

MISSISSIPPI EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Governor TATE REEVES

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. During his tenure, Mississippi has faced down historic flooding and tornadoes, a worldwide pandemic, and the failure of the capital city's water system. 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, returning over half a billion dollars to its rightful owners – taxpayers. During his tenure as governor, Mississippi reached record-low unemployment rates and collected billions in excess revenue. In 2021, Mississippi had the largest annual increase in employees since the last century. From June 2021 to June 2022, employment increased by another 30,000 jobs.

Just one month into 2024, Mississippi saw approximately \$12 billion in new private sector investment – shattering the previous record of \$6 billion set in 2022. 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 under Governor Reeves' leadership and students of all backgrounds are having academic success. Mississippi's high school graduation rates hit an all-time high and dropout rates hit an all-time low. The state was top of the nation in 4th grade reading gains for black students. And while some states stayed shuttered, Governor Reeves reopened schools and ensured students got the in-person education they deserve. Recognizing this success, Governor Reeves was proud to sign into law the single largest teacher pay raise in Mississippi's history.



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

Duties: The Governor is the Chief Executive Officer of the state, charged with executive direction and supervision

of the general administration of the State. In this capacity, he or she sees that the laws are faithfully executed, supervises the official conduct of executive officers, acts as commander-in-chief of the state militia, and appoints officials as prescribed by law.

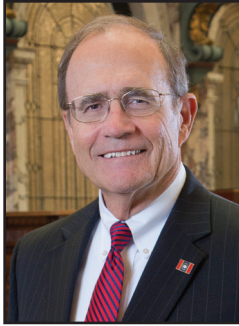
The Governor is responsible for the presentation of a balanced budget to the Legislature and approval or veto of legislation passed by the Legislature. He or she may call extraordinary sessions of the Legislature when he or she deems it necessary, and may issue pardons, executive orders, and extraditions of fugitives from other states.

The office provides staff assistance and liaison in all areas of state government administration and researches agency programs and policies.

The Governor appoints numerous executive agency heads, as well as members to various executive and administrative boards and commissions. The Governor serves a term of four years and may be re-elected for an additional term. Miss. Const. 1890, Article 5, §§ 116-125. Miss. Code Ann. § 7-1-1 et seq. (1972).

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Lieutenant Governor **DELBERT HOSEMANN**



Re-elected to a second term in November 2023 with more than 60 percent of the vote, the Honorable Delbert Hosemann is serving as Mississippi's 33rd 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.

Under Lt. Governor Hosemann's leadership, the Mississippi Legislature implemented the largest teacher pay raise and largest tax cut in state history, moving Mississippi to one of the lowest income tax rates in the nation. The Legislature also consolidated workforce development efforts, retooled economic development incentives to be competitive and performance-based, and paid off \$500 million state debt. Investment in roads, bridges, and other infrastructure topped \$2 billion in additional funding during Lt. Governor Hosemann's first term. Legislators also respectfully retired the state flag and allowed citizens to vote on a new design.

Raised in Warren County, 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 16th 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. In 2022, he received the prestigious Major General Charles Dick Medal of Merit from the National Guard Association of the United States for his efforts to make voting more accessible for overseas servicemembers.

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 Ducks Unlimited. He has completed both the New York Marathon and the Boston Marathon.

He and Lynn, his wife of 53 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, Howard Delbert, and Bobby.

Duties: In addition to the Governor, the Mississippi Constitution makes provision for a Lieutenant Governor who acts as president of the state Senate. The Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate, rules on points of order, appoints standing committees of the Senate, appoints all select and conference committees as ordered by the Senate, and refers all bills. He or she serves as a member of the Senate Rules and Joint Legislative Budget Committees, votes only in cases of ties, speaks from the floor while the Senate is in Committee of the Whole, and signs all finally approved bills and resolutions.

The Lieutenant Governor serves a term of four years and may be re-elected for an additional term. Miss. Const. 1890, Article 5, §§ 128-132, and 136. Miss. Code Ann. §§ 5-1-13, 5-1-43, and 5-1-47 (1972).

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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 36th 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.

Duties: The Secretary of State directs a service and information agency with major statutory functions: administration of the Mississippi Corporation Law, the Uniform Commercial Code, the Uniform Securities Law, and the Elections Code; administration and supervision of the 16th Section School Trust Lands, the Tidelands Trust, lieu lands, and tax-forfeited property; and issuance of documents and publications of the state, including those for the executive and legislative branches; investigation of charities and securities fraud; regulation and enforcement of the statutes governing seller's of pre-need funeral products, perpetual care cemeteries, scrap metal dealers, and athlete agents; enforcement of campaign finance and lobbyist reporting requirements. Other responsibilities include issuing notary commissions, registering correspondence schools, administering the state's trademark and service mark laws, service of process, and publishing the Administrative Procedures Act Bulletin and Code. The Constitution also designates the Secretary of State as the "keeper of the Capitol."

The Secretary of State is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Const. 1890, Article 5 §§ 133 and 136. Miss. Code Ann. § 7-3-1 et seq. (1972).

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Attorney General LYNN FITCH

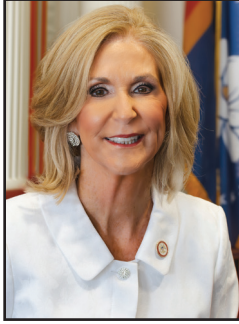
Lynn Fitch was sworn in as Mississippi's 40th Attorney General and first ever woman Attorney General on January 9, 2020. She was re-elected to her second term in 2023.

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 State Treasurers and as Chair of the State Financial Officers Foundation. Since taking office as Attorney General, she has served on the Executive Committees of the Republican Attorneys General Association and the National Association of Attorneys General, and as Co-Chair of the National Association of Attorneys General Human Trafficking Committee.

In 2022, TIME named General Fitch to its list of the 100 most influential people in the world and Worth Magazine named her to its Worthy 100 for her work protecting women and children. She was recognized as one of Mississippi's Top 50 Most Influential in 2017, 2022, and 2023; selected as Outstanding Woman Lawyer of 2012 and a Woman Trailblazer by the Mississippi Bar Association; and honored with the prestigious Susie Blue Buchanan award by the Mississippi Bar Association's Women in the Profession Committee. General Fitch was also named a Mississippi Business Journal Leader in Finance in



2016 and Leader in Law in 2010, as well as a 2015 Honoree of the Women in Government Leadership Program by Governing Magazine.

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.

Duties: The Attorney General is the Chief Legal Officer and Advisor for the State of Mississippi on both criminal and civil matters. The office's responsibility is to represent public officials and government agencies and to issue legal opinions that interpret state law. Most importantly, the Attorney General represents the people of the State of Mississippi.

The Attorney General serves on several boards and commissions including, but not limited to, the State Bond Commission, the Tort Claims Board, the License Tag Commission, the State Board of Election Commissioners, and the Occupational Licensing Review Board.

General Fitch also serves as the Chairperson Governor Reeves' Mississippi Cybersecurity Task Force.

The Attorney General is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Const. 1890, Article 6, § 173. Miss. Ann. § 7-5-1 et seq. (1972).

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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 Money, returning more than \$65 million to Mississippians since taking office. McRae has also protected the state's strong credit ratings, resulting more than \$100 million of savings for taxpayers through debt refinancing deals. 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.

Duties: The Office of the State Treasurer has many different divisions, including Cash Management, Investments, Bonds, Collateral, Unclaimed Money, 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.

The Treasurer serves as a member of more than a dozen boards, including Mississippi Windstorm Underwriting Association Board, Mississippi Guaranty Pool Board, State Bond Commission, Public Employees Retirement Board, Mississippi Business Finance Corporation, Development Bank Board, License Tag Commission, Tort Claims Board, Economic Development Strategic Planning Task Force, State Prison Emergency and Management Board, Private Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Learning (MEFA), the Historic Properties Trust Fund Advisory Committee, and Chairman of the College Savings Plan of Mississippi Board.

The Treasurer is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Constitution 1890. Article 5.SS 125, 134 and 136. Miss. Code Ann. § 7-9-1 et seq. (1972)

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State Auditor **SHAD WHITE**

Shad White, a 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 public school teachers. On the weekends, his father was music minister at their small country church, and his mother played the organ. 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.

In his time as State Auditor, Shad White's team has stopped the largest public fraud in state history, made the largest civil recovery after an auditor's investigation in the history of the office, and concluded cases that, collectively, led to hundreds of years of prison sentences for fraudsters.

White was appointed the 42nd State Auditor of Mississippi in July 2018 and won election to the office after establishing a tough, no-nonsense reputation. Prior to becoming Auditor, White 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 a captain in the Mississippi National Guard.

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



Duties: The State Auditor is responsible for auditing state agencies, county governments, school districts, community and junior colleges, and universities; conducting investigations into abuse of public funds and violations of law; providing best practices for all public offices of regional and local subdivisions of the state, systems of accounting, budgeting and reporting financial facts relating to said offices in conformity with legal requirements and with generally

accepted accounting principles; conducting inventory audits of all state property; and auditing the quality of data and data controls in public schools. The State Auditor is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Const. 1890, Article 5, § § 113, 115, 134, and 136. Miss. Code Ann. § 7-7-1, et seq. (1972).

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Commissioner of Insurance
MIKE CHANEY

Mike Chaney is Mississippi's 11th Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal. 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.



Duties: The Insurance Commissioner is charged with execution of all laws relative to insurance companies, corporations, associations and fraternal orders, their agents and adjusters. This office licenses and regulates the practices of all insurance companies, agents, burial associations, fraternal societies, bail bondsmen, and other entities engaged in the business of insurance.

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.

The Insurance Commissioner licenses manufacturers and

dealers of mobile homes and regulates their practices, including inspecting their manufacturing techniques and standards. The office enforces the liquefied compressed gas inspection program. The State's standard fire code is administered by the Commissioner through the department's State Fire Marshal Division.

The Insurance Commissioner also serves as State Fire Marshal and Chairman of the State Fire Academy. The Insurance Commissioner is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Code Ann. § 83-1-1 et seq. (1972)

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Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce **ANDY GIPSON**

J. Andrew (“Andy”) Gipson serves as Mississippi’s eighth Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, having been re-elected to a second four-year term in 2023. 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 Past President of the Southern United States Trade Association and Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture. He is an active member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

A former Legislator, 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 Graves Pioneer Award by the Alcorn State University School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Gipson has also been named as one of Mississippi’s Top 50 Most Influential. In 2018, Gipson successfully steered the passage of HB 1510, the legislation that would overturn *Roe v. Wade* before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022, ended abortion in Mississippi and returned the abortion issue to the States.

Gipson received his 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.



Duties: The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce was created in 1906 by the Mississippi Legislature to foster and promote the business of agriculture under the management and control of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce.

The Department’s Market Development division promotes Mississippi agricultural products, both nationally and internationally, through such programs as Genuine MS® and the Agritourism

Registration Program. This division also publishes the Mississippi Market Bulletin. The Department operates the Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Mississippi Farmers Market and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum.

The Department performs regulatory functions in the areas of aquaculture inspection for all non-native species of fish and game fish for stocking and food consumption purposes; agricultural theft; meat, fruit, and vegetable inspection; feed, seed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendment inspection; weights and measures; grain dealer and grain warehouse licensing; pulpwood measurement; insect and plant disease inspection and quarantine; pesticide inspection; egg inspection; retail food inspections; sanitation excluding food services; rendering plant inspection; syrup labeling inspection; honey and honey product labeling inspection; and catfish and catfish product labeling inspection. The Department operates a seed testing laboratory and a metrology laboratory.

In addition to overseeing the Department, duties of the Commissioner include leadership through service on the following state boards: Mississippi Board of Animal Health, Mississippi Land, Water, and Timber Resources Board, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Permit Board, State Seed Board, and State Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce is elected to a four-year term and may be re-elected. Miss. Code Ann. § 69-1-1 et seq. (1972).

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Public Service Commissioner - Central District (1) **DE'KEITHER A. STAMPS**

De'Keither Stamps is a Mississippi native, a decorated military veteran, and a dedicated public servant whose life has been shaped by resilience, leadership, and a profound commitment to service. Raised in Jackson, Mississippi, and on his family's farm in Learned, Stamps developed a deep connection to his community that continues to guide his work. After graduating from Forest Hill High School, he answered the call to serve his country, beginning his military career with the U.S. Marine Corps and later re-enlisting in the Army during the Iraq War.

Over his years of service, Stamps took on extraordinary roles, including Presidential Security Guard for Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and served in various capacities with the U.S. State Department. His experience in Iraq, where he led a 17-man unit in ground patrols, solidified his leadership skills and shaped his approach to community advocacy.

Transitioning from global service to local leadership, Stamps was elected to the Jackson City Council, where he championed key initiatives in education, economic development, and community revitalization for Ward 4. His dedication to public service continued as he became the Mississippi State Representative for District 66, advocating for his constituents and addressing critical issues facing the state. Today, as Public Service Commissioner for Mississippi's Central District, he leverages his extensive experience to improve the state's infrastructure, energy efficiency, and overall quality of life.



A devoted father to three daughters—Jasmine, Kristian, and Kennedy—Stamps' personal commitment to family is central to his life. His favorite quote, "It is impossible to stop a man that just won't quit," embodies his relentless pursuit of progress for Mississippi and its people. De'Keither Stamps is a figure shaped by global service, tested by conflict, and driven by an unwavering dedication to his community and the State of Mississippi.

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Public Service Commissioner - Southern District (2)
WAYNE CARR

Nelson Wayne Carr embarked on his inaugural term as the Mississippi Public Service Commissioner for the Southern District in January 2024, marking the latest chapter in his extensive career spanning over four decades in the construction industry across South Mississippi.

A graduate of Gulfport High School in 1977, Wayne initiated his career as an electrical apprentice, swiftly obtaining his electrical license by the mid-1980s and establishing his own electrical company. Subsequently, he broadened his expertise by securing a State of Mississippi Board of Contractors Electrical and Builders Licenses, laying the foundation for his ventures into general contracting and property development.

Throughout his tenure as a developer, Wayne undertook a diverse array of projects encompassing residential, industrial, and complex commercial facilities. Each endeavor demanded meticulous attention to detail, navigating intricate utility specifications and adherence to stringent local, state, and federal guidelines. Collaborating closely with utility companies, engineers, municipal authorities, and governmental agencies became integral to



ensuring the seamless installation of utilities tailored to both present requirements and future community needs.

A native of Gulfport, MS, Wayne has remained deeply rooted in his hometown, residing in Harrison County on the picturesque Mississippi Gulf Coast for his entire life. For forty-three years, Wayne has been happily married to Vicky Carr. Together, they have raised three children—David, Rebecca, and Katherine—and are blessed with two grandchildren. Together, they call the Orange Grove community home.

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Public Service Commissioner - Northern District (3)
CHRIS BROWN

Chris R. Brown was elected Public Service Commissioner for the Northern District in 2023. Before running for the Public Service Commission, Brown served Mississippians in the State House from 2012 to 2023, where he developed a reputation of working to effectively streamline and limit government.

In 2016, Brown's Republican colleagues named him the Vice Chairman of the House Republican Caucus. He served as Chairman of Medicaid, as well as holding positions on the Appropriations, Banking and Financial Services, Conservation and Water Resources, Ways and Means, Constitution, Management and Public Health and Human Services committees.

The American Conservative Union Foundation recognized Brown several times with the Award for Conservative Excellence. He has also been named a 2024 Fellow with Club for Growth.



Brown is a lifelong Mississippian who graduated from Walnut High School in Tippah County. He is a proud father of five children and three grandchildren and is an active member of Ripley Primitive Baptist Church, where he has been active in overseas missions in both Africa and Asia. Brown is a proven job creator and has founded several businesses. In his limited spare time, he likes to hunt, camp, and enjoy the outdoors with his family.

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Public Service Commissioners

Qualifications: A qualified elector and resident of the Supreme Court district from which he seeks election, at least 25 years old, and a citizen of the state five (5) years preceding the day of election. A commissioner shall not operate, own any stock in, or be in the employment of any common or contract carrier by motor vehicle, telephone company, gas or electric utility company, or any other public utility that shall come under his jurisdiction or supervision. The qualifying fee is \$500.

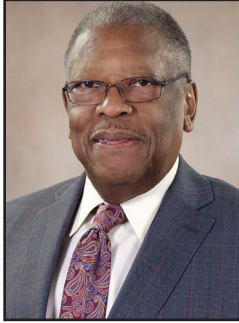
Duties: Communication, electric, gas, water, and sewer utilities are under the supervision and regulations of this Commission. It is the Commission's responsibility to ensure rates and charges for service are just and reasonable, the approved rate schedules are adhered to, the service rendered is reasonably adequate, and that facilities constructed or acquired are required for the convenience and necessity of the public. In carrying out its responsibility, the Commission must answer complaints, make investigations, and conduct both formal and informal meetings.

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Transportation Commissioner - Central District (1) **WILLIE SIMMONS**

Chairman Willie Simmons is in his second term as Central District Transportation Commissioner. In his first term, Simmons saw several critical projects come to completion, including the massive \$253 million, 7.5 mile reconstruction of US 49 from Florence to Richland and \$42 million on I-20 eastbound bridge replacements. Chairman Simmons' accomplishments also included a \$24 million design-build project on I-59 and I-20 in Meridian, a \$210 million construction for the 4-lane Highway 82 Bypass in Washington County, millions of dollars to construct a 4-lane on Highway 19 in Neshoba County, and allocating approximately \$1 billion to paving, capacity, bridges, and emergency repairs in the Central District.

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 \$5 billion 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 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, 11 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.

Contact Information:

2569 N. West St.
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601-359-7035
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Transportation Commissioner - Southern District (2) **CHARLES BUSBY**

Charles Busby is entering his first term as Southern District Transportation Commissioner, covering 27 counties and approximately one million people. He previously served three terms in the Mississippi House of Representatives beginning in 2012. He served as Chairman of the House Transportation Committee since 2016. He also served on many other committees in the House including Appropriations, Education, Energy, Gaming, Insurance, Interstate Cooperation, Marine Resource and Ports, Harbors and Airports.

Busby began his career as a project engineer for Brown & Root. He also worked for Chevron and the Herzog-Hart Corporation. From 2001-2023, he served as the President of Orion Engineering.

Busby is no stranger to South Mississippi, as he was born in Laurel and raised in Pascagoula. He earned his Bachelor of Science in mechanical



engineering from the University of South Alabama in 1991. He is a member of the Pascagoula Rotary Club, Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, Jackson County Economic Development Foundation, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Council of Engineering Companies, and the NRA.

He is married to the former Felicia Hillman, and they reside in Pascagoula.

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401 N. West St.
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601-359-7000
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Transportation Commissioner - Northern District (3) **JOHN CALDWELL**

Born the seventh of nine children to Elizabeth and Joe Caldwell, John Caldwell 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 10 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 from Arkansas State University and an MBA in Public Administration from Columbia Southern University.

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Transportation Commissioners

Qualifications: A qualified elector and a resident of the Supreme Court District from which he seeks election for five (5) years immediately preceding the day of the election. The qualifying fee is \$500.

Duties: The Transportation Commissioner, in accordance with state statute, has the authority and responsibility for the control and supervision of all modes of transportation in the state dealing with aeronautics, highways, public transit, and rail safety. The Transportation Commission appoints an Executive Director of the Department of Transportation whose duty is to carry out the policies set by the Commission.

The Department of Transportation has full and general supervision over all matters relating to airport development, highway construction and maintenance, weight enforcement, public transit, and rail planning. The Department also works with state colleges, universities, and other state agencies in transportation related matters.

Contact Information:

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