commissioner, Gipson served District 77 (Simpson and Rankin counties) in the Mississippi House of Representatives for ten years. Gipson chaired the House Judiciary B Committee and the Ethics Committee. Gipson served as Treasurer for the Mississippi Legislative Conservation Coalition and the Mississippi House Republican Conference.

Gipson was named Conservative Legislator of the Year by Mississippi Legislative Conservative Coalition, Legislator of the Year by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Pro-Life Legislator of the Year by Pro-Life Mississippi. He received the Defender of Freedom Award from the National Rifle Association, the Kirk Fordice Freedom Award from the Central Mississippi Friends of NRA, and the Braves Pioneer Award by the Alcorn State University School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Gipson received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Mississippi College and a juris doctorate from Mississippi College School of Law. He has been in private law practice since 2002. Gipson is an ordained Baptist minister, having served as a pastor and evangelist. He and his wife, Leslie, have four children — Joseph, Benjamin, Abigail, and Sarah. They reside on their small working cattle and tree farm in Simpson County.

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## COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

### Mike Chaney

Mike Chaney, Mississippi's 11<sup>th</sup> Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal, is currently serving his fourth term in office. First elected in 2007, Chaney brought extensive business knowledge and experience to the office combined with 15 years of service in the Mississippi House and Senate. His priorities throughout his terms in office remain steadfastly committed to consumer protection and application of technology for efficiency of the department to serve the state and consumers.

He is leading the department in making strides in healthcare reform; disaster recovery from flood, tornado and hurricane events; bail bond industry reform; and reductions in state fire deaths. An active member of the NAIC, Chaney serves on numerous committees, task forces and working groups. Among the issues



he is involved in addressing are examination oversight, accounting practices, producer licensing, health insurance and managed care, senior issues, 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.

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### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER – NORTHERN DISTRICT **Brandon Presley**

Commissioner Brandon Presley was elected Public Service Commissioner for the Northern District of Mississippi in 2007, re-elected in 2011, 2015, and most recently, in 2019 without opposition. Elected to the Public Service Commission at age 30, he was the youngest Commissioner ever

elected in Mississippi history. 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. As Mayor, he held the distinction of passing the first property tax cuts in the city's history. As Public Service Commissioner, he has voted against more dollars in rate increases and spending than any Commissioner in state history. Recognized statewide and nationally as a leader in rural broadband expansion efforts, Presley was instrumental in the passage of the Mississippi Broadband Enabling Act of 2019, which has led to the largest geographic expansion of broadband service in Mississippi history. For his efforts on rural broadband expansion, Commissioner Presley was awarded the 2021 Hugh Peck Memorial Research Award from the Mississippi Program for Research and Evaluation for Public Schools.

In 2016, Commissioner Presley was recognized as one of Mississippi's top 50 most influential leaders by the website, Y'all Politics. Commissioner Presley was elected in November 2019 to serve as the President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), which is composed of regulatory commissioners from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Regionally, 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 States and Puerto Rico. He is a member of the board of directors of NARUC and serves on multiple NARUC boards and committees. He serves as a member of the Committee on Telecommunications, the Committee on Gas and the International Relations Committee. He is a former member of the board of directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI).

Commissioner Presley currently serves on the advisory committee for New Mexico's State University Center for Public Utilities and is serving his second term on the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) Advisory Council. He is also a member of the Financial Research Institute Advisory Board at the University of Missouri. Commissioner Presley has also served as a member and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Itawamba Community

College and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Access Family Health Services. In December of 2020, Commissioner Presley was unanimously confirmed by the Federal Communications Commission to one of four seats for state commissioners on the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, which makes policy recommendations regarding billions in federal programs targeting broadband and telecommunications expansion and availability.

He is a graduate of Nettleton High School and attended Itawamba Community College and Mississippi State University. He is a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School program for State and Local Government Executives.

Commissioner Presley, 43, 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 also a member of the Nettleton Civitan Club.

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**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER –  
CENTRAL DISTRICT  
Brent Bailey**

Brent Bailey was elected to serve his first term as Public Service Commissioner for the Central District of Mississippi beginning in January 2020. Commissioner Bailey is a graduate of Carthage High School. He attended East Central Community College before transferring to Mississippi State University to earn his degree in Agricultural

and Biological Engineering in 1994, while earning a letter and scholarship as a football walk-on. He received the MSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Achievement Award for contributions to the economic viability of the state agriculture and forestry sectors. Prior to taking office, Commissioner Bailey served as State Activities Coordinator with the 25x'25 Initiative. He began in October 2006, working with a broad cross-section of Mississippians and Southeastern stakeholders to mobilize support for energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions, and to convey consumers' role in a new national energy strategy. Before joining the 25x'25 Initiative, he worked at private companies and nonprofit organizations, including Pickering, Inc. and the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation. Prior to being elected, Commissioner Bailey participated in numerous dockets and rule-making proceedings at the Mississippi Public Service Commission. Today, he continues to represent the interests of consumers while advancing the economic development of the state.

Commissioner Bailey currently serves on three committees of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC): the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues-Waste Disposal, the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment, and the Committee on Critical Infrastructure. Commissioner Bailey is a member of the new five-year Nuclear Energy Partnership launched by NARUC and the Department of Energy, representing 17 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with the purpose of enabling state energy regulators to explore key nuclear power issues. During the height of the COVID-19 outbreak, Commissioner Bailey worked with utility providers to assist customers in a time of economic distress by temporarily suspending utility disconnections and maintaining access to critical utility services. Following the extreme winter events in February 2021, Commissioner Bailey is leading an investigation by the Commission into the resiliency of our electric power system, ensuring our generating plants are adequately winterized and prioritizing power flow to critical infrastructure – such as hospitals, police stations, fire stations and long-term care facilities. As a strong consumer advocate, Commissioner Bailey's primary goal is ensuring transparency in government for the everyday citizen. He continues to protect consumers and makes certain that every person he serves has a voice at the table and is treated

fairly. Through his weekly newsletters, he keeps the public informed on the issues that impact constituents and makes sure their interests are being served.

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

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### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER – SOUTHERN DISTRICT Dane Maxwell

Chairman Dane Maxwell is a graduate of Pascagoula High School, and obtained an associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. He also attended and completed the University of Southern Mississippi/Harrison County law enforcement program. Maxwell obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix, and has attended courses and obtained various certifications from numerous law enforcement training programs throughout his career.

Chairman Maxwell is a Marine Corps veteran, retired law enforcement officer, businessman, and the former Mayor of Pascagoula, Mississippi. As a successful entrepreneur of two national businesses, Maxwell has decades of experience in solving problems in the private sector and has brought this experience to the Mississippi Public Service Commission, spearheading numerous economic development initiatives

that have made a significant impact for the State of Mississippi.

Maxwell was elected Public Service Commissioner in 2019 and was selected by his fellow Commissioners to serve as Chairman at the first meeting he sat at the Commission in January of 2020. He has been appointed to numerous roles as part of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) including Vice Chair of the Washington Action Committee and member of the Clean Coal Subcommittee. Maxwell previously served as President Trump's Mississippi State Director, West Virginia State Director, Southeast Regional Political Director, and was the SEC Strike Force Team Leader for the 2016 campaign. He most recently served as Mississippi's State Director for Trump Victory 2020.

He and his wife, Donna, live in Pascagoula. Together they have three daughters, Lyndsey, Shannon, and Taryn, and four grandchildren.

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### TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER – NORTHERN DISTRICT John Caldwell

Born the seventh of nine children to Elizabeth and Joe Caldwell, John lives in Nesbit just a few miles from land once farmed by his family. John is married to Lee Perkins Caldwell. The couple has four children and eight grandchildren.

John is a Marine combat veteran of Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit among other

awards. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserves as a Colonel with extensive operational and logistical experience over land, air and sea.

As a small business owner in Southaven, John was elected to consecutive terms as a Desoto County Supervisor, serving from 1996 through 2003. After that, he served 14 years as the Transportation Director for the largest school district in Mississippi, managing a fleet of over 350 buses, drivers, mechanics and staff. While Director, 20,000 students were transported each day safely, logging over two million miles annually. He worked in the transportation industry in the months that followed, gaining experience in heavy truck and bus dealership operations, railroad operations, heavy truck and off-road vehicle maintenance, GPS/ELD/DOT compliance and more.

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

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**TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER –  
CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**Willie Simmons**

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

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

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

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**TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER –  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

**Tom King**

Tom King is serving his third term as Southern District Transportation Commissioner and is the



Chairman of the Mississippi Transportation Commission. He previously served as a state lawmaker from 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 the 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.

Commissioner 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.

Commissioner 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 of Science degree in 1973. He currently lives in Hattiesburg with his wife, the former Susan Lynn Patterson, and has two children and two grandchildren.

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# PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION DISTRICTS

