



Mississippi

GUIDE TO THE MAGNOLIA STATE



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE

ANSWERS TO MISSISSIPPI TRIVIA

1. The Mississippi Gulf Coast has the world's largest man-made beach.
2. Joseph Biedenharn, owner of Biedenharn Candy Company in Vicksburg, installed a bottling machine in his store, and became the first to bottle Coca-Cola.
3. The term "knockout" was first used during the heavyweight fight in 1882.
4. The Davis Planetarium was the first organization to make a commercial movie in space.
5. Windsor, near Port Gibson, was the largest antebellum mansion in Mississippi. In 1890, it burned to the ground (presumably at the hands of a careless smoker). All that remains of the Windsor mansion are its 23 remaining monolithic columns.
6. A Sherman necktie is an iron rail heated over a fire and bent around a tree. This was the method Sherman used to render useless the railway system in the South.
7. Four miles south of Alcorn is the ghost town of Rodney. One of the last remaining landmarks of the former town is the Rodney Presbyterian Church.
8. On April 25, 1866, the ladies of Columbus decorated Confederate and Union graves with flowers. As a direct result, Americans now celebrate what has come to be known as Memorial Day, the annual observance of recognition of our war dead.
9. Friendship Oak measures over 50 feet in height, with a trunk over 17 feet wide.
10. The Mississippi Delta is the birthplace of Blues music.
11. The world's only cactus plantation was located near Edwards.
12. To escape enslavement by the Biloxi Indian tribe, the Pascagoula Indians joined hands and began to chant a song of death as they walked into the river.
13. In 1870, two riverboats, the Robert E. Lee I and the Natchez VI, raced each other 1,200 miles up the Mississippi River. The winning trophy is on display in Vicksburg.
14. Harry A. Cole invented Pine-Sol in Jackson in 1929.
15. The 4-H club was founded in Holmes County in 1907.
16. Emerald Mound, the second largest Indian ceremonial mound in the U.S., is located northeast of Natchez, on the Natchez Trace Parkway.
17. In 1963, Dr. James D. Hardy performed the first heart transplant in the world in Jackson, Mississippi at the Mississippi Medical Center.
18. After the Civil War, John B. Stetson became a famous hat maker, learning, and practicing his trade at Dunn's Falls (near Meridian).
19. The first Mississippi chapter of the Parent Teacher Association was founded in Crystal Springs in 1909.
20. Ensign Jesse L. Brown was a Hattiesburg native, who was shot down on Dec. 4, 1950, in the Korean War during the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. Brown crash landed his F4U Corsair fighter aircraft and died from his injuries.



Mississippi's Coat of Arms was first declared official by the 1894 Legislature but was later reaffirmed by law in 2001. Featured on the crest, the unofficial state motto "Virtute et Armis" is translated from Latin: By Valor and Arms.

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi is the 20th state admitted to the Union. Nicknamed both “The Magnolia State” and “The Hospitality State,” Mississippi took its name from the Mississippi River which originates from the Indian word *misi-ziibi*, meaning “Great River” or “Father of Waters.” David Holmes was chosen as the first governor of the State.

With a population of almost three million and a land mass of 48,430 of the 50 states. The state’s density is 63 persons per square mile. Mississippi is heavily forested, with more than half of the state’s area covered by wild trees, including pine, cottonwood, elm, hickory, oak, pecan, sweetgum, and tupelo.

The State of Mississippi is entirely composed of lowlands. Situated at 806 feet above sea level, the highest point is Woodall Mountain in the northeastern corner of the state at the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains. The lowest point is sea level at the Gulf Coast. The mean elevation in the state is 300 feet above sea level.

For most of the year, the climate is mild, but becomes semi-tropical on the Gulf Coast. Summers are long, making it possible to grow crops from March through October. The average temperature in January is 57 degrees. The average temperature in July is 92 degrees. The average rainfall is 57 inches and fall is the driest season.

The state capital is Jackson.

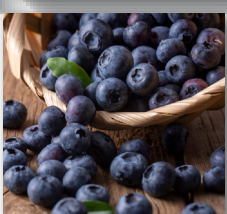
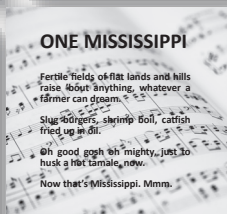
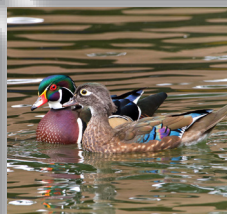
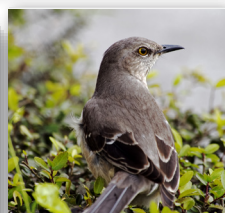


Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state of the United States on December 10, 1817.



The interior dome of the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson contains 750 lights which illuminate a blind-folded lady representing “Blind Justice” and four scenes: two Indians, a Spanish explorer, and a Confederate general.

STATE SYMBOLS



STATE SYMBOLS

Coat of Arms - Mississippi's Coat of Arms was adopted in 1894. Inscribed on the scroll is the state motto *Virtute et Armis* – “By Valor and Arms.”

The Great Seal - The state seal has been in use since Mississippi became a state in 1817. The Seal was amended by an act of the 2014 Legislature to include the words “In God We Trust.”

State Flag - The New Magnolia state flag was voted on and approved by the people of the state of Mississippi in the statewide election held on November 3, 2020 and signed by Governor Tate Reeves on January 11, 2021. The new flag has a Magnolia blossom in the center, a symbol long-used to represent our state and the hospitality of our citizens. It is sleek and updated to represent the forward progression of Mississippi.

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.

State Flower and Tree - In 1900, the school children of Mississippi elected the magnolia as the state flower.

State Waterfowl - Wood duck

State Song - “One Mississippi” by Steve Azar

State Fish - Largemouth or black bass

State Insect - Honeybee

State Shell - Oyster shell

State Water Mammal - Bottlenose dolphin

State Fossil - Prehistoric whale

State Land Mammals - Red fox and white-tailed deer

State Beverage - Milk

State Stone - Petrified wood

State Butterfly - Spicebush swallowtail

State Dance - Square dancing

State Toy - Teddy bear

State Soil - Natchez Silt Loam

State Horse - American Quarter Horse

State Fruit - Blueberry

State Gemstone - Opal

State Turtle - Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle



Native Dominion

Upon the first arrival of Europeans, the region which is now Mississippi was inhabited by three powerful Indian tribes: the Choctaws, Chickasaws, and the Natchez.

1540-1541

Hernando DeSoto, a Spanish Explorer, becomes the first known European to enter Mississippi. In the spring of 1541, he reaches the Mississippi River a few miles south of Memphis.

1673

Jacques Marquette and Louis Jollier begin exploring the Mississippi River on May 17. They reach Mississippi in July and explore as far south as the mouth of the Arkansas River near present-day Rosedale before turning back.

1682

Robert Cavalier de La Salle navigates the Mississippi River to its mouth and claims all lands drained by the river for France.

French Dominion 1699-1763

Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur D'Iberville, and his brother, Jean Baptiste, Sieur De Bienville, found the first European settlement at Fort Maurepas on the present site of Ocean Springs.

CREATIVE CULTURE

Mississippi has a long, rich cultural heritage, touching the lives of people in every corner of the globe. Our ideas and the expressions of our creativity have both lasting value and economic power. Our artists, architects, writers, filmmakers, and other creative professionals represent a robust economic force, whose combined economic output produces more than \$2.5 billion in annual revenue, fueling more than 31,000 jobs across the state.

Contemporary music is rooted in Mississippi. The blues grew out of the Delta and other genres of popular music have been strongly influenced by Mississippians - gospel, country, R&B, rock, and jazz. Treks along the ever-growing Mississippi Blues Trail draw visitors from around the world to our state.

A remarkable number of writers have emerged from Mississippi - William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams, Margaret Walker Alexander, Richard Wright, Willie Morris, John Grisham, Kathryn Stockett, and Richard Ford, just to name a few. Several of these writers, among other Mississippians, have been Pulitzer Prize recipients.

Roots of Mississippi traditions can be traced though annual events that celebrate various influences on our culture – events such as the Choctaw Indian Festival, the Mississippi State Fair, the Blessing of the Fleet, the Neshoba County Fair, and the Delta Blues Festival.



Tupelo is the birthplace of Elvis Aaron Presley, regarded as the “King of Rock and Roll.” His original home and surrounding property is now The Elvis Presley Birthplace historic museum, which is dedicated to his life as a singer, musician, and actor.



Tucked away in the small town of Leland along Hwy 82 is the Birthplace of Kermit the Frog Museum. Muppets creator Jim Henson spent his early years along the banks of Deer Creek in town and visitors can learn all about Kermit and the other muppet characters.



1716

Fort Rosalie is built on the site of present-day Natchez.

1729

French settlers at Fort Rosalie are massacred by Natchez Indians in an effort to drive Europeans from Mississippi, and hundreds of slaves are set free.

1732

The French, with help from the Choctaws, retaliate for the massacre at Fort Rosalie. The Natchez Indians are destroyed and cease to exist as a separate tribe.

1736

Bienville leads French troops in an attack on the Chickasaw Indians near present-day Lee County. He is defeated at the Battle of Ackia.

English Dominion, 1763-1779

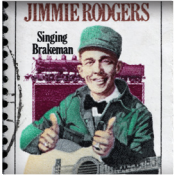
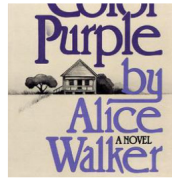
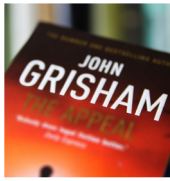
1763

After the French and Indian War, Mississippi, along with all French territory east of the Mississippi River, passes into English control.

Spanish Dominion, 1779-1798

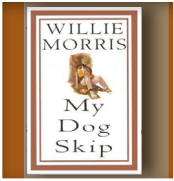
1779

Bernardo Galvez, governor of Spanish Louisiana, captures Natchez.

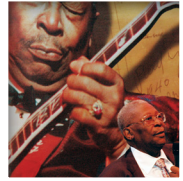
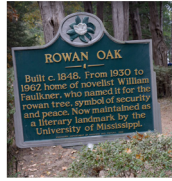
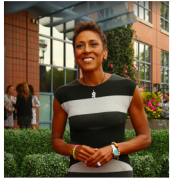
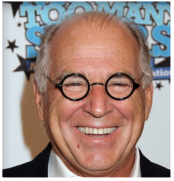
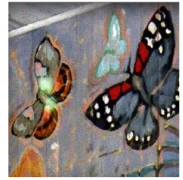
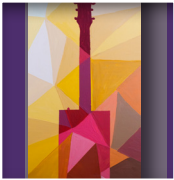


FAME

Mississippi takes great pride as the home of an astonishing number of influential people. Listed below are just a few of the authors and entertainers who have called our State their own.



- Elvis Presley** – King of Rock and Roll, born in Tupelo
- John Grisham** – best-selling author, lived in Oxford
- Faith Hill** – country superstar, born in Jackson, lived in Star
- Alice Walker** – author and civil rights leader, lived in Meridian
- Morgan Freeman** – actor, lives near Clarksdale
- Oprah Winfrey** – TV talk show host, born in Kosciusko
- Jim Henson** – creator of the Muppets, born in Greenville
- Leontyne Price** – opera singer, born in Laurel
- Walter Anderson** – artist, lived in Ocean Springs
- B.B. King** – blues musician, born in Itta Bena
- Marty Stuart** – country singer, born in Philadelphia
- William Faulkner** – author, born in New Albany, lived in Oxford
- Robin Roberts** – TV personality, lived in Pass Christian
- Jimmy Buffet** – musician, born in Pascagoula
- Eudora Welty** – author, born, and lived in Jackson
- Bo Diddley** – rock and roll musician, born in McComb
- Willie Morris** – author, born in Jackson, lived in Yazoo City
- Jimmie Rodgers** – Father of Country Music, lived in Meridian



1781-1783

The Treaty of Paris, between the U.S. and Britain, transfers West Florida and the southern half of Mississippi to Spain. America gains Mississippi territory north of the 32 degree 28 minute parallel.

1797

America gains control of Natchez as Spain yields control of all land in Mississippi north of the 31st parallel. U.S. surveyor Andrew Ellicott was instrumental in the negotiation of this treaty.

1798

Mississippi is organized as an American territory. The first territorial governor is Winthrop Sargent.

1801

Mississippi advances to the second stage of territorial government.

1801-1802

Mississippi moves its territorial capital from Natchez to Washington, a small town near the Natchez Trace. A treaty with the Indians allows the Natchez Trace to be developed as a mail route and major road.

1803

The Louisiana Purchase opens the Mississippi River for commerce.

MISSISSIPPI TRIVIA

1. At 26 miles long, the Mississippi Gulf Coast is home of the world's longest one of these. What is it?
2. Which popular beverage was first put into bottles in Vicksburg in 1894?
3. In 1882, the world's first heavyweight championship fight took place in Mississippi City, now a part of Gulfport. What term was first coined during this bout?
4. Jackson's Davis Planetarium was the first organization to do what?
5. The largest antebellum mansion in Mississippi burned to the ground in 1890. What is its name?
6. A William T. Sherman necktie was on display at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson for many years. What is its historical significance?
7. Mississippi has a ghost town. Do you know its name?
8. Friendship Cemetery in Columbus is known as "The place where flowers healed a nation." What national holiday is said to have had its start there?
9. There is a magnificent oak tree in Long Beach that is more than 500 years old. Do you know its name?
10. The only genre of music commonly recognized as truly original to America had its roots in Mississippi. What is it and where was it started?
11. There was a unique plantation located near Edwards. Boasting more than 3,000 varieties, what plant was grown there?
12. The Pascagoula River is called "The Singing River." Why?
13. The trophy from what famous 1870 riverboat race is on display at the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg?
14. Pine Sol was invented in Mississippi in 1929. Who was the inventor and what was his hometown?
15. What youth organization was founded in Holmes County in 1907?
16. Emerald Mound is the second largest one of these in the United States. What and where is it?
17. What type of surgical operation performed in Mississippi was the first of its kind to be done in the world?
18. A world-famous hat maker called Dunn's Falls his home after the Civil War. Who was he?
19. The first Mississippi chapter of this school-oriented association was founded in 1909. What is it?
20. The first African-American fighter pilot in the U.S. Navy was from Mississippi. What was his name and hometown?

(See page 2 for answers to Mississippi Trivia)

1805

The Treaty of Mount Dexter gives the U.S. government 4.5 million acres of land in exchange for canceling the debts owed by the Native Americans. The area includes the Piney Woods region of the state.

1812

The War of 1812 begins.

Mississippi's boundary east of the Pearl River is extended south to the Gulf of Mexico.

1816

The Treaty of Fort Stephens with the Choctaws opens 3 million acres of land around the Tombigbee Prairie for settlement.

State of Mississippi

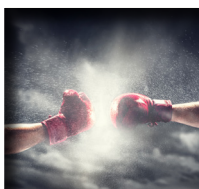
1817

The Mississippi territory is divided. The western half becomes the twentieth state, Mississippi, on December 10, 1817.

David Holmes becomes its first governor.

1820

Andrew Jackson and Thomas Hinds negotiate the Treaty of Doak's Stand, giving the U.S. 5 million acres of land that once belonged to the Choctaws.



1822

The state capital is moved to Jackson and built on the site of Lefleur's Bluff. Jackson, named for Major General Andrew Jackson, was one of the first planned cities in the country.

1830

The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek cedes all Choctaw territory east of the Mississippi River to the U.S. Government. Most of the Choctaws leave the state.

1832

The Treaty of Pontotoc cedes all Chickasaw land east of the Mississippi (including north Mississippi territory) to the U.S. Government. The Chickasaws leave the state for Oklahoma, which is known as the Trail of Tears.

1839

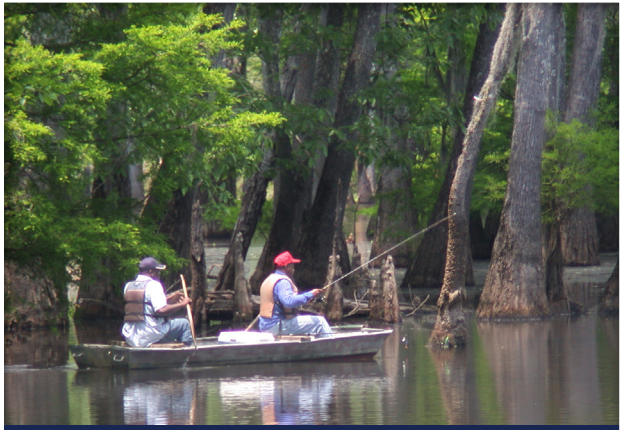
Mississippi Legislature passes laws protecting the property rights of women.

1842

Governor Tilghman M. Tucker becomes the state's first chief executive to occupy the newly completed Governor's Mansion still used today.



Bay St. Louis



Lake Rhymes



North Creek Golf Course



Natchez Trace Parkway



Cat Island - Mississippi Gulf Coast

1850

Mississippi is given title to more than 3 million acres of swamp and overflow land. By now, 310 miles of levees have been built along the Mississippi River. The Delta is drained, cleared, and becomes available for cultivation.

1861

Mississippi secedes from the Union on January 9. In July, Ship Island is captured by Union forces, giving them control of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

1863

President Abraham Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, abolishing slavery in all Confederate states.

On July 4, Union soldiers gain control of the Mississippi River.

1864

General William T. Sherman led Union soldiers on a devastating march from Jackson to Meridian. The city of Jackson is nicknamed "Chimneyville" after an illustration of its burned ruins is published in the Illustrated Newspaper.

1865

General Robert E. Lee surrenders on April 9, signaling the end of the Civil War.

ATTRACTIONS

Travel and tourism are big business in Mississippi, generating nearly \$18.1 billion in revenue and attracting 44.2 million visitors to our unique places, events, cultural attractions, outdoor recreation, casinos, hotels, and restaurants. The visibility of our state's attractions is at an all-time high, and tourism's impact on the state economy continues to increase.

Our festivals, events, and cultural attractions are renowned. For more than 120 years, the Neshoba County Fair, dubbed Mississippi's Giant House Party, has been a long-standing annual tradition of colorful cabins, camaraderie, and political stump speeches. The Canton Flea Market is one of the largest and most popular outdoor arts and crafts markets in the South. Mal's St. Paddy's Day Parade in Jackson is the second-largest of its kind in the U.S. Another tradition, the Delta Blues and Heritage Festival, has attracted visitors from every continent since 1978.

Annual pilgrimages such as those in Natchez, Columbus, and Holly Springs showcase historic homes, including many built during the antebellum and Victorian eras. The Crystal Springs Tomato Festival, Corinth's Slugburger Festival, Forest's Wing Dang Doodle Festival, and the Watermelon Festival in Mize all delight visitors with the sights, sounds, and flavors of our State. All told, several hundred unique events are held in Mississippi each year.

Music lovers flock to the Birthplace of America's Music to visit Elvis Presley's Tupelo birthplace, the Jimmie Rodgers Museum in Meridian as well as the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, the Delta Blues Museum, and other Blues landmarks along Mississippi's storied Highway 61.



Blues Crossroads - Clarksdale

1867

A military government is established in Mississippi after the reconstructed government of Mississippi is rejected by the U.S. Congress.

1869

Under the leadership of Governor James L. Alcorn, Mississippi ratifies a constitution which establishes a statewide public school system and protects the voting and civil rights of former slaves.

1870

Hiram R. Revels becomes the first black senator in U.S. history.

Mississippi is readmitted to the Union on February 23, 1870.

1875

Reconstruction ends.

1890

The State Constitution of 1890 is adopted.

1907

The boll weevil arrives destroying most of the state's cotton crop.

William H. Smith organizes the first of the state's "Corn Clubs," which led to the formation of the 4-H Clubs of America.

The Mississippi Blues Trail provides information and insight to the journey through the storied Mississippi Delta and beyond with interpretive markers posted at 199 sites statewide. The Mississippi Country Music Trail has 35 markers dedicated to date.

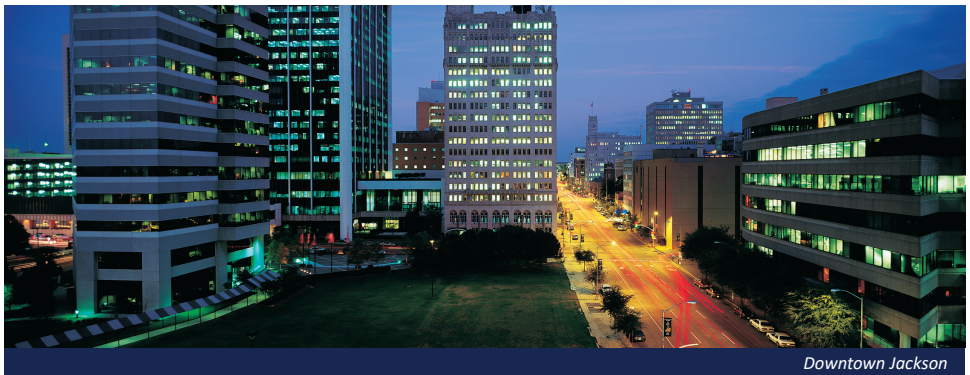
A new GRAMMY® museum opened March 5, 2016, on the campus of Delta State University in Cleveland, and offers 28,000 square foot of exhibits exploring Mississippi's musical roots and an educational history of the GRAMMY Awards.



Photo by Horton Photography, Courtesy of GRAMMY Museum Mississippi

Mississippi's scenic beauty offers abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation. The 310 miles of the historic Natchez Trace Parkway within Mississippi provide a popular route for bikers and sightseers. Hikers and other nature lovers can choose from 24 state parks and abundant lakes and waterways. Hunting and fishing are also immensely popular. More than one million acres are available for hunting. Along the Gulf, Mississippi has the longest man-made beach in the U.S.

Every four years, the Capital City of Jackson hosts the International Ballet Competition at Thalia Mara Hall, drawing a worldwide audience for the acclaimed dance showcase.



Downtown Jackson

1923

Two women, Senator Belle Kearny and Representative Nellie Nugent, are elected to the State Legislature.

1927

The Mississippi River floods about 3 million acres of Delta Land, making The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 the worst flood in Mississippi's history.

1929

Mississippi's first commercial airfield, Hawkins Field, opens for passenger airservice in Jackson. Delta Air Service operated the first passenger flights from Dallas to Jackson.

1936

The State Legislature passes an amendment to balance agriculture with industry (BAWI Program). The Industrial Commission and the Advertising Commission are created to implement the program.

1939

Oil is first discovered in Mississippi. The state's first oil well is brought in near Tinsley in Yazoo County, about 40 miles northwest of Jackson.

A small sign marks the location of this now abandoned well.



Clockwise from top left: The Great Mississippi River Balloon Race is held every October in Natchez. Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale is a mecca for music enthusiasts. The Historic Canton Courthouse has been featured in numerous films including “A Time to Kill.” Eudora Welty’s home in Jackson’s Belhaven neighborhood is open to fans of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

1941-1945

World War II promotes an industrial boom in the state.

1948

Ensign Jesse L. Brown, a Hattiesburg native, broke the Navy’s color barrier to become the first African-American fighter pilot. He was fatally shot down on Dec. 4, 1950, during the Korean War.

1954

Brown vs. Board of Education, the Supreme Court’s landmark decision that separate but equal facilities are unconstitutional, lays groundwork for desegregation.

1962

James Meredith enters the University of Mississippi, signaling the beginning of the end to segregation in the state’s public universities and colleges.

1963

Medgar Evers, field secretary for the NAACP, is assassinated focusing public awareness on the struggle of the Civil Rights Movement.

ECONOMIC INNOVATION

Mississippi's tradition of conservative fiscal management, pro-business policies, and a balanced budget mandated by the State constitution have fueled small-business development and creative entrepreneurship. Our state's attractive business climate, abundant natural resources, and enviable quality of life have also captured the attention of many of the world's leading corporations.

When you consider Mississippi's near-ideal geographic position in the Americas, it is no wonder our state has become a magnet for transportation, distribution, and logistics businesses. We are surrounded by 800 miles of navigable waterways—the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Rail systems offer 2,507 miles of track, and six interstate highways providing easy access to markets east and west, north and south.



Aurora Flight Sciences

We are not just shipping products; we are also producing them. In 2024, we exported \$13.7 billion in shipments, with Canada, Mexico, Panama, China, and Guatemala as our top trading partners. Mississippi's resurging manufacturing sector deserves much of the credit for the state's economic growth. The state's key advantages in speed of

permitting and competitive utility rates makes it a prime target for manufacturing. A highly-ranked transportation network helps support delivery of goods in an efficient manner.



Toyota Motors manufacturing plant in Blue Springs

1964

Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, outlawing segregation in public places.

1968

Robert Clark is the first black Mississippian elected to the Legislature in the 20th Century.

Judge O.H. Barnett rules that Choctaw Indians are subject to their tribal laws, reversing an 1830's ruling.

1969

Hurricane Camille wreaks havoc on Mississippi's Gulf Coast and areas inland. A unitary system of public education is mandated by federal courts, bringing an end to segregation in public schools.

1976

Evelyn Gandy begins her term as Lieutenant Governor. She is the first woman elected to the office and the first one elected to three different statewide offices.

1979

Easter Flood covers much of downtown Jackson as well as other towns along the Pearl River. The crest in Jackson was 43.25 feet on April 17, which was 25 feet above flood stage.

HOW DO I?

❑ Apply for a job in Mississippi?

Visit the Mississippi Department of Employment Security website to search for openings.
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 Services tab.
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. 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. 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. yallvote.sos.ms.gov

❑ Find information about or locate a nearby hospital?

Visit the Mississippi Department of Health website. msdh.ms.gov

❑ Find my Mississippi State Representative or Senator?

Discover more about the Mississippi State House of Representatives and State Senate on the Mississippi Legislature website. legislature.ms.gov

❑ Find historic Mississippi landmarks?

Historic Mississippi landmarks may be found at the National Register of Historic Places. 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). goMDOT.com

❑ Find my school or district website?

Mississippi school or school district websites may be found by visiting the Mississippi Department of Education website. mdek12.org

❑ 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. 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. msbluestrail.org

❑ Find fishing condition reports?

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

1982

Governor William F. Winter calls a special legislative session resulting in adoption of the historic Education Reform Act.

The first International Ballet Competition is held.

1983

Judge Lenore Prather becomes the first woman State Supreme Court Justice in Mississippi.

1985-1986

Judge Reuben Anderson becomes the first black Supreme Court Justice in Mississippi. Mike Espy is elected the first black congressman from Mississippi since Reconstruction.

1988-1989

A voluntary county unit system law is signed by Governor Ray Mabus.

Richard H. Truly, a native Mississippian, becomes the first astronaut to head NASA.

1990

Mississippi Gaming Control Act is passed by Legislature for casinos on navigable waterways if local voters approve. Hancock County becomes the first county to approve dockside gambling. First casinos open in 1992.

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Mississippi Constitution separates the total powers of state government into three distinct departments: executive, legislative, and judicial.

The state executive branch, headed by the Governor, has the duty and responsibility of implementing governmental programs and policies established by law.

The legislative branch consists of 52 Senators and 122 Representatives. The 1890 Mississippi Constitution places sole law-making authority in the bi-cameral Legislature, which also has the power of the purse, a constitutional provision stipulating no money may be spent from the state's treasury unless the Legislature passes a law to do so. The Senate exercises advice and consent over appointments made by the Governor.

Mississippi's judicial branch of government, headed by the state Supreme Court, has the power of judicial review – ensuring our government operates according to the Mississippi Constitution. The state's trial court system includes circuit, chancery, county, justice, and municipal courts.

Mississippi is one of only five states which elects its state officials in odd-numbered years. Mississippi holds elections for these offices every four years, always in the year preceding a federal Presidential election.

On a local level, county and municipal governments are also established according to Mississippi law.



Mississippi's State Capitol was built in 1903 at a cost of \$1.1 million. The Beaux Arts style building was totally restored from 1979 to 1983 for \$19 million. It is 402 feet long and 180 feet to the top of the dome.



The eagle atop the State Capitol Building's dome is made of copper coated with gold leaf. Its wingspread is 15 feet and the statue stands eight feet tall.

1991

Kirk Fordice is elected the first Republican governor since Reconstruction.

1993-1994

Congressman Mike Espy becomes the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Governor Ray Mabus is nominated by President Bill Clinton to the ambassadorship to Saudi Arabia.

1996

Trent Lott becomes the U.S. Senate Majority Leader.

1998-1999

Records of the now defunct Sovereignty Commission are unsealed.

Osceola McCarty, a laundress from Hattiesburg, gives \$150,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi.

2003

Governor Ronnie Musgrove signs two historic bills, placing education funding before all other state funding.

Nissan breaks ground in Canton on Mississippi's first automotive plant.

STATEWIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS

As the 65th Governor of Mississippi, Tate Reeves continues to build on his strong record as a steadfast conservative leader who is fiercely committed to making Mississippi the best state in the nation to live, work, and raise a family.

Since 1972, the most federally declared disasters in Mississippi in any one year was four. In Governor Reeves' first 14 months in office, there were 14. Through multiple crises, Governor Reeves brought a steady hand and common-sense driven leadership to protect the lives and livelihoods of Mississippians.

Mississippi is in the best fiscal and financial shape ever and its economy is thriving thanks to Governor Reeves' fiscally conservative leadership. He delivered the largest tax cut in Mississippi history, reached record-low unemployment rates and has collected billions in excess revenue.

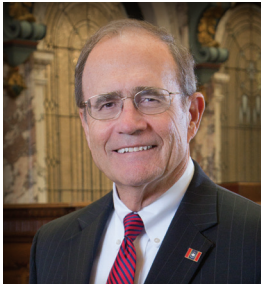
Just one month into 2024, Mississippi saw approximately \$12 billion in new private sector investment. This includes the largest economic project in Mississippi history: a \$10 billion corporate investment that will create 1,000 high-paying, high-tech jobs.

Academic achievement in Mississippi has also reached historic levels with students of all backgrounds having academic success. Mississippi's high school graduation rates hit an all-time high and dropout rates hit an all-time low.

A Rankin County native, Governor Reeves is a graduate of Florence High School and an honors graduate of Millsaps College. Governor Reeves and his wife, Elee, are the proud parents of three daughters, Tyler, Emma, and Maddie.



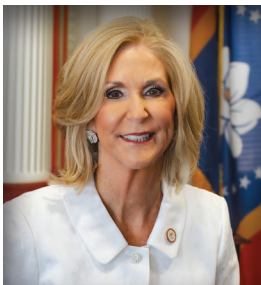
Tate Reeves
Governor



Delbert Hosemann
Lt. Governor



Michael Watson
Secretary of State



Lynn Fitch
Attorney General



Shad White
State Auditor

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tate Reeves
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 139
Jackson 39205
601-359-3150
governor@governor.ms.us
www.governorreeves.ms.gov

Delbert Hosemann
Office of the Lt. Governor
400 High St.
Jackson 39201
601-359-3200
ltgov@senate.ms.gov
www.ltgovhosemann.ms.gov

Michael Watson
Office of the
Secretary of State
401 Mississippi St.
Jackson 39201
601-359-1350
secretary@sos.ms.gov
www.sos.ms.gov

Lynn Fitch
Office of the
Attorney General
550 High St.
Jackson 39201
601-359-3680
lynn.fitch@ago.ms.gov
www.ago.state.ms.us

Shad White
Office of the State Auditor
P.O. Box 956
Jackson 39205
601-576-2800
auditor@osa.ms.gov
www.osa.ms.gov

David McRae
Office of the Treasurer
P.O. Box 138
Jackson 39205
601-359-3600
david.mcrae@treasury.ms.gov
www.treasury.ms.gov.com

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance
P.O. Box 79
Jackson 39205
601-359-3569
commissioner@mid.ms.gov
www.mid.ms.gov

Andy Gipson
Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce
121 N. Jefferson St.
Jackson 39201
601-359-1100
webmanager@mdac.ms.gov
www.mdac.ms.gov

Mississippi Public Service Commission
Woolfolk Building
501 N. West St.
Ste. 201A
Jackson 39201
www.psc.state.ms.us
601-961-5434
central.district@psc.state.ms.us
northern.district@psc.state.ms.us
southern.district@psc.state.ms.us

Transportation Commission
Mississippi Department of Transportation
401 N. West St.
Jackson 39201
601-359-7074
comments@mdot.ms.gov
www.GoMDOT.com



David McRae
State Treasurer



Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance



Andy Gipson
Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



De'Keither A. Stamps
District 1 Central

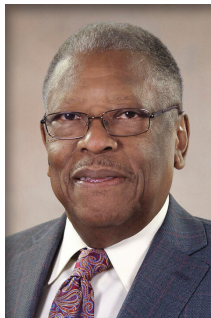


Wayne Carr
District 2 Southern



Chris Brown
District 3 Northern

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



Willie Simmons
District 1 Central



Charles Busby
District 2 Southern



John Caldwell
District 3 Northern

2005

The Natchez Trace Parkway is completed. 1938-2005.

Hurricane Katrina devastates the Mississippi coast and floods 80% of New Orleans. Damages estimated at \$75 billion.

2006

Eudora Welty House opens to the public.

The Mississippi Legislature establishes the Mississippi Commission on Civil Rights Education.

2007

Toyota breaks ground in Blue Springs on the \$800 million automobile manufacturing plant, boosting Mississippi's role as an auto manufacturing hotspot.

2008

The University of Mississippi hosted the first presidential election debate between Democratic nominee Barack Obama and Republican nominee John McCain.

2010

A BP Oil rig blowout caused the nation's worst offshore oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, creating an environmental disaster along the Gulf Coast and triggering a far-reaching economic impact.

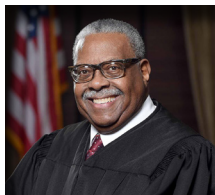
SUPREME COURT

The Mississippi Supreme Court is the court of last resort among Mississippi's state courts. Decisions of the Chancery, Circuit, and County Courts and of the Court of Appeals may be appealed to the Supreme Court. Nine Supreme Court justices are elected in non-partisan elections from three districts for staggered, eight-year terms.

Each justice participates in deciding appeals from the entire state. Decisions are by a majority vote of the court.



Michael K. Randolph
Chief Justice



Leslie D. King
Presiding Justice



Josiah D. Coleman
Presiding Justice



David M. Ishee
Associate Justice



T. Kenneth Griffis
Associate Justice



David P. Sullivan
Associate Justice



Jenifer B. Branning
Associate Justice

COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals is an error correction court and hears cases assigned by the Supreme Court when facts are in dispute. If the Supreme Court declines review of their case, the Court of Appeals decision stands.

- Chief Judge Donna M. Barnes
- Presiding Judge Virginia C. Carlton
- Presiding Judge Jack L. Wilson
- Judge John D. Weddle
- Judge Latrice Westbrook
- Judge Deborah McDonald
- Judge Anthony (Tony) Lawrence III
- Judge David Neil McCarty
- Judge Amy Lassiter St. Pe'
- Judge John H. Emfinger

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mississippi Supreme Court
Gartin Justice Building
450 High St.
Jackson 39201
P.O. Box 117
Jackson 39205
601-359-3697

Court Administrator and Counsel
Hubbard T. Saunders IV
hsaunders@courts.ms.gov
601-359-2182

Supreme Court Clerk's Office
Gartin Justice Building
P.O. Box 249
Jackson 39205
601-359-3694

Court of Appeals
Gartin Justice Building
P.O. Box 22847
Jackson 39225
601-576-4665

Administrative Office of Courts
P.O. Box 117
Jackson 39205
601-576-4630

Mississippi State Law Library
Gartin Justice Building
P.O. Box 1040
Jackson 39215
601-359-3672

2011

The Mississippi River flooded, causing \$2.8 billion in damage and tested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers system of levees, reservoirs and floodways.

2013

Drawing world-wide acclaim, University of Mississippi Medical Center physician Hannah Gray cures a baby infected at birth with HIV.

2014

First election in Mississippi requiring voters to present an acceptable photo identification card at the polls in order to vote.

2017

The Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum open in celebration of the state's bicentennial celebration.

2019

Senator Thad Cochran dies in May. Cochran served seven terms in the U.S. Senate and was the 10th longest-serving senator in history. He was the first Republican in more than 100 years to win a statewide election.

2026 LEGISLATURE

SENATE

(BY DISTRICT)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Senate Receptionist
601-359-3267
www.legislature.ms.gov

House of Representatives
Receptionist
601-359-3376
www.legislature.ms.gov

Legislative Switchboard
Operator
601-359-3770
www.legislature.ms.gov

Lieutenant Governor
Room 316
601-359-3200

President Pro Tempore
Room 307
601-359-4089

Secretary of the Senate
Room 308
601-359-3208

Speaker of the House
Room 306
601-359-3300

Speaker Pro Tempore
Room 302
601-359-3304

Clerk of the House
Room 305
601-359-3360



Dean Kirby (30)
President Pro Tempore

Michael McLendon (1)
Theresa Gillespie Isom (2)
Kathy L. Chism (3)
Rita Potts Parks (4)
Daniel H. Sparks (5)
Chad McMahan (6)
Hob Bryan (7)
Benjamin Suber (8)
Nicole Akins Boyd (9)
Neil S. Whaley (10)
Reginald Jackson (11)
Derrick T. Simmons (12)
Sarita Simmons (13)
Lydia Graves Chassaniol (14)
Bart Williams (15)
Angela Turner-Ford (16)
Chuck Younger (17)
Lane Taylor (18)
Kevin Blackwell (19)
Josh Harkins (20)

Bradford Blackmon (21)
Joseph Thomas (22)
Briggs Hopson (23)
Justin Pope (24)
J. Walter Michel (25)
Kamesha Mumford (26)
Hillman Terome Frazier (27)
Sollie B. Norwood (28)
David Blount (29)
Tyler McCaughn (31)
Rod Hickman (32)
Jeff Tate (33)
Juan Barnett (34)
Andy Berry (35)
Brian Rhodes (36)
Albert Butler (37)
Gary Brumfield (38)
Jason T. Barrett (39)
Angela Burks Hill (40)
Joey Fillingane (41)
Don Hartness (42)
Dennis DeBar, Jr. (43)
Chris Johnson (44)
Johnny DuPree (45)
Philman A. Ladner (46)
Joseph M. Seymour (47)
Mike Thompson (48)
Joel R. Carter, Jr. (49)
Scott DeLano (50)
Jeremy England (51)
Brice Wiggins (52)

2020-2021

The New Magnolia state flag was approved by the people of the State of Mississippi in the statewide election held on Nov. 3, 2020 and signed by Governor Tate Reeves on January 11, 2021.

2022

The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturned *Roe v. Wade*, ending the constitutional right to an abortion.

2022

Steve Azar's "One Mississippi" becomes the official state song, replacing "Go, Mississippi."

2024

Madison County secured the single largest economic development project in state history from Amazon Web Services (AWS) with a planned \$10 billion capital investment.

2025

Governor Tate Reeves signed the "Build Up Mississippi Act" (House Bill 1), a major tax reform that cuts the 4% flat income tax rate to 3% by 2030, with further reductions aiming for total elimination.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(BY DISTRICT)



Jason White (48)
Speaker of the House



Manly Barton (109)
Speaker Pro Tempore

Lester Carpenter (1)
Brad Mattox (2)
William Tracy Arnold (3)
Jody Stevenson (4)
John G. Faulkner (5)
Justin Keen (6)
Kimberly Remak (7)
John Thomas "Trey" Lamar III (8)
Cedric Burnett (9)
Josh Hawkins (10)
Lataisha Jackson (11)
Clay Deweese (12)
Steve Massengill (13)
Sam Creekmore IV (14)
Beth Luther Waldo (15)
Rickey Thompson (16)
Shane Aguirre (17)
Jerry R. Turner (18)
Randy P. Boyd (19)
Rodney Hall (20)
Donnie Bell (21)
Justin Crosby (22)
Perry Bailey (23)
Jeff Hale (24)
Dan Eubanks (25)
Otha Williams (26)
Kenji Holloway, Sr. (27)
W.I. "Doc" Harris (28)
Robert L. Sanders (29)
Tracey T. Rosebud (30)
Otis Anthony (31)
Solomon C. Osborne (32)
Jim Estrada (33)
Kevin Horan (34)
Joey Hood (35)
Karl Gibbs (36)

Andy Boyd (37)
Cheikh Taylor (38)
Dana McLean (39)
Hester Jackson McCray (40)
Kabir Karriem (41)
Carl Mickens (42)
Rob Roberson (43)
C. Scott Bounds (44)
Keith Jackson (45)
Karl Oliver (46)
Bryant W. Clark (47)
Willie Bailey (49)
John W. Hines, Sr. (50)
Timaka James-Jones (51)
Bill Kinkade (52)
Vince Mangold (53)
Kevin Ford (54)
Oscar Denton (55)
Clay Mansell (56)
Lawrence Blackmon (57)
Jonathan McMillan (58)
Brent Powell (59)
Fred Shanks (60)
Gene Newman (61)
Lance Varner (62)
Stephanie Foster (63)
Shanda Yates (64)
Christopher M. Bell (65)
Fabian Nelson (66)
Earle S. Banks (67)
Zakiya Summers (68)
Grace Butler-Washington (69)
Bo Brown (70)
Ronnie C. Crudup (71)
Justis Gibbs (72)
Jill Ford (73)

Lee Yancey (74)
Celeste Hurst (75)
Gregory Holloway, Sr. (76)
Price Wallace (77)
Randy Rushing (78)
Mark Tullos (79)
Omeria Scott (80)
Stephen A. Horne (81)
Gregory Elliot (82)
Billy Adam Calvert (83)
Troy Smith (84)
Jeffery Harness (85)
Shane Barnett (86)
Joseph Tubb (87)
Charles Blackwell (88)
Donnie Scoggin (89)
Noah Sanford (90)
Bob Evans (91)
Becky Currie (92)
Timmy Ladner (93)
Robert L. Johnson III (94)
Jay McKnight (95)
Angela Cockerham (96)
Sam C. Mims, V (97)
Daryl Porter (98)
Bill Pigott (99)
Ken Morgan (100)
Kent McCarty (101)
Missy McGee (102)
Percy W. Watson (103)
Larry Byrd (104)
Elliot Burch (105)
Jansen Owen (106)
Steve Lott (107)
Stacey Hobgood-Wilkes (108)
Jeramey Anderson (110)
Jimmy Fondren (111)
John Read (112)
Henry Zuber III (113)
Jeffrey S. Guice (114)
Zachary Grady (115)
Casey Eure (116)
Kevin Felsner (117)
Greg Haney (118)
Jeffrey Hulum III (119)
Richard Bennett (120)
Carolyn Crawford (121)
Brent Anderson (122)

FEDERAL

CONTACT INFORMATION

Senator Cindy-Hyde Smith
Washington, D.C. Office
702 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5054
www.hydesmith.senate.gov

Senator Roger F. Wicker
Washington, D.C. Office
425 Russell SOB
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6253
www.wicker.senate.gov

Congressman Trent
Kelly - 1st Dist.
Washington, D.C. Office
2243 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4306

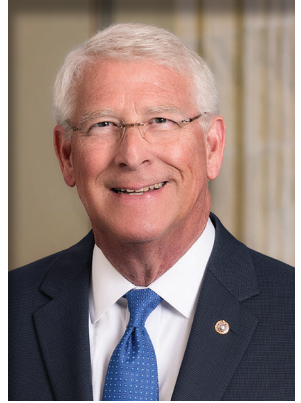
Congressman Bennie
Thompson - 2nd Dist.
Washington, D.C. Office
2466 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5876

Congressman Michael
Guest - 3rd Dist.
Washington, D.C. Office
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5031

Congressman Mike
Ezell - 4th Dist.
Washington, D.C. Office
443 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5772



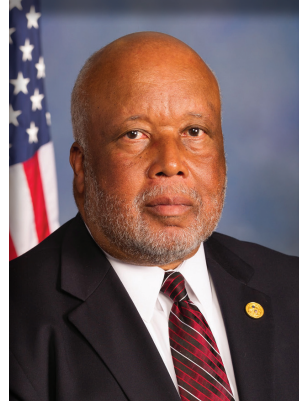
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
(R-Miss)



Senator Roger F. Wicker
(R-Miss)



Trent Kelly
(R-Congressman, 1st Dist.)



Bennie Thompson
(D-Congressman, 2nd Dist.)



Michael Guest
(R-Congressman, 3rd Dist.)



Mike Ezell
(R-Congressman, 4th Dist.)



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE

Post Office Box 136 | Jackson 39205-0136 | 601-359-1350 | www.sos.ms.gov

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