

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
JACKSON DIVISION**

**JOHN ROBERT SMITH, SHIRLEY HALL  
AND GENE WALKER**

**PLAINTIFFS**

**VS.**

**Civil Action No. 3:01-cv-855-HTW-DCB**

**DELBERT HOSEMANN, Secretary of State of  
Mississippi; JIM HOOD, Attorney General for the State of  
Mississippi; HALEY BARBOUR,  
Governor of the State of Mississippi; MISSISSIPPI  
REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE; and  
MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**DEFENDANTS**

**and**

**BEATRICE BRANCH, RIMS BARBER,  
L.C. DORSEY, DAVID RULE,  
JAMES WOODWARD, JOSEPH P. HUDSON,  
and ROBERT NORVEL  
INTERVENORS**

**CONSOLIDATED WITH**

**KELVIN BUCK, ET AL.**

**PLAINTIFFS**

**VS.**

**Civil Action No. 3:11-cv-717-HTW-LRA**

**HALEY BARBOUR, ET AL.**

**DEFENDANTS**

---

**MEMORANDUM OF AUTHORITIES OF MISSISSIPPI  
REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION TO VACATE INJUNCTION AND FOR OTHER RELIEF**

---

Although the Legislature and Governor worked quickly to adopt a new four-district congressional redistricting statute, H.B. 384, which was signed into law on January 24, 2022 [Dkt. #146-1], this Court was left an unusually short time to resolve any disputes before the qualifying deadline of March 1, 2022. To minimize disruption and confusion for all concerned, this Court should decide before March 1 that H.B. 384 satisfies all state and federal constitutional and statutory requirements and therefore should vacate its existing injunction. [Dkt. #128]. No party has asked this Court to extend that deadline, and, for the reasons set forth later in this brief, the Court should not do so.

**PROCEDURAL STATUS**

The 2022 congressional election process in Mississippi is already under way. So far, ten individuals have qualified to run for Congress as Republicans in the four new districts established by H.B. 384.<sup>1</sup> Records of the Federal Election Commission show that 20 individuals, including Republicans, Democrats, and independents have taken steps to become candidates.<sup>2</sup> The qualifying period closes on March 1, 2022. Absentee ballots must be sent to military personnel and other voters overseas 45 days before the primary on June 7, 2022. 52 U.S.C. § 2302.

---

<sup>1</sup> Those individuals and their residences are identified in the affidavit of Taylor Lewis, Executive Director of the Mississippi Republican Party, attached as Exhibit 1.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 201(b)(2), judicial notice may be taken of FEC records attached and made a part hereof as Exhibit 2.

Right now, however, defendants in this case, who have responsibility for the party primaries and general elections, are still obliged to conduct elections pursuant to the four-district plan established by this Court's injunctive final judgment of December 30, 2011. [Dkt. #128]. That judgment by its terms remains binding "until such time as the State of Mississippi produces a constitutional congressional redistricting plan that is precleared in accordance with the procedures in Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965." [Dkt. #128 at 2]. The Republican Party believes that the Legislature satisfied the terms of that judgment when it adopted H.B. 384.

Later on the morning that H.B. 384 was signed, the Republican Party, under Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(5), moved to vacate the injunction and for other relief. [Dkt. #143]. Given the enactment of H.B. 384, the Party asked this Court to "reconsider what injunction, if any, should be in effect." [Dkt. #143 ¶1]. The brief filed by the Party in support of its motion made clear the precise relief sought: "[T]his Court should vacate the current final judgment, declare that the new statutory plan satisfies all state and federal statutes and constitutional requirements, and permit it to go into effect." [Dkt. #144 at 9]. The motion therefore asked this Court to request all parties, as well as interested non-parties, to address these issues:

- A. Whether the State of Mississippi has produced a constitutional congressional redistricting plan that satisfies all state and federal constitutional requirements, thus satisfying the conditions of the final judgment.
- B. Whether the districts mandated by the final judgment now are unconstitutionally malapportioned, thus rendering it inequitable that the final judgment should remain in effect.

[Dkt. #143 ¶8].

To establish its right to relief on both issues, the Party's motion attached public records of which this Court can take judicial notice. [Dkt. #143-1, -2, & -3]. The *Buck* plaintiffs, in their response in opposition to the Republican Party's motion, likewise submitted materials for the

Court's consideration. [Dkt. #151-1, -2, -3, & -4]. In addition, at the hearing on the Republican Party's motion, counsel for the *Buck* plaintiffs announced that "the NAACP has engaged or engaging political scientists to do analysis" to support the contention that H.B. 384 violates § 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. § 10301. [2/2/22 Tr. 16]. This Court recognized the *Buck* plaintiffs' need for proof in support of their position and let them provide it:

JUDGE JOLLY: Mr. Rhodes, I would say that I am a bit confused about the basis for – of your position of the discriminatory intent of the plan itself, and how this is discriminatory in terms of black voting rights.

So you need to spell that out in this brief. This is your opportunity to do it, and to attach all affidavits, maps, or other documents that are necessary to establish your position.

[2/2/22 Tr. 46].

This brief will set forth the Party's basis for contending in its motion that the State has satisfied the command of the existing injunction by adopting a constitutional plan. The Party will also address the *Buck* plaintiffs' arguments as best it can, relying on the statements made at the hearing. Should the *Buck* plaintiffs, in their brief due February 24, 2022, present any new arguments and evidence, then the Party will address them in its brief due February 28, 2022. The *Buck* plaintiffs admit that they bear the burden of proving any illegality in H.B. 384. [Dkt. #52 at 8]. It is a burden which they cannot carry.

## **ARGUMENT**

### **I. THIS COURT HAS JURISDICTION TO RESOLVE ALL ISSUES.**

This Court decided ten years ago that it has continuing jurisdiction to entertain challenges to its existing injunction under Rule 60(b)(5) because "our final judgment has prospective application." [Dkt. 127 at 9]. The same is true of the existing final judgment of injunction. [Dkt. #128]. The Republican Party has asserted that all defendants remain bound by that injunction



[Dkt. #143 ¶1], and the *Buck* plaintiffs agree. [Dkt. 151 ¶¶7-8]. Because this Court retained “jurisdiction to implement, enforce, and amend this judgment” [Dkt. 128 at 2], until the adoption of a constitutional plan, this Court may entertain a motion under Rule 60(b)(5), consistent with *Jackson v. DeSoto Par. Sch. Bd.*, 585 F.2d 726, 728 n.1 (5th Cir. 1978). [Dkt. 127 at 10-11 & n.6].

It is true that the Republican Party seeks relief that is slightly different from its motion a decade ago. It is beyond dispute, of course, that a defendant can always seek relief from an injunction entered against it. Here, all defendants will have to conduct the 2022 elections under the existing injunction unless this Court vacates it, as the Party has asked. However, the Party does not ask that the injunction simply be vacated, but that it be vacated based on this Court’s finding that the State has satisfied the conditions set forth in the judgment by “produc[ing] a constitutional congressional redistricting plan” consistent with the Voting Rights Act. [Dkt. #128 at 2].

There is good reason that the Party asks this Court to rule on the legality of H.B. 384. As the Party explained in its original supporting brief [Dkt. #144 at 4-5], the Party’s situation is like that of the school district in *Board of Educ. v. Dowell*, 498 U.S. 237 (1991). There, the district sought relief from a desegregation injunction imposed in a suit going back to 1961. The Supreme Court explained that the district had a right to seek “a finding by the District Court that the Oklahoma City School District was being operated in compliance with the commands of the Equal Protection Clause.” *Id.*, at 247. A mere vacation of the injunction would be of little use to the school district if plaintiffs could come right back to file a new action asserting unconstitutional conduct. It simply makes sense to determine the constitutional question before granting the relief.

The federal courts of this state have repeatedly applied these principles in reviewing and dismissing longstanding injunctions governing desegregation of the local schools.<sup>3</sup> In *United States v. Mississippi*, 2012 WL 13219551 (S.D. Miss. Jan. 3, 2012), an injunction requiring desegregation of McComb schools had been entered in 1971. As in this case, “[t]he Court retained jurisdiction over the case ‘to insure full compliance with this order and to modify or amend the same as may be deemed necessary or desirable for the operation of a unitary school system.’” *Id.*, at \*1. Four decades later, the Court found the schools to be operating in a fully constitutional manner and concluded that “all injunctions entered in this case against the District are dissolved, and the case against the District is dismissed with prejudice.” *Id.*, at \*4. In *Carter v. Sunflower Cnty. Sch. Dist.*, 2014 WL 4384248 (N.D. Miss. Sept. 3, 2014), the Court granted similar relief over plaintiff’s objection. The Court found that “the Drew School District proved at the June 2012 hearing that it has achieved unitary status.” *Id.*, at \*4. Having found all constitutional requirements to have been satisfied, the Court held “that all prior injunctions are dissolved, jurisdiction of this Court is terminated, and this case is dismissed with prejudice.” *Id.*, at \*5.

Just as the courts in *Dowell* and in *Mississippi* had jurisdiction to determine the constitutionality of conditions in local schools, so too this Court has jurisdiction to determine the legality of H.B. 384 while granting the Republican Party’s motion to vacate the injunction. Simply vacating the injunction and dismissing these consolidated cases will not resolve this dispute, because the *Buck* plaintiffs have advised the Court that a new suit will be filed raising the same issues that they have raised here. [Dkt. #151 ¶19 & n.9]. A simple vacation and dismissal without

---

<sup>3</sup>As in this case, Rule 60(b) applies to a motion to modify a school desegregation injunction. *Cowan v. Bolivar Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, 2017 WL 988411, at \*2 (N.D. Miss. Mar. 13, 2017).

reaching the legality of H.B. 384 would leave that problem for another Court after the qualifying deadline had already passed on March 1.

The jurisdiction to grant equitable relief is flexible, but prudence here suggests that it be used in the manner anticipated by *Jackson*. This Court should “consider within a single action all issues relating to the . . . apportionment plan.” 585 F.2d at 730 n.1. This Court therefore has jurisdiction to declare that the 2022 elections may proceed under H.B. 384.

**II. THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI HAS PRODUCED A CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLAN THAT SATISFIES ALL STATE AND FEDERAL STATUTORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS, THUS SATISFYING THE CONDITIONS OF THE FINAL JUDGMENT.**

When determining whether H.B. 384 satisfies all state and federal constitutional requirements, this Court must afford the Legislature substantial deference. The Fifth Circuit has consistently “acknowledge[d] the presumption of constitutionality of legislative acts.” *Seoane v. Ortho Pharm., Inc.*, 660 F.2d 146, 151 (5th Cir. 1981). The Court has said that “[a] statute is presumed constitutional and [t]he burden is on the one attacking the legislative arrangement to negative every conceivable basis which might support it.” *League of United Latin American Citizens v. Edwards Aquifer Auth.*, 937 F.3d 457, 471 (5th Cir. 2019), quoting *Heller v. Doe*, 509 U.S. 312, 320 (1993) (brackets added in *LULAC*). The Supreme Court has explained that the presumption is particularly strong in redistricting cases:

Whenever a challenger claims that a state law was enacted with discriminatory intent, the burden of proof lies with the challenger, not the State. *Reno v. Bossier Parish School Bd.*, 520 U.S. 471, 481 (1997). This rule takes on special significance in districting cases.

*Abbott v. Perez*, 138 S.Ct. 2305, 2324 (2018). The Court added that “the ‘good faith of [the] state legislature must be presumed.’” *Id.*, quoting *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 915 (1995). “Electoral districting is a most difficult subject for legislatures, and so the States must have

discretion to exercise the political judgment necessary to balance competing interests.” 515 U.S. at 915. This principle has long been applied in the Southern District. “We approach our decision today on the premise that federal courts should not order around the state legislature unless the legislature has acted in violation of the United States Constitution.” *Miss. St. Conf. of N.A.A.C.P. v. Barbour*, 2011 WL 1870222, at \*1 (S.D. Miss. May 16, 2011), *aff’d*, 565 U.S. 972 (2011).

Here, this Court should rely on the presumption, but not only on the presumption. The Party has introduced substantial evidence to support the presumption that the Legislature acted consistently with constitutional and statutory principles in adopting H.B. 384. Presumptions may ordinarily be rebutted, but the *Buck* plaintiffs have admitted, as they must, that they bear the burden of proof in challenging the legality of H.B. 384. [Dkt. #152 at 8]. Because they cannot “negative every conceivable basis which might support” H.B. 384, *Heller*, 509 U.S. at 320, this Court should grant the Party’s motion and declare that H.B. 384 meets all state and federal statutory and conditional requirements.

**A. H.B. 384 achieves substantial population equality.**

There can be no serious dispute that H.B. 384 satisfies the constitutional requirement of substantial population equality.<sup>4</sup> Given the inability to split human bodies, a perfect plan would have three districts of 740,320 people and one district of 740,319. The statute has two districts with 740,319 people, one with 740,320, and a fourth with 740,321, a deviation between the largest and smallest district of only two people. The plan adopted by this Court in 2002 had a deviation of 10 people from largest to smallest. *Smith v. Clark*, 189 F. Supp. 2d 529, 539 (S.D. Miss. 2002), *aff’d sub nom. Branch v. Smith*, 538 U.S. 254 (2003). This Court explained that the Constitution

---

<sup>4</sup> A map displaying the new statutory plan, together with demographic statistics, is attached as Exhibit 3.

required nothing more precise because “[i]n order to achieve absolute perfection, we would have to split precincts.” 189 F. Supp. 2d at 539 n.5.<sup>5</sup> While the 2011 plan splits nine of the present precincts, presumably because of boundary changes after the issuance of the injunction, H.B. 384 reduces that number to five. [Dkt. #151-1 at 6, #151-2 at 6]. The statute’s satisfaction of the constitutional requirement of equality cannot be disputed.

**B. H.B. 384 exhibits no invidious discrimination on the basis of race.**

Other than substantial population equality, the Constitution imposes no affirmative requirements on the drawing of Congressional districts. The principal negative requirement is that States may not engage in “‘racial gerrymandering,’ that is, intentionally assigning citizens to a district on the basis of race without sufficient justification.” *Abbott v. Perez*, 138 S.Ct. at 2314, citing *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630, 641 (1993). Here, plaintiffs have suggested no direct evidence of intentional discrimination, and circumstantial evidence proves that the choices made by the Legislature are entirely explicable on non-racial grounds.

The Supreme Court has explained how a litigant may establish discriminatory intent on the part of a legislative body:

The impact of the official action whether it “bears more heavily on one race than another,” *Washington v. Davis*, 426 U.S. [229,] 242 [(1976)], may provide an important starting point. Sometimes a clear pattern unexplainable on grounds other than race emerges from the effect of the state action even when the governing legislation appears neutral on its face. . . .

The historical background of the decision is one evidentiary source, particularly if it reveals a series of official actions taken for invidious purposes. . . . The specific sequence of events leading up to the challenged decision also may shed some light on the decisionmaker’s purposes. . . . Departures from the normal procedural sequence also might afford evidence that improper purposes are playing a role. . . .

---

<sup>5</sup> The total deviation in 2011 was 86 people, splitting no precincts. [Dkt. #127 at 14].

The legislative or administrative history may be highly relevant, especially where there are contemporary statements by members of the decisionmaking body, minutes of its meetings, or reports.

*Vill. of Arlington Heights v. Metro. Hous. Dev. Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252, 266-68 (1977) (footnotes and citations omitted).

The *Buck* plaintiffs have full access to all these sources of information. The record here is full of evidence of the historical background of congressional redistricting in Mississippi. The *Buck* plaintiffs monitored this year's redistricting process, and their own evidence shows that they have access to the public files. The policy of the Standing Joint Congressional Redistricting Committee expressly declares that "[a]ll public information will be made available on the Committees' website." [Dkt. #151-4 at 7 ¶A.4]. They have acknowledged they have access to the floor debates. [2/2/22 Tr. 24]. Their brief due on February 24 should be able to give a full explanation of whether any of that evidence rebuts the presumption of legality.

The sort of circumstantial evidence which may be considered under *Arlington Heights* permits no inference of invidious racial discrimination. As for demography, there is very little difference between the new statutory plan and those considered and adopted by this Court ten years ago. When this Court adopted its current plan in 2011, the black voting age population of District 2 was 61.36%. [Dkt. #128-2 at 5]. The plan then proposed by the *Buck* plaintiffs would have had a black voting age population of 61.81%. [Dkt. #6-5]. The new statute adopted by the Legislature has a black voting age population of 61.05%. [Dkt. #143-3]. These numbers provide no support at all for an inference that racial considerations dominated the Legislature's decision.

While demography remains substantially identical to past plans, geography does not. The so-called Delta district has been losing population ever since the District Court created it in 1982. Because the existing District 2 has only 674,491 people under the 2020 census, the Legislature had

to add over 65,000 new people to achieve substantial population equality. That it did so without changing the black voting age population percentage from prior plans indicates that invidious racial discrimination was not at work.

To achieve this consistent result, the Legislature chose to add four new counties in southwest Mississippi. This Court's existing plan, like the *Buck* plaintiffs' 2011 proposal, assigned those counties to District 3. The *Buck* plaintiffs now propose to keep those four counties in District 3, while assigning all of Hinds County and more of Madison County to District 2 to make up the population shortfall. A historical review sheds some light on past decisions to divide or not divide Mississippi counties, particularly with regard to the evolution of District 2.

The Court that created the Delta district in 1982 tried to leave counties intact, splitting only Simpson and Tallahatchie. All of Madison County was in the Delta district, while all of Hinds County remained in the southwest Mississippi district, then known as District 4. *Jordan v. Winter*, 541 F. Supp. 1135, 1145, (N.D. Miss. 1982), *vacated sub nom. Brooks v. Winter*, 461 U.S. 921 (1983). In 1984, after considering the effect of the 1982 amendments to § 2 of the Voting Rights Act, the Court added the western part of Hinds County to District 2 but left the entire City of Jackson in the southwest Mississippi district. The Court extended District 2 down the Mississippi River, extracting Jefferson and Claiborne Counties from the southwest Mississippi district. The Court also divided Madison County for the first time, adding the Ridgeland precinct to District 3, then encompassing east central Mississippi. Finally, the Court removed the east half of Simpson County and southern portions of Rankin County from District 3, adding them to District 4 in southwest Mississippi. No municipalities were divided. *Jordan v. Winter*, 604 F. Supp. 807 (N.D.

Miss.), *aff'd sub nom. Mississippi Republican Executive Committee v. Brooks*, 469 U.S. 1002 (1984).<sup>6</sup>

The City of Jackson was split for the first time, not by a court, but by the Legislature's adoption of Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-1037 in 1992 and its prompt approval by the Attorney General under § 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Much of the City of Jackson was added to District 2, leaving the rest of Hinds County in the southwest Mississippi district. The Legislature added more Madison County precincts to the east central Mississippi district.

This Court extended these tendencies when it imposed the first four-district plan in 2002. More of the City of Jackson was added to District 2, leaving only 15 precincts and 31,832 people in northeast Jackson in District 3, which included much of the old southwest Mississippi district. The Court removed Copiah County from the old southwest Mississippi district and added it to District 2. More of southern Madison County was severed from District 2 and added to District 3. *Smith*, 189 F. Supp. 2d at 512. This Court explained that it wished to assign the high-growth area of southern Madison County and Rankin County to District 3, while placing “almost all of Hinds County” and “the Nissan Plant/Gluckstadt area of Madison County” in District 2. *Id.* at 544. The Court added that the decision to continue to divide the City of Jackson was supported by the Mayor's testimony “that he preferred that the City be represented by two congresspersons.” *Id.*,

---

<sup>6</sup> For the Court's convenience, maps of Mississippi congressional districts as they have changed over the last 40 years are attached as the following numbered exhibits:

4. 1982 – *Jordan*, 541 F. Supp. at 1146;
5. 1984 – *Jordan*, 604 F. Supp at 820;
6. 1992 – Reprinted in *Buck* [Dkt. #1-3 at 3];
7. 2002 – Reprinted in *Buck* [Dkt. #1-3 at 23];
8. 2011 – [Dkt. #128-1].



at 543. This Court’s 2011 plan reassigned some precincts in the City of Jackson and added Gluckstadt in southern Madison County to District 3. [Dkt. #127 at 14].<sup>7</sup>

H.B. 384 continues the divisions that have evolved in southern Madison County and northeast Hinds County since the District Court first divided those two counties in 1984. It can hardly be discriminatory to adhere to a practice initiated by one District Court and extended by another. Rather than bring those urban and suburban areas into rural District 2, the Legislature extended the expansion of the 1982 Delta district further into the old southwest Mississippi district, which had also been taking place since 1984. Whatever the wisdom of that decision, adherence to the practices approved by two District Courts and the Attorney General in 1992 can hardly be considered evidence of intentional racial discrimination.

Twenty years ago, this Court described different factors on which it had relied in drafting its first injunction. *Smith*, 189 F. Supp. 2d at 541. Although these factors are not mandated by state or federal statutory or constitutional law, the Legislature satisfied them in drafting H.B. 384. This Court achieved “placement of the major research universities and military bases, respectively, in separate districts.” *Id.* The four largest universities continue to be spread among the four districts, and the military bases in Lowndes, Lauderdale, and Harrison Counties are all in separate districts. As much as possible, H.B. 384 places “at least one major growth area in each district,” *id.*, by dividing the Jackson municipal area between Districts 2 and 3. “[R]espect for county and municipal boundaries,” *id.*, is maintained. The new statute unifies Clarke County, although Jones County is now split to achieve population equality. The cities of Jackson and Ridgeland are split as before, while a city in Jones County is newly split for purposes of equality.

---

<sup>7</sup> The *Buck* plaintiffs supported the retention of much of northeast Jackson in District 3, as well as surrendering the high-growth area of Gluckstadt and other precincts in southern Madison County to District 3. [Dkt. #6-6 at 6-7].

As in 2002, it remains difficult to take account of “compactness and contiguity,” as well as “consideration of the distances of travel within each district.” *Id.*<sup>8</sup> While all four districts consist of contiguous territory, the Court long ago identified the problem with compactness:

The ability to create compact districts in Mississippi is limited by the distribution of population. Much of the State is rural, with large concentrations of population in only a few areas of the State. Districts that contain many sparsely populated counties in large rural areas necessarily will be less compact than districts that contain heavily populated counties and urban areas, as a result of the population equality requirement.

*Id.*, at 541. This continues to present a problem for predominantly rural District 2, as it did 20 years ago. “The new District 2 is slightly larger than the former district 2, but this is unavoidable in the light of the population deficit in former district 2, which grew more slowly than any other district in the State.” *Id.*, at 545. Once again, because District 2 continues to lose population, it has been necessary to add voters and territory, thereby increasing travel time.<sup>9</sup> Yet the addition of four southwest Mississippi counties to District 2 causes a corresponding reduction in travel time for new District 3.

As the Court will remember, the extension of District 2 further down the Mississippi River into southwest Mississippi was supported at trial by the testimony of Senator Henry Kirksey, accepted as an expert by all parties. He explained that all counties along the Mississippi River, from Tennessee to Louisiana, share historical and regional interests. He said that “the Mississippi River is known worldwide,” and “the population from Tunica all the way to Louisiana, Wilkinson County, is black majority.” [1/28/02 Tr. 29]. Along with these common cultural characteristics,

---

<sup>8</sup> This Court recognized that compactness is not one of “the constitutional and statutory criteria” which apply to all plans. *Id.*, at 540. Courts must consider compactness in devising a remedy, *id.*, at 541, but legislative decisions are not so bound.

<sup>9</sup> The *Buck* plaintiffs have not explained how increased travel time injures them. A cognizable injury is essential to standing.

Senator Kirksey relied on historical factors: “[T]here have been districts drawn years ago, one called the Shoe String District, that included every county on the river from all the way from Tennessee to Louisiana.” [1/28/02 Tr. 30]. Senator Kirksey reasoned:

[T]his district is one that incorporates a population that is pretty much the same from Tunica all the way down to Wilkinson County. And my view was that if you could really cause the state leadership to focus on that fact, something can be done, because it needs to be done.

[1/28/02 Tr. 29]. The Legislature has now done that. Following the advice of Henry Kirksey can hardly be considered indicative of invidious racial discrimination.

The types of evidence considered probative in *Arlington Heights* offer no support at all for an inference of invidious discrimination.<sup>10</sup> There is no reason to believe the *Buck* plaintiffs can carry their burden of proof on this issue.

**C. H.B. 384 complies with the Voting Rights Act.**

This Court’s prior injunctions have anticipated the need for the State to secure approval of any new statutory plan under § 5 of the Voting Rights Act. [Dkt. #60 at 2; Dkt. #128 at 2]. However, as the Court knows, Mississippi is no longer covered by § 5. *Shelby County, Ala. v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529, 557 (2013). For that reason, H.B. 384 does not and cannot violate § 5.

This Court should still consider whether H.B. 384 violates § 2 of the Act, which forbids enforcement of any “standard, practice or procedure . . . which results in the denial or abridgment of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.”<sup>11</sup> The factors

---

<sup>10</sup> To this point, the *Buck* plaintiffs have not identified “[d]epartures from the normal procedural sequence.” 429 U.S. at 267. The February 4, 2022, order of the Mississippi Ethics Commission rejecting such an allegation is attached as Exhibit 9.

<sup>11</sup> Courts must consider § 2 in remedial decisions since the Supreme Court remanded the 1982 plan “for further consideration in light of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.” *Brooks*, 461 U.S. at 921.

to be considered in a § 2 challenge to a redistricting plan which lacks a black majority district were set out by the Supreme Court in *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30 (1986). As this Court noted 20 years ago, the major consideration is whether “[t]he minority population . . . is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a district.” *Smith*, 189 F. Supp. 2d at 540. That could be done 20 years ago, and it can be done today. For that reason, the new statutory plan includes District 2 as a black majority district. Once again, as this Court observed, where a “plan creates a majority-minority district, . . . it does not result in minority vote dilution in violation of § 2.” *Id.*

At the hearing on February 2, 2022, the *Buck* plaintiffs attacked this Court’s holding of two decades’ standing. They have an expert who will testify that, because of certain supposed characteristics of black voters in southwest Mississippi, District 2 as established by H.B. 384, despite its black voting age population of 61.05%, does not satisfy the results test added to § 2 by Congress in 1982. Section 2(b) says that the results test has been violated “if, based on the totality of circumstances, it is shown that the political processes leading to nomination or election in the State or political subdivision are not equally open to participation by members of a class . . . in that its members have less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.” The expert apparently intends to testify that the 61.05% black voting age majority has “less opportunity . . . to elect representatives of their choice” than the remaining 38.95% of the electorate. No court has ever accepted an argument so patently at odds with the statutory language.

When, as here, the borders of a single-member district are challenged, the Supreme Court has set a simple standard for the application of § 2:

Do minorities make up more than 50 percent of the voting-age population in the relevant geographic area? . . . Where an election district could be drawn in which

minority voters form a majority but such a district is not drawn, ... then -- assuming the other *Gingles* factors are also satisfied -- denial of the opportunity to elect the candidate of choice is a present and discernable wrong that is not subject to the high degree of speculation and prediction attendant upon the analysis of crossover claims.

*Bartlett v. Strickland*, 556 U.S. 1, 18-19 (2009) (opinion of Kennedy, J.) (citation omitted). Equal opportunity consists of having “no better or worse opportunity to elect a candidate than does any other large group of voters with the same relative voting strength.” *Id.*, at 14 (opinion of Kennedy, J.). Where a minority “make[s] up more than 50 percent of the voting age population,” a group having “the same relative voting strength” cannot exist. *Id.*, at 18, 14 (opinion of Kennedy, J.).<sup>12</sup> The group having a majority cannot have “less opportunity” than smaller groups, as § 2(b) requires.<sup>13</sup>

When “such a district is not drawn,” *id.*, at 18 (opinion of Kennedy, J.), plaintiffs can show that more such districts should be created:

[I]n the context of a challenge to the drawing of district lines, “the first *Gingles* condition requires the possibility of creating more than the existing number of reasonably compact districts with a sufficiently large minority population to elect candidates of its choice.” [*Johnson v. DeGrandy*, 512 U.S. 997,] 1008 [(1994)].

*LULAC v. Perry*, 548 U.S. 399, 430 (2006). The Supreme Court found that another Latino-majority district should be created in that case. “Latinos, to be sure, are a bare majority of the

---

<sup>12</sup> The dissent read the controlling opinion as providing that “a district with a minority population making up 50% or more of the citizen voting age population (CVAP) can provide a remedy to minority voters lacking an opportunity ‘to elect representatives of their choice.’” *Id.*, at 27 (Souter, J., dissenting) (quoting § 2(b)). Because H.B. 384 provides such a district, no remedy is required.

<sup>13</sup> Relying on *Bartlett*, one court held that § 2 could not require the addition of more black residents to a 52.88% black voting age population district because it was “*already* a majority-minority district under *Bartlett*’s definition.” *Jeffers v. Beebe*, 895 F. Supp. 2d 920, 932 (E.D. Ark. 2012) (emphasis in original). This holding was not criticized by the Eighth Circuit when it struck down an at-large form of government, despite a majority black voting age population, in *Missouri St. Conf. of the NAACP v. Ferguson-Florissant Sch. Dist.*, 894 F.3d 924 (8th Cir. 2018).

voting-age population in new District 23, but only in a hollow sense, for the parties agree that the relevant numbers must include citizenship.” *Id.*, at 429. Here, plaintiffs cannot possibly prove that any portion of the 61.05% black voting age population majority is hollow or illusory because of ineligibility to vote, lack of citizenship, or for any other reason.

Counsel for the *Buck* plaintiffs argues that black voters in southwest Mississippi cannot be relied on to vote in accordance with blacks in the rest of District 2 because too many of them over three decades ago had supported white candidates in Woodville. [2/2/22 Tr. 20-21]. Long before *Bartlett* and *LULAC v. Perry*, in *Monroe v. City of Woodville*, 819 F.2d 507 (5th Cir. 1987), the Fifth Circuit held that it was at least possible that § 2 might require an at-large local government to be broken into single-member districts despite a black majority. On remand, however, the District Court found that black voters did not have less opportunity than the white minority to elect candidates of their choice, and the Fifth Circuit affirmed. 688 F. Supp. 255 (S.D. Miss. 1988), *aff’d*, 881 F.2d 1327 (5th Cir. 1989), *modified*, 897 F.2d 763 (5th Cir. 1990).<sup>14</sup> The free decision of black voters to choose white candidates, if it happens, does not violate § 2.<sup>15</sup> “[T]he ultimate right of § 2 is equality of opportunity, not a guarantee of electoral success for minority-preferred candidates of whatever race.” *De Grandy*, 512 U.S. at 1014 n.11.

The Republican Party concedes that a decision in the Southern District found § 2 to have been violated by the drawing of a legislative district having a 50.8% black voting age majority. *Thomas v. Bryant*, 366 F. Supp. 3d 786 (S.D. Miss.), *aff’d*, 938 F.3d 134 (5th Cir. 2019), *vacated*

---

<sup>14</sup> Another at-large government survived a similar challenge because plaintiffs failed to prove that their “registered voter majority is illusory.” *Salas v. Sw. Tex. Jr. Coll. Dist.*, 964 F.2d 1542, 1555 (5th Cir. 1992).

<sup>15</sup> “The Plaintiffs’ attorney argued that black crossover votes for white candidates should be counted with the white bloc vote, but there is no authority to support this proposition.” 688 F. Supp. at 263.

*and complaint dismissed*, 961 F.3d 800 (5th Cir. 2020) (en banc). No other District Court has ever invalidated a single-member district having a black voting age majority. Whatever the merits of the analysis in the *Thomas* decision, it cannot be stretched to cover the overwhelming 61.05% black voting age majority in this case. As a matter of law, then, this Court got it right 20 years ago. When a “plan creates a majority-minority district, . . . it does not result in minority vote dilution in violation of § 2.” *Smith*, 189 F. Supp. 2d at 540.

Of course, § 2 also prohibits intentional racial discrimination. That said, for the reasons already discussed as to the constitutionality of the new statutory plan, intentional discrimination cannot be shown on this record. The new plan does not violate the Voting Rights Act.

**III. WHETHER THE DISTRICTS MANDATED BY THE FINAL JUDGMENT NOW ARE UNCONSTITUTIONALLY MALAPPORTIONED, THUS RENDERING IT INEQUITABLE THAT THE FINAL JUDGMENT SHOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT.**

This is the second of the two issues on which the Republican Party moved this Court to request briefing. [Dkt. #143 ¶8]. There is no dispute among the parties on this issue. Evidence submitted by the Republican Party shows that substantial population disparities now exist among the four districts established by the current injunction. [Dkt. #143-2]. The *Buck* plaintiffs have provided additional data showing those disparities. [Dkt. #151-1]. They explicitly “agree that the 2020 Decennial on Census reveals that the current congressional districts are unconstitutionally malapportioned.” [Dkt. #151 ¶9 (footnote omitted)].

Based on the evidence and the admissions of the parties, unconstitutional malapportionment has been clearly established. Because it is inequitable for the existing injunction to remain in place, this Court should vacate it under Rule 60(b)(5).

**IV. THIS COURT WAS “FULLY CONVINCED” IN 2002 THAT IT SHOULD NOT EXTEND THE STATUTORY MARCH 1 QUALIFYING DEADLINE, AND THAT DEADLINE SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED NOW.**

The qualifying deadline for both party and independent candidates for U.S. House of Representatives is March 1, 2022. *See* Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-299(3)(a-b). As an initial matter, no party in this case, potential intervenor or anyone else is requesting that the statutory March 1 qualifying deadline be extended. When the Court inquired about this issue at the February 2, 2022, status conference, no party requested an extension. In fact, counsel for the *Buck* plaintiffs repeatedly argued that the March 1 deadline should not be extended. [*See, e.g.*, 2/2/22 Tr. 25:9-10].<sup>16</sup> For that reason alone, the deadline should not be moved. However, since the Court inquired about this issue at the February 2 status conference, the Republican Party would like to remind the Court and reemphasize the compelling reasons why the deadline should not be extended.

In 2002, this Court in *Smith*, 189 F. Supp. 2d 503, 510-11 (S.D. Miss. 2002), rejected the suggestion that the March 1 candidate qualification deadline should be moved, stating the Court was

fully convinced, however, that such an election change would create confusion, misapprehension and burdens for the voters, for the political parties, and for the candidates. Many voters want to participate in the election process to a greater extent than mere voting. They want to personally know the candidates, to select their choice, to give money to their selection and to organize the people in their precincts or counties in the campaign for their choice. . . . If we begin to delay the establishment of election districts and advance qualifying dates, such voters who want to become fully involved in the process will not timely know in which district they are going to be, and thus will not timely know where and with whom to become involved. The same situation will exist for the candidates. Postponing the election schedule means that the candidates and political parties would encounter campaign and election burdens, that is, significant time constraints on getting acquainted with new voters, establishing organizations in new election districts and the multiple new precincts and counties therein, raising campaign funds within the new districts, developing strategies for particular geographic areas, etc.

---

<sup>16</sup> Although the *Buck* plaintiffs suggested in their brief of authorities in support of their opposition to the Republican Party's motion that the Court "should consider whether to push back the candidate qualification deadline" [Dkt. #152 at 8], they abandoned that suggestion at the February 2 status conference.



\*\*\*

... Furthermore, changing the March 1 date is inconsistent with the position taken by the [*Branch*] Intervenors in their amended complaint filed in Chancery Court, in which they assert that, if a plan is not adopted in time for it to be implemented in advance of the March 1 deadline, “the interests of the plaintiffs and all Mississippi voters in enforcement of Mississippi’s election laws will be compromised, and their rights under Mississippi law to participate in a congressional election process conducted in a timely manner will be violated.” It is also significant to us that changing the deadline would also contravene the Mississippi Supreme Court’s recognition of the importance of such deadlines under state election law. *See Adams County Election Comm’n v. Sanders*, 586 So.2d 829, 832 (Miss.1991) (an election schedule that violates the state election code is adverse to the public interest).

In sum, we agree with the State, the [*Branch*] Intervenors, and the State Supreme Court that changing the dates of the election schedule would be deleterious to the rights of the voters, the candidates and the political parties, and accordingly we are determined to avoid such a change of dates.

*Id.*, at 510-11 (footnotes omitted). *See also Smith*, 189 F. Supp. 2d at 535-36.

Subsequent case law, including from the United States Supreme Court, proved the Court correct. Four years later, in *Purcell v. Gonzalez*, 549 U.S. 1 (2006), the Supreme Court established the principle that federal courts should ordinarily not move election deadlines. The Sixth Circuit later applied this principle to support the non-extension of deadlines, noting that extensions often beget more extensions and cause a disruption in the orderly election process. *See Thompson v. Dewine*, 959 F.3d 804, 813 (6th Cir. 2020) (“moving deadlines rarely ends with one court order. Moving one piece on the game board invariable leads to additional moves.”). The Seventh Circuit has also recognized the importance of deadlines, stating that “[d]eadlines are essential to elections, as to other endeavors such as filing notices of appeal or tax returns.” *Common Cause of Indiana v. Lawson*, 977 F.3d 663, 664 (7th Cir. 2020) (finding constitutional the requirement that mail-in ballot be received by election day even if Covid-19 imposed delays meant it was foreseeable some ballots would not be received in time). Other federal courts have invoked *Purcell* in pre-election proceedings conducted on a tight timeframe. *See Husted v. Ohio State Conf. of NAACP*, 573 U.S.

988 (2014) (staying a lower court order changing election laws 61 days before election day); *Thompson*, 959 F.3d at 813 (election day was “months away but important, interim deadlines ... [we]re imminent” and “moving or changing a deadline or procedure now will have inevitable, other consequences”); *Perry v. Perez*, 565 U.S. 1090 (2011) (22 days before the candidate-registration deadline); *Purcell*, 549 U.S. at 4-5 (33 days before election day); *North Carolina v. League of Women Voters of N.C.*, 574 U.S. 927 (2014) (32 days before election day).

The *Purcell* principle precludes moving the March 1 qualifying deadline here. Indeed, just ten days ago, in *Merrill v. Milligan*, 595 U.S. \_\_\_, 2022 WL 354467 (Feb. 4, 2022), Justice Kavanaugh explained this point clearly in his concurring opinion staying a District Court’s injunction of Alabama’s Congressional redistricting plan:

This Court has repeatedly stated that federal courts ordinarily should not enjoin a state’s election laws in the period close to an election, and this Court in turn has often stayed lower federal court injunctions that contravened that principle. *See ibid.*; see also *Merrill v. People First of Ala.*, 592 U.S. \_\_\_ (2020); *Andino v. Middleton*, 592 U.S. \_\_\_ (2020); *Merrill v. People First of Ala.*, 591 U.S. \_\_\_ (2020); *Little v. Reclaim Idaho*, 591 U.S. \_\_\_ (2020); *Republican National Committee v. Democratic National Committee*, 589 U.S. \_\_\_ (2020) (*per curiam*); *Democratic National Committee v. Wisconsin State Legislature*, 592 U.S. \_\_\_ (2020) (declining to vacate stay).

That principle – known as the *Purcell* principle – reflects a bedrock tenet of election law: When an election is close at hand, the rules of the road must be clear and settled. Late judicial tinkering with election laws can lead to disruption and to unanticipated and unfair consequences for candidates, political parties, and voters, among others. It is one thing for a State on its own to toy with its election laws close to a State’s elections. But it is quite another thing for a federal court to swoop in and re-do a State’s election laws in the period close to an election.

*Id.*, at \*4 (Kavanaugh, J., concurring) (footnote omitted).

Particularly compelling reasons support application of the *Purcell* principle in this case. Local, state, party officials, and the public have been acting in reliance on the March 1 qualification deadline since at least December 2021 when the 2022 Elections Calendar and 2022 Candidate

Qualifying Guide were made available to the public. *See* Exhibits 10 (Elections Calendar) & 11 (Candidate Qualifying Guide). These local officials understandably have internal deadlines all based on the March 1 qualification deadline, and any extension of that deadline would “lead to disruption and to unanticipated and unfair consequences for candidates, political parties, and voters, among others.” *Merrill*, at \*4 (Kavanaugh, J., concurring).

Moreover, there is much to be done in a short period of time following the March 1 qualifying deadline. After the qualifying deadline, the appropriate state executive committee for party candidates will be required to meet and determine whether a candidate meets the appropriate qualifications to appear on the ballot. *See* Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-299(7). Until the state executive committees meet, neither the candidates nor the public knows if the candidate will officially appear on the ballot for their respective party primary election. *Id.* Further, once the appropriate state executive committee meets and determines the qualifications of candidates, that information must be transmitted to counties and inputted into the Statewide Election Management System (“SEMS”). *See* Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-15-163 *et seq.* This information must be transmitted with sufficient time to prepare and print absentee ballots, which are required to be made available to voters 45 days before a primary election. *See* Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-649. This year, the primary election date is set by statute as June 7. *See* Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-1031, § 23-15-649. Additionally, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (“UOCAVA”), which was enacted by Congress in 1986, requires that certain groups of citizens can register and vote absentee for all federal offices. 52 U.S.C. § 2302. This includes overseas armed services personnel. The deadline to mail these ballots is set by state statute and is also 45 days before the primary. *See* Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-15-683, 23-15-691, 23-15-692, and 23-15-699; *see also* Ex. 10 (Elections Calendar).

The Republican Party also offers the affidavit of Taylor Lewis, Executive Director of the Mississippi Republican Party, Exhibit 1, as support for applying the *Purcell* principle here. As set forth in Lewis’s affidavit, ten individuals have already filed qualifying papers relying on the March 1 deadline and the district boundaries as drawn in H.B. 384. Records of the Federal Election Commission show that 20 individuals, including Republicans, Democrats, and independents, have taken steps to become candidates. *See* Exhibit 2. Extending the deadline adds uncertainty about where and against whom these candidates will run. Additionally, while no independent candidates have filed qualifying papers as of this filing, any such candidate who intends to file must submit a petition with the signatures of 200 or more registered voters from the Congressional district in which the person intends to run. *See* Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-359. Any such candidate who may be preparing to file is relying on the March 1 deadline and the district boundaries drawn in H.B. 384, and changes to the deadline and boundaries could negatively affect whether these persons meet the signature requirement.

Related to the March 1 deadline and the need for time and expediency with respect to the election process, critical work for the 2022 election cannot move forward until this Court finds H.B. 384 constitutional and vacates its injunction. Elections officials cannot enter data into the Statewide Election Management System (“SEMS”) to implement the redistricting plan in H.B. 384 and prepare ballots until this Court vacates the injunction, which currently binds officials to the 2011 Court-crafted plan. All voter information, including the district in which a voter will cast their ballot, is stored in SEMS. *See* Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-163 *et seq.* Redistricting requires local elections officials to reassign addresses for voters to the appropriate districts in SEMS. *Id.* The current federal injunction prohibits implementation of any new plan and the reassignment of

addresses to new districts, which in turn prevents local election officials from implementing the changes called for in H.B. 384.

As the Court may recall, Sue Sautermeister, a former elections commissioner and State Director of Census 2000, testified in 2002 about the on-the-ground difficulties of implementing a redistricting plan. [1/29/02 Tr. 167:7-197:4; *see also* 1/29/02 Tr. 241:7-253:24, (testimony of Leslie Scott, Assistant Secretary of State, Elections Division, discussing how elections are implemented at the local level in 82 different counties and not directly from the Secretary of State's Office, which adds complexity)]. The process has become more complicated since Sautermeister testified because of the passage of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, 52 U.S.C. §§ 20901 *et seq.*, and subsequent introduction of SEMS in 2005. *See* Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-25-169 – 23-15-169.6 (providing methods for compliance with the Help America Vote Act including the adoption of SEMS). While SEMS may improve the overall efficiency of the voting process and storage of voter data, it is another variable to be contended with by elections officials on short time schedules and step in the process that did not exist when Sautermeister testified. It is for all these timing considerations, among others, that this motion was filed immediately upon the Governor signing H.B. 384 and is urgent and necessitous and needs an expedited ruling.

### CONCLUSION

For these reasons, this Court should declare that H.B. 384 meets all state and federal constitutional and statutory requirements, thus satisfying the conditions set forth for in the existing final judgment. [Dkt. #128]. This Court should therefore vacate the final judgment and dismiss the complaint with prejudice as to all parties.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, this the 14th day of February, 2022.

**MISSISSIPPI REPUBLICAN  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

By: /s/ Michael B. Wallace  
MICHAEL B. WALLACE

**OF COUNSEL:**

Michael B. Wallace (MSB #6904)  
Charles E. Cowan (MSB #104478)  
WISE CARTER CHILD & CARAWAY, P.A.  
Post Office Box 651  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0651  
Ph: (601) 968-5500  
Fax: (601) 968-5519  
[mbw@wisecarter.com](mailto:mbw@wisecarter.com)  
[cec@wisecarter.com](mailto:cec@wisecarter.com)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Michael B. Wallace, one of the attorneys for the Mississippi Republican Party Executive Committee, do hereby certify that I have this date filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the ECF system which sent notification of such filing to all counsel of record with ECF.

**SO CERTIFIED**, this the 14th day of February, 2022.

/s/ Michael B. Wallace  
MICHAEL B. WALLACE

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
JACKSON DIVISION**

**JOHN ROBERT SMITH, SHIRLEY HALL  
AND GENE WALKER**

**PLAINTIFFS**

**VS.**

**Civil Action No. 3:01-cv-855-HTW-DCB**

**DELBERT HOSEMANN, Secretary of State of  
Mississippi; JIM HOOD, Attorney General for the State of  
Mississippi; HALEY BARBOUR,  
Governor of the State of Mississippi; MISSISSIPPI  
REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE; and  
MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**DEFENDANTS**

**and**

**BEATRICE BRANCH, RIMS BARBER,  
L.C. DORSEY, DAVID RULE,  
JAMES WOODWARD, JOSEPH P. HUDSON,  
and ROBERT NORVEL  
INTERVENORS**

**CONSOLIDATED WITH**

**KELVIN BUCK, ET AL.**

**PLAINTIFFS**

**VS.**

**Civil Action No. 3:11-cv-717-HTW-LRA**

**HALEY BARBOUR, ET AL.**

**DEFENDANTS**



---

**DECLARATION OF TAYLOR LEWIS**

---

1. My name is Taylor “Tate” Lewis. I am above the age of eighteen, of sound mind, and fully competent to make this declaration. I am a resident citizen of Hinds County, Mississippi.

2. I serve as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Republican Party. The Mississippi Republican Party has been registering individuals who have sought qualification to run as a Republican for any one of Mississippi’s four congressional seats in advance of the March 1, 2022 qualifying deadline for such candidates.

3. As of February 14, 2022, ten individuals have registered to run as Republicans for election as one of Mississippi’s four members of Congress. Those individuals and where they live are listed as follows:

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District
  - i. Trent Kelly of Saltillo, Mississippi
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District
  - i. Michael Carson of Terry, Mississippi
  - ii. Brian Flowers of Clinton, Mississippi
  - iii. Ronald Eller of Raymond, Mississippi
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District
  - i. Michael Guest of Brandon, Mississippi
- d. 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District
  - i. Brice Wiggins of Pascagoula, Mississippi
  - ii. Raymond Brooks of Gulfport, Mississippi
  - iii. Mike Ezell of Pascagoula, Mississippi



iv. Clay Wagner of Kiln, Mississippi

v. Steven Palazzo of Gulfport, Mississippi

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing declaration is true and correct.

  
TAYLOR LEWIS

Image# 202101089398304894

PAGE 1 / 2

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) KELLY, JOHN TRENT, , ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H6MS01131	
(b) Address (number and street) 438 EAST MAIN STREET			<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed	
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code TUPELO MS 38804			3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)	
4. Party Affiliation REPUBLICAN PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 01		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) KELLY FOR CONGRESS		
(b) Address (number and street) 5221-A CLIFF GOOKIN BLVD		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code TUPELO MS 38801		



### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) TRENT'S TROOPS PAC		
(b) Address (number and street) 5221-A CLIFF GOOKIN BOULEVARD		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code TUPELO MS 38801		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate KELLY, JOHN TRENT, , ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 01/08/2021
--	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES**  
(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy. **NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)  
**GT FARM TEAM III**

(b) Address (number and street)  
PO BOX 30844  
SUITE 401

(c) City, State, and ZIP Code  
BETHESDA MD 20824

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy. **NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)  
**KELLY JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

(b) Address (number and street)  
5221-A CLIFF GOOKIN BOULEVARD

(c) City, State, and ZIP Code  
TUPELO MS 38801

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy. **NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)

(b) Address (number and street)

(c) City, State, and ZIP Code

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy. **NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)

(b) Address (number and street)

(c) City, State, and ZIP Code

Image# 202102109427649350

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) MCCAY, JAMES, Marion, Mr., Jr.			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS01122	
(b) Address (number and street) 326 Hwy 2 NE		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Corinth MS 38834		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation OTHER	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 01		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Committee for NDA		
(b) Address (number and street) 326 Hwy 2 NE		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Corinth MS 38834		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate McCay, James, Marion, Mr., Jr.  [Electronically Filed]	Date 02/10/2021
--	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202104039443060918

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Avery, Hunter, Kyle, Mr.,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS01130		
(b) Address (number and street) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed 329 2nd St, Apt. 9 P.O. Box 1477					
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Belmont MS 38827			3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation DEMOCRATIC PARTY		5. Office Sought House		6. State & District of Candidate MS 01	

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Hunter Avery Congressional Committee		
(b) Address (number and street) 329 2nd St, Apt. 9 P.O. Box 1477		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Belmont MS 38827		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Avery, Hunter, Kyle, Mr.,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 04/03/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

RECEIVED  
FEC MAIL CENTER

2021 OCT 14 PM 12:32

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) <u>Gerald M Kerner</u>			2. FEC Candidate Identification Number <u>To be assigned</u>	
(b) Address (number and street) <u>201 West Main Street</u>		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code <u>Clinton MS 39056</u>		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation <u>Democrat</u>	5. Office Sought <u>House</u>	6. State & District of Candidate <u>MS-02</u>		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

NOTE: This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) <u>Kerner For Congress Committee</u>	
(b) Address (number and street) <u>201 West Main Street</u>	
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code <u>Clinton MS 39056</u>	

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

NOTE: This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)	
(b) Address (number and street)	
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code	

I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.

Signature of Candidate <u>Gerald M Kerner</u>	Date <u>Oct 5, 2021</u>
--	----------------------------

NOTE: Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 52 U.S.C. §30109.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Optional Supplemental Page for Designation  
of Additional Authorized Committees**DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES**

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy. **NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)

(b) Address (number and street)

(c) City, State, and ZIP Code

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy. **NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)

(b) Address (number and street)

(c) City, State, and ZIP Code

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy. **NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)

(b) Address (number and street)

(c) City, State, and ZIP Code

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy. **NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)

(b) Address (number and street)

(c) City, State, and ZIP Code

Kerner For Congress Committee

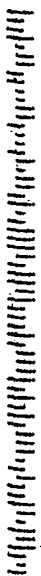
[www.Kerner4Congress.com](http://www.Kerner4Congress.com)

201 West Main Street  
Clinton, MS 39056

Form 2

Federal Election Commission  
1050 First St NE  
Washington DC  
20463

20463-




JACKSON MS 390  
5 OCT 2021 PM 3 L

RECEIVED  
FEC MAIL CENTER  
2021 OCT 14 PM 12:32



NON-PROFIT CORPORATION



Federal Election Commission		
ENVELOPE REPLACEMENT PAGE FOR INCOMING DOCUMENTS		
The FEC added this page to the end of this filing to indicate how it was received.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Delivered		Date of Receipt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USPS First Class Mail	Postmarked 10/5/21	Date of Receipt 10/14/21
<input type="checkbox"/> USPS Registered/Certified		Postmarked (R/C)
<input type="checkbox"/> USPS Priority Mail		Postmarked
<input type="checkbox"/> USPS Priority Mail Express		Postmarked
<input type="checkbox"/> Postmark Illegible		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Postmark		
<input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Delivery Service (Specify):		Shipping Date
	Next Business Day Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Received from House Records & Registration Office		Date of Receipt
<input type="checkbox"/> Received from Senate Public Records Office		Date of Receipt
<input type="checkbox"/> Received from Electronic Filing Office		Date of Receipt
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):		Date of Receipt or Postmarked
 PREPARER (3/2015)		10/15/21 DATE PREPARED

Image# 202105049446279923

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) FLOWERS, BRIAN WESLEY, , ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H0MS02082	
(b) Address (number and street) 127 MARION DR.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code CLINTON MS 39056		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation Rep	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 02		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) FLOWERS FOR CONGRESS		
(b) Address (number and street) P.O. Box 607		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code CLINTON MS 39056		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate FLOWERS, BRIAN WESLEY, , , [Electronically Filed]	Date 04/21/2021
--	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202012089366438918

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Keuneke, Jeffrey, Lynn, Mr.			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS02153	
(b) Address (number and street) 111 Suzanne Cove		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Clinton MS 39056		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation REPUBLICAN PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 02		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Keuneke for Congree		
(b) Address (number and street) 111 Suzanne Cove		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Clinton MS 39056		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Keuneke, Jeffrey, , Mr.  [Electronically Filed]	Date 12/08/2020
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202102229428801151

PAGE 1 / 2

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Thompson, Bennie, G., ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H4MS02068	
(b) Address (number and street) 103 L.C. Turner Circle		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Bolton MS 39041-9634		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation DEMOCRATIC PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 02		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Friends of Bennie Thompson		
(b) Address (number and street) PO Box 100		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Bolton MS 39041-0100		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Thompson, Bennie, G., ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 02/22/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

: 97 `A=G79 @G B9CI G`H9LH`F9 @5 H98 `HC`5 `F9DCFHŽG7 <98I @ `CF`+9A=N5HCB  
.

Form/Schedule: F2N  
Transaction ID :

Form/Schedule:  
Transaction ID:

Image# 201901299144050342

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) GUEST, MICHAEL PATRICK, , ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H8MS03125	
(b) Address (number and street) POST OFFICE BOX 470			<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed	
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code BRANDON MS 39043			3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)	
4. Party Affiliation REPUBLICAN PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 03		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2020 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) FRIENDS OF MICHAEL GUEST		
(b) Address (number and street) POST OFFICE BOX 470		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code BRANDON MS 39043		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) GUEST PAC		
(b) Address (number and street) POST OFFICE BOX 80		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code JACKSON MS 39205		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate GUEST, MICHAEL PATRICK, , ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 01/29/2019
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202108129466245135

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Young, Shuwaski, , ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS03136	
(b) Address (number and street) PO Box 151		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Jackson MS 39205		3. Is This Statement <input type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation DEMOCRATIC PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 03		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Shuwaski Young for Congress		
(b) Address (number and street) PO Box 151		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Jackson MS 39205		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Young, Shuwaski, , ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 08/12/2021
--	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202108069466209486

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Talley, Rahim, D, ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS03144	
(b) Address (number and street) 711 LAKE HARBOUR DR 1214		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code RIDGELAND MS 39157		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation DEMOCRATIC PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 03		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Committee to Elect Rahim Talley		
(b) Address (number and street) 711 LAKE HARBOUR DR 1214		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code RIDGELAND MS 39157		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)
(b) Address (number and street)
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Talley, Rahim, D, Mr,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 08/06/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Image# 202111029468414528

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Lee, Aaron, Payton, ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS04316	
(b) Address (number and street) 1955 Kornman Dr		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Biloxi MS 39532		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation INDEPENDENT	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 04		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Lee4Liberty		
(b) Address (number and street) 1955 Kornman Dr		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Biloxi MS 39532		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Lee, Aaron, Payton, ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 11/02/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202101319423767104

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Johnson, Alden, Patrick, Mr.,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS04233	
(b) Address (number and street) 803 Mildred Street		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Petal MS 39465		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation LIBERTARIAN	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 04		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Alden for Congress		
(b) Address (number and street) 803 Mildred Street		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Petal MS 39465		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Johnson, Alden, Patrick, Mr.,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 01/31/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202110249468348928

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Wiggins, Christopher, Brice, ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS04308	
(b) Address (number and street) P.O. Box 1611			<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed	
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Ocean Springs MS 39566			3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)	
4. Party Affiliation REPUBLICAN PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 04		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Brice Wiggins for Congress		
(b) Address (number and street) P.O. Box 1611		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Ocean Springs MS 39566		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Wiggins, Christopher, Brice, ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 10/24/2021
--	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202103089440305651

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Carl, Boyanton, , ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number HOMS04161	
(b) Address (number and street) 11440 Haleiwa Place		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Diamondhead MS 39525		3. Is This Statement <input type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation REPUBLICAN PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 04		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) CARL4CONGRESS, LLC		
(b) Address (number and street) 11440 HALEIWA PLACE		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code DIAMONDHEAD MS 39525		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Boyanton, Carl, , ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 03/08/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202109079466621953

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Wagner, Clay, , ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS04274	
(b) Address (number and street) PO Box 70		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Kiln MS 39556		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation REPUBLICAN PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 04		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Clay Wagner for Congress		
(b) Address (number and street) PO Box 70		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Kiln MS 39556		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Wagner, Clay, , ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 09/07/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202109109466644999

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Sellers, David, , ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS04282	
(b) Address (number and street) PO Box 15561		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Hattiesburg MS 39404		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation DEMOCRATIC PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 04		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) FRIENDS OF DAVID SELLERS		
(b) Address (number and street) PO BOX 15561		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code HATTIESBURG MS 39404		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Sellers, David, , ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 09/10/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202102149427791184

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Hudson, Jesse, Graham, ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS04241	
(b) Address (number and street) 17 Chandeleur Pt		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code hattiesburg MS 39402		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation INDEPENDENT	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 04		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Graham Hudson for Congress		
(b) Address (number and street) PO Box 17017		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Hattiesburg MS 39404		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Hudson, Jesse, Graham, Mr.,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 02/14/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202110079467206560

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Hook, Louis, Charles, Dr.,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS04290		
(b) Address (number and street) 1440 Beach Blvd. Suite 416			<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code BILOXI MS 39530			3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation REPUBLICAN PARTY		5. Office Sought House		6. State & District of Candidate MS 04	

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) MRGS		
(b) Address (number and street) 1440 Beach Blvd. Suite 416 Suite 416		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code BILOXI MS 39530		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Hook, Louis, Charles, Dr.,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 10/07/2021
--	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Image# 202104079443074436

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) Ezell, Walter, Michael, ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS04258	
(b) Address (number and street) 808 Grant Avenue		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Pascagoula MS 39567		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation REPUBLICAN PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 04		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) Committee to Elect Mike Ezell		
(b) Address (number and street) P.O. Box 1842		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Gulfport MS 39502		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate Ezell, Walter, Michael, ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 04/07/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202104309446140765

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) BROOKS, RAYMOND, N, ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H2MS04266	
(b) Address (number and street) 5202 WASHINGTON AVE		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code GULFPORT MS 39507		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation REPUBLICAN PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 04		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) COMMITTEE TO ELECT RAYMOND N BROOKS		
(b) Address (number and street) P.O. BOX 7241		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code GULFPORT MS 39506		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full)		
(b) Address (number and street)		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate BROOKS, RAYMOND, N, ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 04/30/2021
---	--------------------

**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Image# 202104099443158952

PAGE 1 / 1

# FEC FORM 2

## STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

1. (a) Name of Candidate (in full) PALAZZO, STEVEN MCCARTY, , ,			2. Candidate's FEC Identification Number H0MS04120	
(b) Address (number and street) P.O. BOX 4634		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address changed		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code BILOXI MS 39535		3. Is This Statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New (N) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Amended (A)		
4. Party Affiliation REPUBLICAN PARTY	5. Office Sought House	6. State & District of Candidate MS 04		

### DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2022 election(s).  
(year of election)

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the appropriate office listed in the instructions.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) PALAZZO FOR CONGRESS		
(b) Address (number and street) Post Office Box 6217		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code Gulfport MS 39506		

### DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

(Including Joint Fundraising Representatives)

8. I hereby authorize the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

**NOTE:** This designation should be filed with the principal campaign committee.

(a) Name of Committee (in full) PATRIOT POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE		
(b) Address (number and street) 13155 HIGHWAY 67 SUITE B		
(c) City, State, and ZIP Code BILOXI MS 39532		

*I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of Candidate PALAZZO, STEVEN MCCARTY, , ,  [Electronically Filed]	Date 04/09/2021
--	--------------------

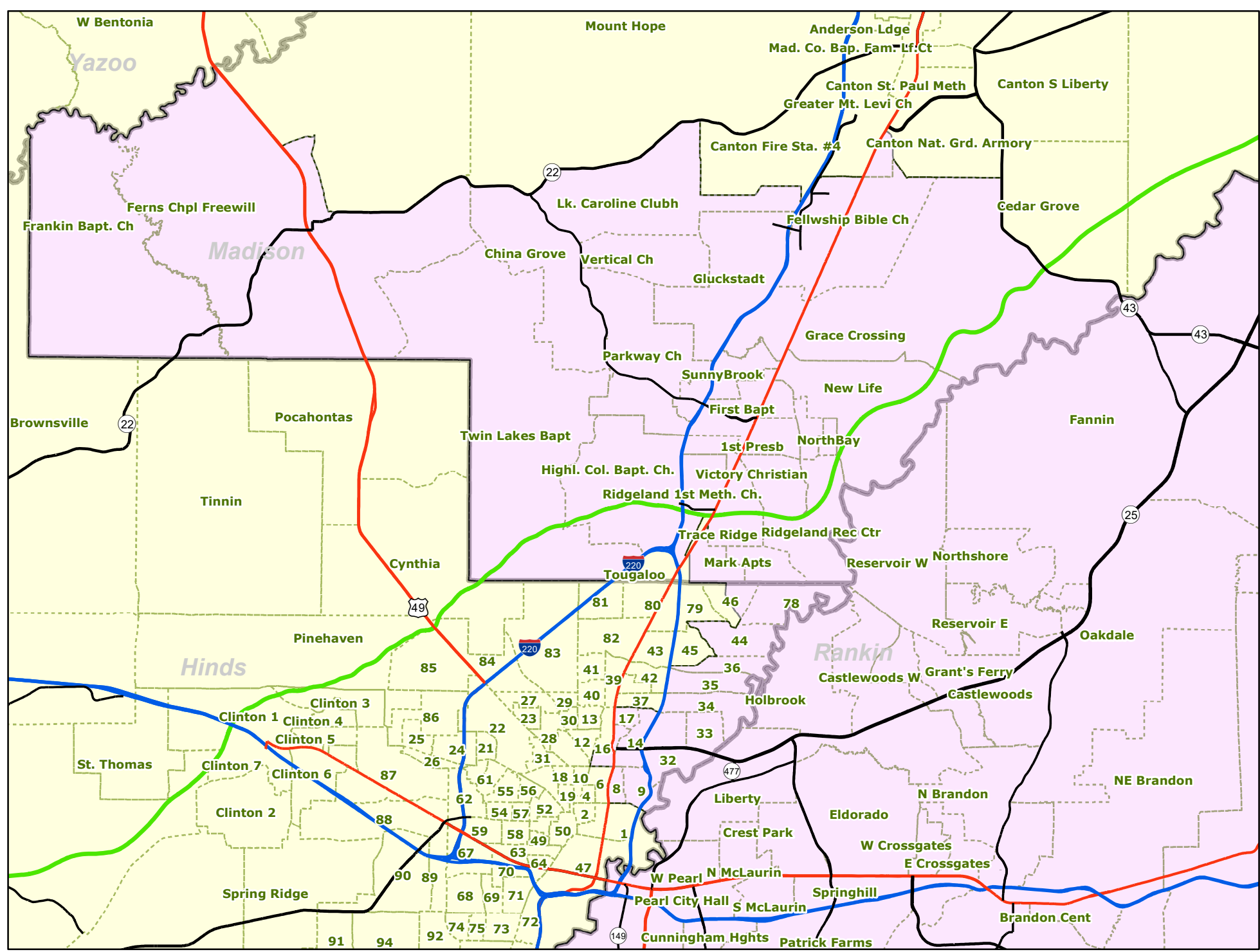
**NOTE:** Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

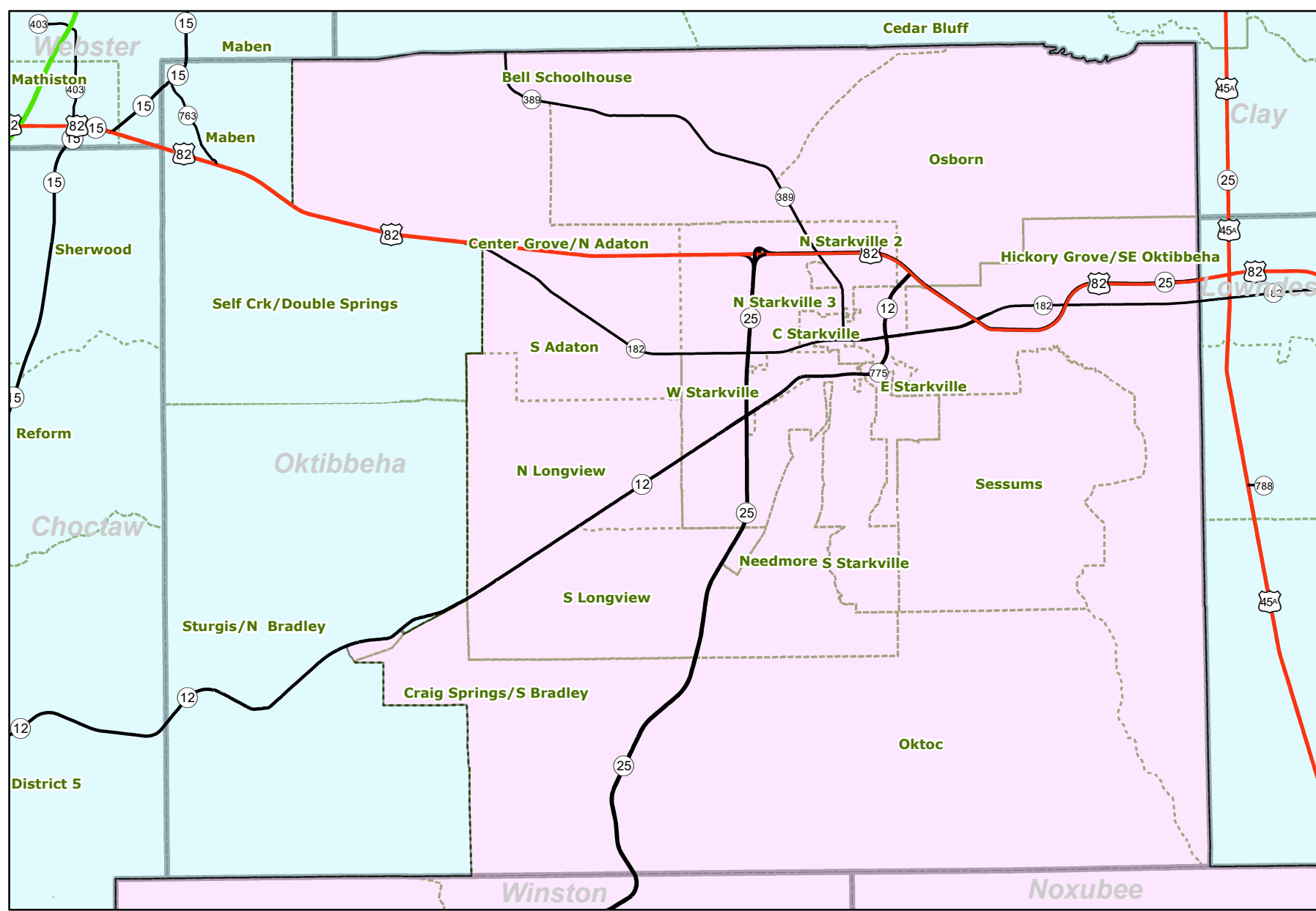


# U.S. Congressional Districts

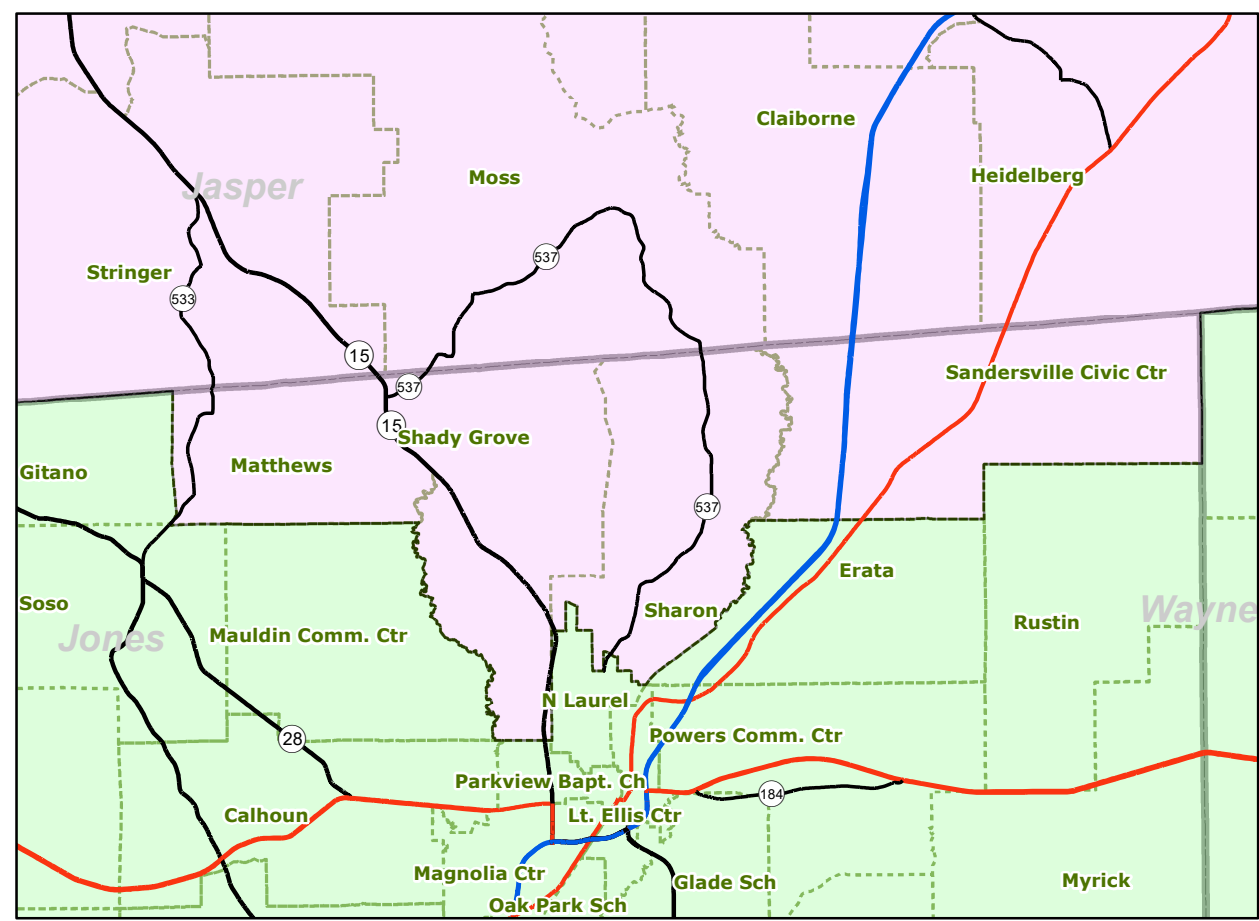
## Proposed by the Committee - December 15, 2021



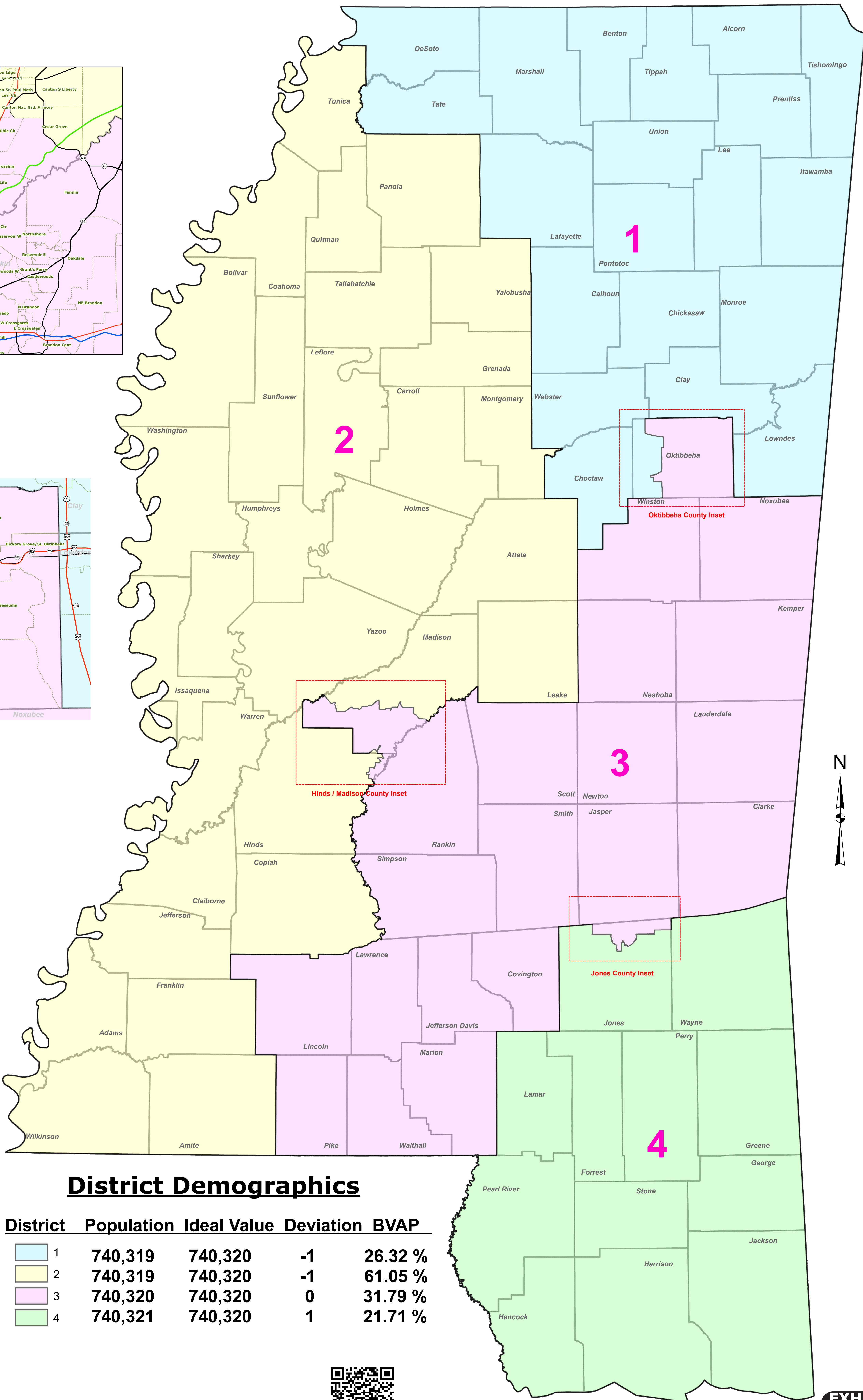
Hinds / Madison County Inset



Oktibbeha County Inset



Jones County Inset



### District Demographics

District	Population	Ideal Value	Deviation	BVAP
1	740,319	740,320	-1	26.32 %
2	740,319	740,320	-1	61.05 %
3	740,320	740,320	0	31.79 %
4	740,321	740,320	1	21.71 %



Map prepared by MARIS - 12/15/2021

0 15 30 60 Miles

Election Districts were compiled on a whole block basis by Legislative staff. Base data (roads, cities, and counties) were compiled from 2020 U.S. Census Bureau TIGER Files. Although the information contained on this map is believed to be accurate, the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning/MARIS, the Standing Joint Committee on Reapportionment make no warranties as to the completeness, accuracy, reliability or suitability of the data for any use, or for any conclusions derived from this map.

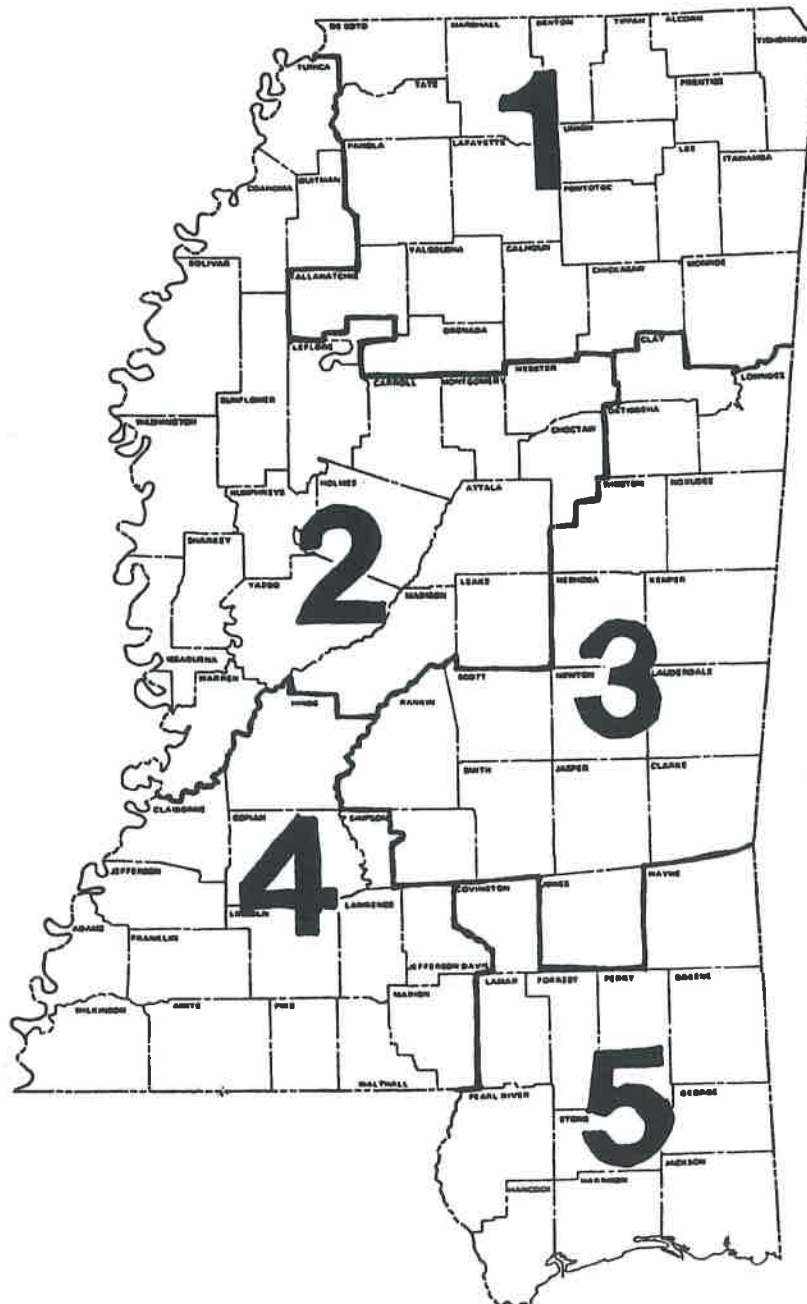


1146

541 FEDERAL SUPPLEMENT

APPENDIX

COURT-ORDERED INTERIM CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLAN



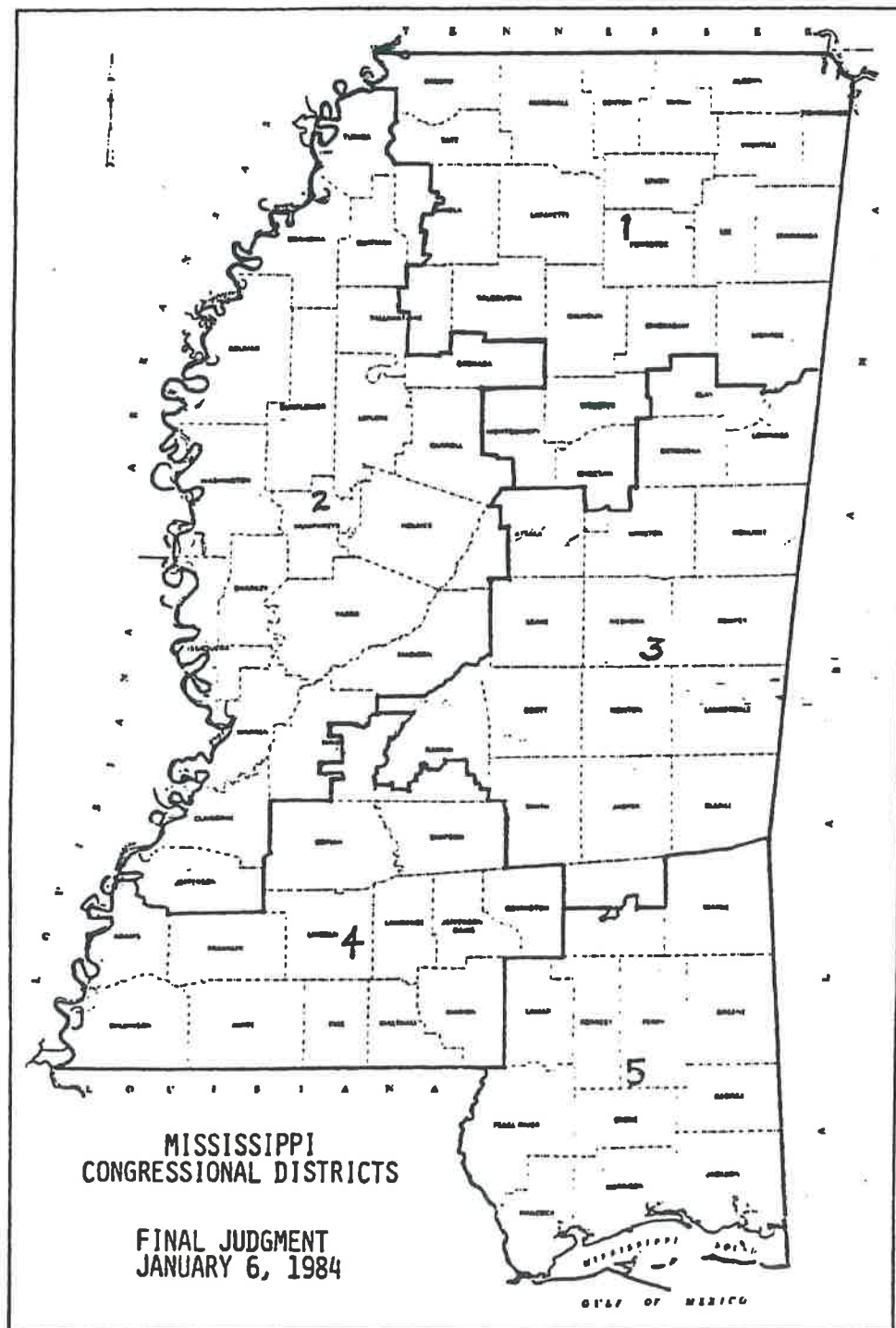
EXHIBIT

4

820

604 FEDERAL SUPPLEMENT

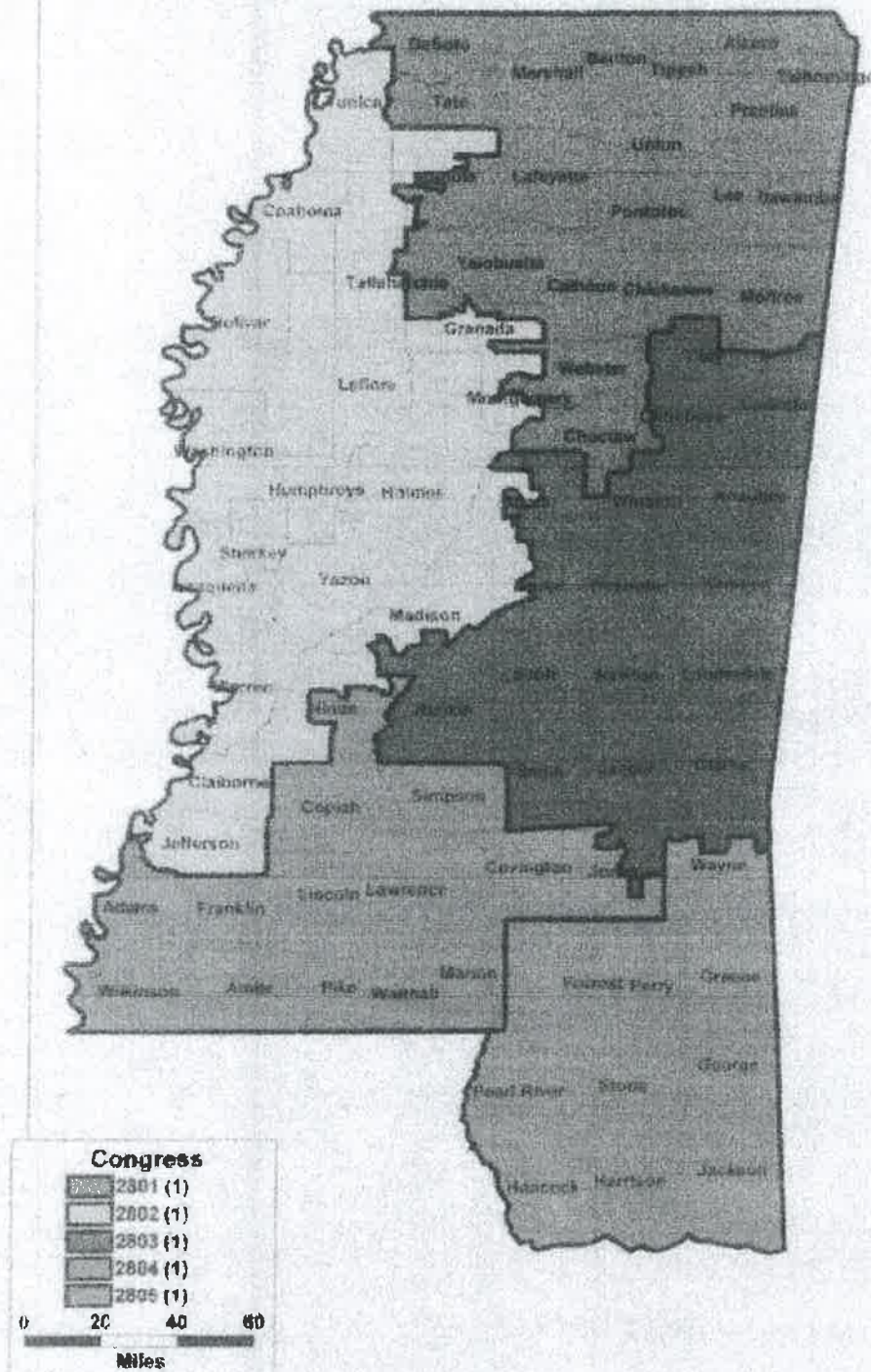
APPENDIX—Continued



EXHIBIT

5

# Current Congressional Districts

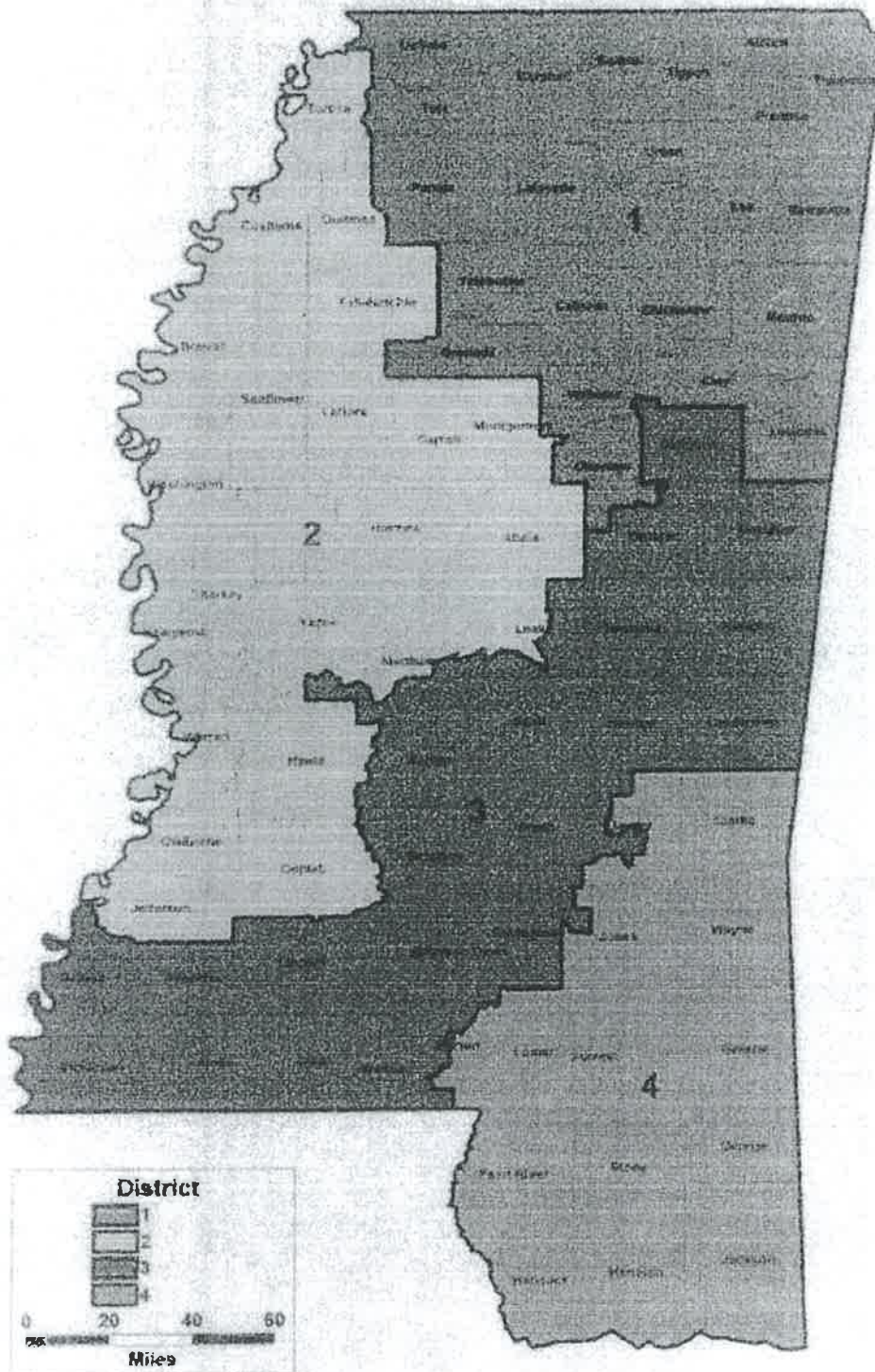


EXHIBIT

6

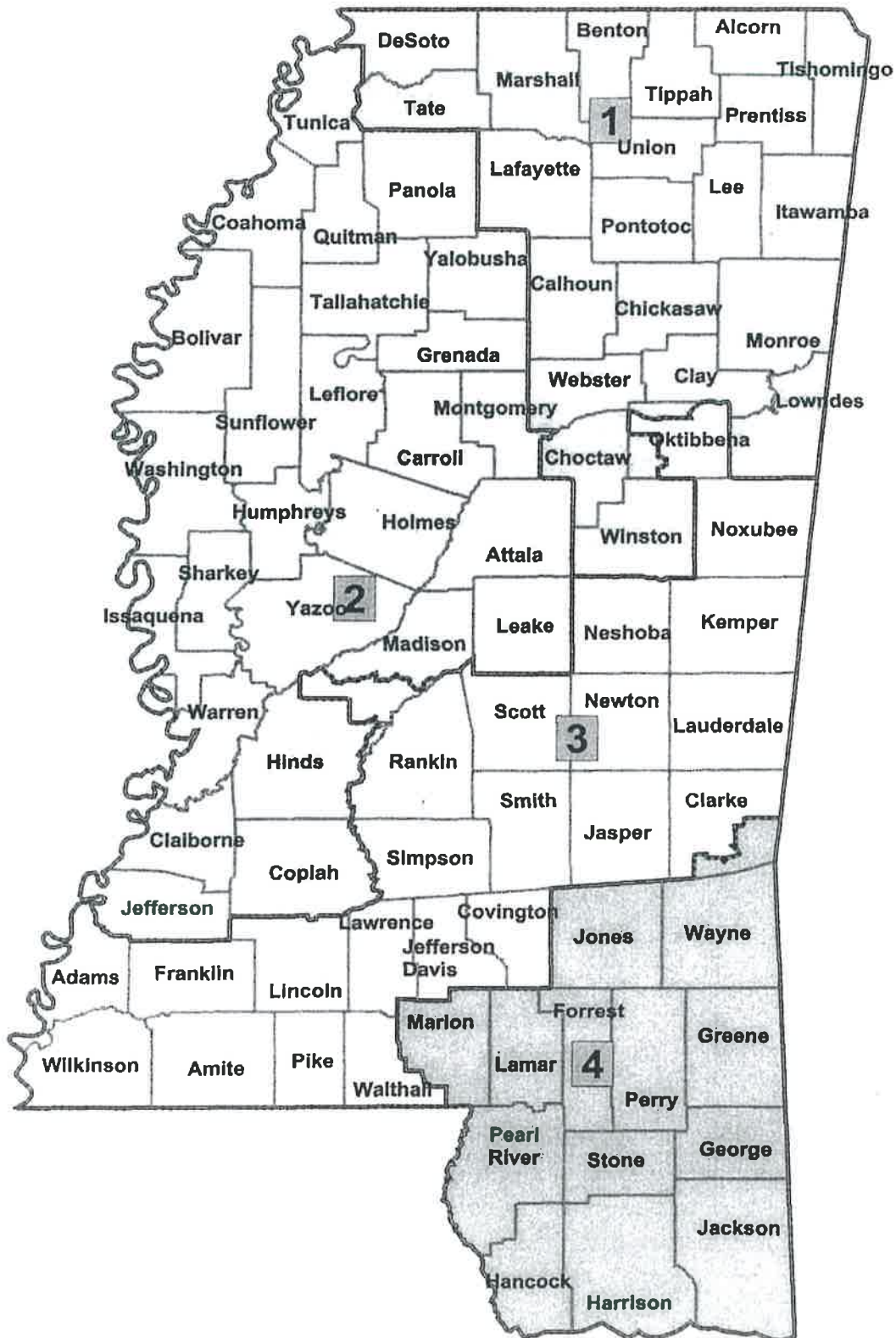


**Congressional Redistricting Plan  
Smith v. Clark  
United States District Court  
Southern District of Mississippi  
February 4, 2002**





**Mississippi Congressional Redistricting Plan  
United States District Court  
Southern District of Mississippi  
December 19, 2011**

**EXHIBIT****8**

**BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI ETHICS COMMISSION**

**AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSISSIPPI**

**COMPLAINANT**

**VS.**

**OPEN MEETINGS CASE NO. M-21-014**

**STANDING JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
REAPPORTIONMENT AND STANDING JOINT  
CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

**RESPONDENT**

**ORDER OF DISMISSAL**

This matter came before the Ethics Commission through an Open Meetings Complaint filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi against the Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportionment and Standing Joint Congressional Redistricting Committee (the “committee”).<sup>1</sup> The committee filed a response by and through its attorneys. The Ethics Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 25-41-15, Miss. Code of 1972. The hearing officer presented a Recommendation of Dismissal to the Ethics Commission at its regular meeting held on February 4, 2022, and the commission issued this Order of Dismissal, in accordance with Rule 4.6, Rules of the Mississippi Ethics Commission.

**I. FINDINGS OF FACT**

1.1 The committee is charged with proposing new congressional redistricting maps for adoption by the Mississippi Legislature following the 2020 Decennial Census. The complaint alleges members of the committee violated the Open Meetings Act on November 19, 2021, “when they reviewed the prospective U.S. congressional map after [the committee’s] public meeting.” The complaint contains the following more specific allegation:

Chairman Beckett invited members of the Committee to his office to view the U.S. congressional map that would be, and was, offered to the public, voted on and adopted by the Committee on December 15, 2021. The map viewing, and any deliberation thereof, was public business and should have occurred in an open meeting or, at least, in a properly executed executive session.

1.2 The complaint further contends the committee could not possibly have produced a congressional redistricting map after holding only three committee meetings and nine public hearings over the course of six months. The complaint concludes the committee must have deliberated in secret and asks that the Ethics Commission expedite this case.

1.3 The committee filed a response citing Sections 5-3-91 and 5-3-121, Miss. Code of 1972, noting the committee is comprised of ten senators and ten representatives and explaining a quorum consists of at least six members of the House and at least six members of the Senate. The

---

<sup>1</sup> Although there are two committee names and two functions, the committees are comprised of the same members and are referred to collectively herein as “the committee.” See Sections 5-3-91 and 5-3-121, Miss. Code of 1972.

committee also provided affidavits from Rep. Jim Beckett, the chairman of the committee, and from Sen. Dean Kirby, who serves as vice-chairman.

1.4 The affidavit of Sen. Kirby is particularly relevant to the only specific allegation in the complaint, that members of the committee reviewed the proposed congressional map after the committee meeting on November 19, 2021. Sen. Kirby acknowledges that after the committee meeting he and seven other senators briefly viewed a draft plan in his office but that no committee members from the House were present.

1.5 In his affidavit Rep. Beckett reports that on December 2, 2021, he and three other committee members from the House viewed two draft congressional redistricting plans “for approximately 15 minutes in a conference room in the Capitol.” Both legislators aver these were the only times when multiple committee members assembled to review plans, outside of the twelve properly noticed public committee meetings acknowledged by both parties.

## II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2.1 Section 25-41-5 of the Open Meetings Act mandates that all meetings of public bodies are public meetings and shall be open to the public. The term “public body” is defined in Section 25-41-3(a) and explicitly includes “any standing, interim or special committee of the Mississippi Legislature.”

2.2 A “meeting” is an “an assemblage of members of a public body at which official acts may be taken upon a matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power.” Section 25-41-3(b). A public body must strictly comply with the Act when a quorum assembles and discusses a matter under its supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power. Board of Trustees of State Insts. of Higher Learning v. Miss. Publishers Corp., 478 So.2d 269, 278-79 (Miss. 1985). “[O]fficial acts’ includes action relating to formation and determination of public policy.” Gannett River States Pub. Corp., Inc. v. City of Jackson, 866 So.2d 462, 466 (Miss. 2004), quoting Bd. of Trustees at 278. Official acts, including deliberations, may only be taken when a quorum of the public body assembles. Gannett at 466.

2.3 The complainant filed a reply to the response arguing that a public body can violate the Open Meetings Act by engaging in deliberations which do not involve a quorum. As indicated by Gannett, above, that contention is incorrect. In Case No. M-14-001, the Ethics Commission found that sub-quorum gatherings of a county board of supervisors which aggregated to a quorum, also known as a piecemeal quorum, violated the Act. To be clear, that case involved a quorum of the board which was merely split into separate gatherings in an attempt to circumvent the Act.

2.4 In affirming a subsequent, similar decision of the Ethics Commission, the Mississippi Supreme Court held that “[p]rearranged, nonsocial gatherings on public business that are held in subquorum groups with the intent to circumvent the Act are required to be open to the public.” City of Columbus v. The Commercial Dispatch, 234 So.3d 1236, 1240 (Miss. 2017). However, in that case, like the previous one, all members of the public body were involved, but they split the council into separate, sub-quorum groups with the intention of circumventing the Act. Columbus at 1238.

2.5 The Ethics Commission has also decided a number of Open Meetings cases in which the deliberation involved less than a quorum. In all those cases, the complaints were dismissed. See, for example, Cases No. M-20-008 (two members of a school board) and M-19-010 (mayor and one of five aldermen). In cases involving written exchanges among members of a public body, the commission has found a violation only in cases where one or more members addressed a quorum of the public body, and the commission has expressly stated "individual board members are free to communicate with other individual board members, so long as these communications do not involve a quorum of the public body." Case No. M-21-003 at p. 4, citing M-14-001. See also Cases No. M-21-005, M-17-012 and M-16-008.

2.6 In no case has the commission found a violation of the Act when less than a quorum of a public body was involved. Any such finding would be contrary to law since deliberations about a matter under the authority of a public body must involve a quorum of that public body in order to constitute a meeting in violation of the Open Meetings Act.

2.7 Accordingly, the sole question in this case is whether a quorum of the committee assembled, either at once or separately, and discussed a matter under its authority outside of a properly noticed public meeting. The committee has a total of twenty members, but a simple majority of the total membership is not sufficient to make a quorum. "A majority vote of the members of each house shall be required on all votes by the committee." Section 5-3-91 and Section 5-3-121. (Emphasis added.) Therefore, the minimum number of committee members to establish a quorum is six from the Senate and six from the House.

2.8 Based on the sworn testimony presented in this case, eight senators gathered on November 19<sup>th</sup> and four representatives gathered on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to review congressional redistricting proposals. That number of members, when added together, does not constitute a quorum of the committee. Thus, no meeting of the committee was held, other than those which were properly noticed, and no violation of the Open Meetings Act occurred.

WHEREFORE, the complaint is hereby dismissed this the 4th day of February 2022.

MISSISSIPPI ETHICS COMMISSION

BY:

  
Tom Hood, Executive Director





Mississippi Secretary of State's Office  
Elections Division  
(800) 829-6786  
[www.yallvote.ms](http://www.yallvote.ms)

## **2022 ELECTIONS CALENDAR**

This calendar is provided for planning purposes only. Dates are subject to change. Please refer to the proper citation in the Mississippi Code, the Mississippi Constitution, the federal law and other cited sources for more complete legal requirements of the calendar entries posted below. Contact the Secretary of State's Office for updates or further information.

Mississippi election officials are required by State and Federal law to perform certain duties. This calendar is intended to serve only as an informational tool for election officials and the general public. Omission of any date does not relieve local election officials of their obligations to perform those duties as required by law.

- Calendar entries pertaining to Campaign Finance deadlines are printed in green.

### **JANUARY**

- 1<sup>st</sup>** NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Qualifying Period Begins:** First day candidates may qualify for U.S. Congress, Court of Appeals, Chancery Court Judge, Circuit Court Judge, County Court Judge, and MS Levee Commission. (MS Code Ann. § § 23-15-299(3); 23-15-359(3) and (4); 23-15-977(1); General Laws of 1928, Ch. 12.)
- 4<sup>th</sup>** Legislative Session Begins (MS Const. 1890 §36, MS Code Ann. § 5-1-7)
- 11<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Roll Maintenance:** County Election Commissioners meet to conduct voter roll maintenance and purge ineligible voters from SEMS. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-153(1)(a))
- 17<sup>th</sup>** DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S AND ROBERT E. LEE'S BIRTHDAY
- 30<sup>th</sup>** **Annual Lobbying Report Due:** A lobbyist's client shall file a report of expenditures with the Secretary of State containing information on all expenditures paid by the lobbyist's client during the preceding twelve (12) calendar months. (MS Code Ann. § 5-8-9(1)). A lobbyist must file a report with the Secretary of State containing information on all expenditures paid or initiated by the lobbyist on behalf of each lobbyist's client during the preceding twelve (12) calendar months, and

it shall include a cumulative total for the calendar year of all reportable categories. (Miss. Code Ann. § 5-8-11(5)).

**31<sup>st</sup>** Campaign Finance Deadline, 5:00 p.m.: Annual Campaign Finance reports due in the appropriate office. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-807(b)(iii))

## FEBRUARY

**1<sup>st</sup>** Qualifying Deadline, 5:00 p.m.: Court of Appeals Judge, Chancery Court Judge, Circuit Court Judge, County Court Judge, District Attorney (17<sup>th</sup> District Special Election Only) (General Laws of 2020, Ch. 474, § 8(2)(b)), and MS Levee Commissioners (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-977; General Laws of 1928, Ch. 12.)

**21<sup>st</sup>** PRESIDENT'S DAY

**25<sup>th</sup>** Mid-session Lobbying Report Due: A lobbyist shall file a report with the Secretary of State containing the name of the executive, legislative, or public official or public employee who receives anything of value from the lobbyist or from the lobbyist on behalf of the lobbyist's client, the name of the person receiving the payment, the name of the person making the payment, the amount of the payment and the date of the payment. (Miss. Code Ann. § 5-8-11(6)).

## MARCH

**1<sup>st</sup>** Qualifying Deadline, 5:00 p.m.: Party Primary and Independent Candidates for U.S. House of Representatives (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-299(3), 23-15-359(3))

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Candidate List (s) Deadline, 5:00 p.m.: Political parties provide to MSOS a list, by name, mailing address and office sought, of candidates for U.S. Congress. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-296)

**9<sup>th</sup>** National Voter Registration Act, Systematic Purging Deadline: Voters may NOT be purged from the voter roll based upon the confirmation card process within 90 days before the date of the General Election. (52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(2)(A)). Editorial note: 42 USC 1973gg was editorially reclassified as Section 20507 of Title 52.

## APRIL

**3<sup>rd</sup>** SINE DIE: Legislative Session Ends (MS Const. 1890 §36, MS Code Ann. § 5-1-7)

**8<sup>th</sup>** Permanently Disabled Voters List: Circuit Clerks provide list to the Election Commission to purge ineligible voters. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-629(3)).

Absentee Ballot Application must be available in the Circuit Clerk's Office (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-625(1)).

**13<sup>th</sup>** End of Session Lobbying Report Due: A lobbyist shall file a report with the Secretary of State containing the name of the executive, legislative, or public official or public employee who receives anything of value from the lobbyist or from the lobbyist on behalf of the lobbyist's client, the name of the person receiving the payment, the name of the person making the payment, the amount of the payment and the date of the payment. (MS Code Ann. § 5-8-11(6)).

- 18<sup>th</sup>** **Primary Election Sample Ballot Deadline:** State Executive Committee provides the names of all qualified candidates to MSOS and MSOS publishes sample of official Primary Election Ballot in SEMS. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-331).
- 23<sup>rd</sup>** **UOCAVA Absentee Ballot Deadline:** Circuit Clerks' Offices send absentee ballots for first and second Primary Elections by mail, email, or fax to UOCAVA voters. (MS Code Ann. §§23-15-683; 23-15-691; 23-15-692; and 23-15-699).
- Permanently Disabled Voter List:** Election Commission returns revised list to Circuit Clerk's Office for Primary Election. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-629 (3))
- Absentee Ballots** must be available in the Circuit Clerk's Office. An absentee ballot must be mailed to all voters who applied before absentee ballot are available. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-715(b))
- 25<sup>th</sup>** CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY
- 28<sup>th</sup>** **Absentee Ballot Deadline for Permanently Disabled Voters:** Circuit Clerks' Offices mail absentee ballot to voters on the permanently disabled list. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-629(4))

## MAY

- 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MAY remain open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., including the noon hour (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2)).
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MAY remain open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., including the noon hour (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2)).
- Voter Roll Maintenance:** County Election Commissioners meet to perform voter roll maintenance and purge ineligible voters from SEMS. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-153(1)(b))
- 4<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MAY remain open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., including the noon hour (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2)).
- 5<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MAY remain open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., including the noon hour (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2)).
- 6<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MAY remain open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., including the noon hour (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2)).
- 7<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2))
- 9<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration Deadline, 5:00 p.m.** Applicants who register in-person in the Circuit or Municipal Clerk's Office today and those who mail registration applications postmarked no later than today are eligible to vote in the June 7, 2022 General Election. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2); MS Code Ann. §23-15-47(2)(a))
- 10<sup>th</sup>** **Campaign Finance Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Periodic Campaign Finance Reports due in the appropriate office for all nonpartisan Judicial candidates (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-807(c))
- 24<sup>th</sup>** **Appointment of Poll Managers:** Deadline by which County Election Officials must appoint poll managers. (MS Code Ann. §23-15-265(1))
- 28<sup>th</sup>** **Absentee Voting, 12:00 p.m.:** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-653).

**UOCAVA Voter Registration Deadline:** Circuit Clerks' Offices must be in actual receipt of a completed Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) from a UOCAVA voter. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-677(2))

**Publication of Notice of Poll Manager Training:** Public notice of the time and location of poll manager training must be posted at the courthouse and published in a newspaper five days before the date of training. (MS Code Ann. §23-15-239(1)(4))

30<sup>th</sup>

MEMORIAL DAY

31<sup>st</sup>

**Primary Election Runoff Voter Registration Deadline:** Applicants who register in-person in the Circuit Clerk's office today and those who mail registration applications post-marked no later than today are eligible to vote in the General Election. (Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-47)

**Publication of Notice of L&A Testing for Election:** (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-531.6(3)(b))

## JUNE

2<sup>nd</sup>

**Poll Manager Training Deadline:** No poll manager or resolution board member may serve in any election unless he has received training once during the 12 months immediately preceding the election. (MS Code Ann. §23-15-239(1))

4<sup>th</sup>

**In-Person Absentee Voting Deadline, 12:00 p.m.:** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8:00 a.m. until noon (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-653).

5<sup>th</sup>

**L & A Testing Deadline.** (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-531.6(3)(a)).

7<sup>th</sup>

**Primary Election Day (U.S. Congress):** Polls open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-1031; MS Code Ann. § 23-15-541(1))

**Mississippi Levee Commissioners General Election.** Bolivar, Humphreys, Sharkey & Washington counties (General Laws: 1930, Ch. 85; 1968, Ch. 574; 1983, Ch. 317; and 2010, Ch. 438)

**UOCAVA Absentee Ballot Deadline, 7:00 p.m.:** Absentee ballots received by the Circuit Clerk's Office by 7:00 p.m. from only UOCAVA voters by email or fax are timely and must be delivered to the Resolution Board for processing. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-699(6))

**Postmark deadline:** Absentee ballots returned by mail MUST be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the Circuit Clerk's Office within five (5) business days. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-637)

10<sup>th</sup>

**Campaign Finance Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Periodic Campaign Finance Reports due no later than 5:00pm in the appropriate office for all nonpartisan Judicial candidates (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-807(c))

14<sup>th</sup>

**Absentee Ballots Returned by Mail Receipt Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Circuit Clerks' Offices must be in actual receipt of absentee ballots returned by mail for ballots to be timely. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-637(1)(a))

**Voter ID Affidavit Ballot Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Last day affidavit voters who cast an affidavit ballot by reason of voter ID may present an acceptable form of photo ID or complete an affidavit



of religious objection in the Circuit Clerk's Office. (MS Const. 1890 §249-A; MS Code Ann. § 23-15-573(3)(d)(i))

**Canvas of Returns and Announcement of Results by County Election Officials:** County officials forward certified county results to state party Executive Committees and MSOS. (MS Code Ann § 23-15-597(1))

**Appointment of Poll Workers Deadline for Primary Runoff Election.** (MS Code Ann § 23-15-265)

**15<sup>th</sup>** **Late Received Absentee Ballots:** The applications and unopened absentee ballot envelopes received by the Circuit Clerks' Office after the applicable deadlines must be stamped with the date and hour of receipt and retained for twenty-two months. (MS Code Ann. §§ 23-15-647, 23-15-645(3))

**17<sup>th</sup>** **Tabulated Statement of Party Vote:** Deadline by which State Executive Committee(s) must declare results, transmit to MSOS tabulated statement of vote, announce names of nominees, and submit names of candidates for Primary Runoff. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-599)

**18<sup>th</sup>** **Runoff Absentee Voting:** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8:00 a.m. until noon (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-653).

**Publication of Notice of Poll Manager Training for Primary Runoff Election.** (MS Code Ann § 23-15-239(4))\*\*Correct citation is 23-15-239(4)

**21<sup>st</sup>** **Campaign Finance Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Pre-Runoff Election Campaign Finance reports due in the appropriate office for all Primary Runoff candidates. All candidates in contested races must submit reports. (MS Code Ann. § § 23-15-805, 23-15-807(b)(i))

**UOCAVA Voter Registration Primary Election Runoff Deadline:** Circuit Clerks' Offices must be in **actual** receipt of a completed Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) from a UOCAVA voter. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-677(2))

**Publication of Notice of L&A Testing for Election:** (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-531.6(3)(b))

**23<sup>rd</sup>** **Poll Manager Training Deadline:** Only for poll manager who have not received training once in the 12 months immediately preceding the election. (MS Code Ann. §23-15-239(1))

**25<sup>th</sup>** **Runoff Absentee Voting:** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8:00 a.m. until noon (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-653).

**26<sup>th</sup>** **L & A Testing Deadline.** (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-531.6(3)(a))

**28<sup>th</sup>** **Primary Runoff Election Day (U.S. Congress) (if required):** Polls open from 7am - 7pm. (MS Code Ann. § § 23-15-541(1); 23-15-1031)

**MS Levee District Runoff Election** (if required) (Gen. Laws: 1930, Ch. 85; 1968, Ch. 574; 1983, Ch. 317), Bolivar, Humphreys, Sharkey, & Washington County

**UOCAVA Absentee Ballot Deadline, 7:00 p.m.:** Absentee ballots received by the Circuit Clerk's Office by 7:00 p.m. from **only** UOCAVA voters by email or fax are timely and must be delivered to the Resolution Board for processing. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-699(6))

## JULY

- 4<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Absentee Ballots Returned by Mail Receipt Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Circuit Clerks' Offices must be in **actual receipt** of absentee ballots returned by mail for ballots to be timely. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-637)
- Voter ID Affidavit Ballot Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Last day affidavit voters who cast an affidavit ballot by reason of voter ID may present an acceptable form of photo ID or complete an affidavit of religious objection in the Circuit Clerk's Office. (MS Const. 1890 §249-A; MS Code Ann. § 23-15-573(d))
- Canvas of Returns and Announcement of Results by County Election Officials:** County officials forward certified county results to state party Executive Committees and MSOS. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-597(1))
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Late Absentee Ballots:** Applications and unopened absentee ballot envelopes must be stamped with the day and hour of receipt upon the envelope and retained for twenty-two months. . (MS Code Ann. § § 23-15-647; 23-15-645(3))
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Tabulated Statement of Party Vote:** Deadline by which State Executive Committee(s) must declare results, transmit to MSOS tabulated statement of vote, announce names of nominees, and submit names of candidates for Primary Runoff. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-599)
- Campaign Finance Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Periodic Campaign Finance reports due in the appropriate office for all nonpartisan Judicial candidates. (MS Code Ann. §23-15-807(c))

## AUGUST

- 10<sup>th</sup> **First day to Qualify:** Consolidated/Consolidated Line School Board Trustee; Municipal Separate School District Trustee; Special Municipal Separate School District Trustee (Warren/Vicksburg only); County Board of Education, District 1 & 2 (MS Code Ann. §§ 37-7-225, 37-7-211, 37-7-711, 37-5-9).
- National Voter Registration Act, Systematic Purging Deadline:** Voters may NOT be purged from the voter roll based upon the confirmation card process within 90 days before the date of the General Election. (52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(2)(A)).

## SEPTEMBER

- 5<sup>th</sup> LABOR DAY
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Qualifying Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** County and County-District Special Election(s) (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-839(1)); Consolidated/Consolidated Line School Board Trustee; Municipal Separate School District Trustee; Special Municipal Separate School District Trustee (Warren/Vicksburg only); County Board of Education, District 1 & 2 (MS Code Ann. §§ 37-7-225, 37-7-211, 37-7-711, 37-5-9).

**Permanently Disabled Voters List:** Circuit Clerks deliver the list of permanently disabled voters to the Election Commission to purge ineligible voters. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-629(3))

**Absentee Ballot Applications:** Must be available in the Circuit Clerk's Office. MS Code Ann. § 23-15-625(1)

**12<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Roll Maintenance:** County Election Commissioners meet to perform voter roll maintenance and purge ineligible voters from the voter roll/SEMS. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-153 (1)(d)) No systematic purging may occur within 90 days of a federal elections. Voters MAY be purged based upon death, conviction of a disenfranchising crimes, adjudication of incompetence and voluntary request for removal signed by the voter. (52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(2)(A-B))

**14<sup>th</sup>** **General Election Sample Ballot Deadline:** MSOS publishes a sample of the official November General Election Ballot in SEMS. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-367(3))

**24<sup>th</sup>** **Absentee Ballots** must be available in the Circuit Clerks' Offices. An absentee ballot must be mailed to all voters who applied before absentee ballots are available. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-715(b))

**UOCAVA Absentee Ballot Deadline:** Circuit Clerks' Offices send absentee ballots by mail, email, or fax to UOCAVA voters who previously requested an absentee ballot by application, FPCA or FWAB. (MS Code Ann. §§ 23-15-683, 23-15-691, 23-15-692, 23-15-699)

**Permanently Disabled Voter List:** Election Commission returns revised list to Circuit Clerk's Office for General Election. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-629(3))

**29<sup>th</sup>** **Absentee Ballot Deadline for Permanently Disabled Voters:** Circuit Clerks' Offices mail absentee ballot to voters on the permanently disabled list. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-629(4))

## OCTOBER

**4<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MAY remain open from 8:00 a.m. until 7 p.m., including the noon hour (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2)).

**5<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MAY remain open from 8:00 a.m. until 7 p.m., including the noon hour (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2)).

**6<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MAY remain open from 8:00 a.m. until 7 p.m., including the noon hour (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2)).

**7<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MAY remain open from 8:00 a.m. until 7 p.m., including the noon hour (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-37(2)).

**8<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration:** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8:00 a.m. until noon. (Miss Code Ann. § 23-15-37 (2))

**10<sup>th</sup>** **Voter Registration Deadline:** Applicants who register in-person in the Circuit or Municipal Clerk's Office today and those who mail registration applications postmarked no later than today are eligible to vote in the November 8, 2022 General Election. (MS Code Ann. §§ 23-15-37(2); 23-15-47(2)(a))

**Campaign Finance Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Periodic Campaign Finance reports due in the appropriate office for all nonpartisan Judicial candidates (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-807(c)).

**29<sup>th</sup>** **UOCAVA Voter Registration Deadline:** Circuit Clerks' Offices must be in actual receipt of a completed FPCA from a UOCAVA voter. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-677(2))

**Absentee Voting, 12:00 p.m.:** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8:00 a.m. until noon (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-653)

**Publication of Notice of Poll Worker Training:** Public notice of the time and location of poll manager training must be posted at the courthouse and published in a newspaper five (5) days before the date of the training. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-239(4))

31<sup>st</sup>

**General/Special Election Runoff Voter Registration Deadline:** Applicants who register in-person in the Circuit Clerk's office today and those who mail registration applications post-marked no later than today are eligible to vote in the General Election. (Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-47)

## NOVEMBER

1<sup>st</sup>

**Campaign Finance Pre-Election Report Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** All candidates and political committees who have accepted contributions or made expenditures for the General or Special Election must file Pre-Election Reports in the appropriate office. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-805, 23-15-807(b)(i))

**Publication of Notice of L&A Testing for Election:** (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-531.6(3)(b))

3<sup>rd</sup>

**Poll Manager Training Deadline:** Only for poll managers and resolution board members who have not received training once in the 12 months preceding the General Election. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-239(1))

5<sup>th</sup>

**In-Person Absentee Voting Deadline, 12:00 p.m.:** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-653)

6<sup>th</sup>

**L & A Testing Deadline.** (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-531.6(3)(a))

8<sup>th</sup>

**General Election Day and Regular Special Election Day.** Polls open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-541(1))

**UOCAVA Absentee Ballot Deadline, 7:00 p.m.:** Absentee ballots received by the Circuit Clerk's Office by 7:00 p.m. from **only** UOCAVA voters by email or fax are timely and must be delivered to the Resolution Board for processing. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-699(6))

11<sup>th</sup>

ARMISTICE DAY (VETERAN'S DAY)

15<sup>th</sup>

**Voter ID Affidavit Ballot Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Last day affidavit voters who cast an affidavit ballot by reason of voter ID may present an acceptable form of photo ID or complete an affidavit of religious objection in the Circuit Clerk's Office. (MS Const. 1890 §249-A; MS Code Ann. §23-15-573(3)(d)(i))

**Absentee Ballots Returned by Mail Receipt Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** Circuit Clerks' Offices must be in **actual receipt** of absentee ballots returned by mail for ballots to be timely. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day. (MS Code Ann § 23-15-637(1)(a))

16<sup>th</sup>

**Late Absentee Ballots:** Applications and unopened absentee ballot envelopes received after the applicable deadline(s) must be stamped with the day and hour of receipt and retained for twenty-two (22) months. (42 U.S.C. § 1973, MS Code Ann. §§ 23-15-647; 23-15-645(3))

- 18<sup>th</sup> **Delivery of Returns Deadline:** County Election Commissioners transmit to MSOS their counties General/Special Election returns, including certified recap sheets and statement of the whole number of votes given in the county for each candidate. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-603(1))
- 19<sup>th</sup> **Absentee Voting for the General Election Runoff, 12:00 p.m.:** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-653)
- UOCAVA Voter Registration General Election Runoff Deadline:** Circuit Clerks' Offices must be in **actual** receipt of a completed Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) from a UOCAVA voter. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-677(2))
- Publication of Notice of Poll Manager Training for the General Election Runoff:** Public notice of the time and location of poll manager training must be posted at the courthouse and published in a newspaper five (5) days before the date of the training. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-239(4))
- 21<sup>st</sup> **Publication of Notice of L&A Testing for Runoff Election:** (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-531.6(3)(b))
- 22<sup>nd</sup> **Campaign Finance Pre-Runoff Election Report Deadline, 5:00 p.m.:** All candidates and political committees who have accepted contributions or made expenditures for the Runoff Election must file Pre-Runoff Election Reports in the appropriate office. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-807(b)(i))
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Poll Manager Training Deadline for the General Election Runoff:** Only for poll managers and resolution board members who have not received training once in the 12 months preceding the General Election. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-239(1))
- THANKSGIVING DAY - STATE AND COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED
- 25<sup>th</sup> STATE AND COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED
- 26<sup>th</sup> **In-Person Runoff Election Absentee Voting Deadline, 12:00 p.m.:** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-653)
- 27<sup>th</sup> **L & A Testing Deadline for the General Election Runoff.** (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-531.6(3)(a))
- 28<sup>th</sup> **Meeting of the SBEC to Determine Election of Court of Appeals, Chancery, and Circuit Judges.** (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-607)
- 29<sup>th</sup> **General Election Runoff Day** (if required) for Court of Appeals, Chancery and Circuit Court Judges; Municipal Separate School Board Trustee and Consolidated/Consolidated Line School Board Trustee. Polls open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-541(1))
- Special Election Runoff Election Day:** Polls open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- UOCAVA Absentee Ballot Deadline for the General Election Runoff, 7:00 p.m.:** Absentee ballots received by the Circuit Clerk's Office by 7:00 p.m. from **only** UOCAVA voters by email or fax are timely and must be delivered to the Resolution Board for processing. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-699(6))

## DECEMBER

- 6<sup>th</sup> **Absentee Ballots Returned by Mail Receipt Deadline for the General Election Runoff, 5:00 p.m.:** Circuit Clerks' Offices must be in **actual** receipt of absentee ballots returned by mail for ballots

to be timely. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day. (MS Code Ann § 23-15-637(1)(a))

**Voter ID Affidavit Ballot Deadline for the General Election Runoff, 5:00 p.m.:** Last day affidavit voters who cast an affidavit ballot by reason of voter ID may present an acceptable form of photo ID or complete an affidavit of religious objection in the Circuit Clerk's Office. (MS Const. 1890 §249-A; MS Code Ann. §23-15-573(3)(d)(i))

**7<sup>th</sup>** **Late Absentee Ballots for the General Election Runoff:** Applications and unopened absentee ballot envelopes received after the applicable deadline(s) must be stamped with the day and hour of receipt and retained for twenty-two (22) months. (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-647; 23-15-645(3))

**9<sup>th</sup>** **Canvass of Returns and Declaration of Runoff Election Results by County Election Commission(s) Deadline for the General Election Runoff:** County Election Commission(s) transmit to the MSOS their counties' Runoff Election returns, including certified recap sheets and statement of the whole number of votes given in the county for each candidate. MS Code Ann. §23-15-597)

**19<sup>th</sup>** **Meeting of the SBEC to Determine Election of Judges for Court of Appeals (if runoff needed).** (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-607)

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
CHRISTMAS DAY



# 2022 Candidate Qualifying Guide

EXHIBIT

11



## Mississippi Secretary of State's Office

Elections Division

P.O. Box 136

Jackson, MS 39205

601-576-2550

Elections Hotline: 800-829-6786

[www.sos.ms.gov](http://www.sos.ms.gov)

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

ABOUT THIS GUIDE .....	3
2022 ELECTIONS CALENDAR.....	4
2022 CANDIDATE QUALIFYING DATES.....	5
ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY OFFICE.....	6
FEDERAL OFFICE.....	6
STATEWIDE OFFICES.....	7
STATE DISTRICT OFFICES .....	7
STATE LEGISLATURE .....	8
JUDICIAL OFFICES .....	8
COUNTY OFFICES.....	9
COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICES.....	10
MUNICIPAL OFFICES .....	10
SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE.....	11
QUALIFYING FOR OFFICE .....	13
POLITICAL PARTY/PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATES .....	13
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES .....	13
WHAT, WHEN, AND WHERE TO QUALIFY FOR OFFICE .....	14
FOR U.S. PRESIDENT:.....	14
FOR U.S. SENATE AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE:.....	16
FOR STATEWIDE, STATE DISTRICT, & LEGISLATIVE OFFICE:.....	17
FOR MISSISSIPPI LEVEE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER: .....	18
FOR COUNTY COURT JUDGE:.....	20
FOR COUNTY AND COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE:.....	21
FOR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER:.....	22
FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES.....	22
FOR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, SPECIAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE OR CONSOLIDATED/CONSOLIDATED LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT.....	23
STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST .....	25
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE.....	25
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS .....	26
LEARNING MORE ABOUT ELECTIONS IN MISSISSIPPI .....	29
CONTACT INFORMATION.....	29



## About This Guide

This *Candidate Qualifying Guide* provides essential information primarily for those candidates seeking regularly elected office. Candidates should familiarize themselves with the legal qualifications required to seek and hold office, as well as the qualifying procedures. Please note that not every office listed in this guide is up for election during the calendar year of publishing, to view what offices are elected in which year, please visit our [Elections Chart](#) on the Secretary of State's website.

A brief overview of all candidates' qualifications and qualifying forms always may be found on [the Secretary of State's website](#); and candidate qualifying guides from previous election years may be found [archived on the website as well](#).

## For Assistance



### **Mail**

Mississippi Secretary of State's Office  
Attn: Elections Division  
Post Office Box 136  
Jackson, MS 39205-0136



### **Location**

Mississippi Secretary of State's Office  
The Heber Ladner Building  
401 Mississippi Street  
Jackson, MS 39201



### **Phone**

(601) 576-2550  
(800) 829-6786



### **Fax**

(601) 576-2545



### **E-mail**

[elections@sos.ms.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ms.gov)

## 2022 ELECTIONS CALENDAR

---

Primary Election Day .....Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Primary Runoff Election Day .....Tuesday, June 28, 2022

General/Special Election Day .....Tuesday, November 8, 2022

General/Special Runoff Election Day .....Tuesday, November 29, 2022

## 2022 CANDIDATE QUALIFYING DATES

---

### Party Primary and Independent Candidates for U.S. Representative

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Monday, January 3, 2022  
Qualifying Period Ends ..... 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2022

### Judicial Candidates

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Monday, January 3, 2022  
Qualifying Period Ends ..... 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 1, 2022

### District Attorney (17<sup>th</sup> District Special Election Only<sup>1</sup>)

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Monday, January 3, 2022  
Qualifying Period Ends ..... 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 1, 2022

### School District Offices:

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Wednesday, August 10, 2022  
Qualifying Deadline ..... 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2022

### County Special Elections

Qualifying Period Begins..... The date the Board of Supervisors directs the Election  
Commissioners to hold an election to fill the vacancy.  
Qualifying Deadline ..... 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2022

---

<sup>1</sup> General Laws of 2020, Ch. 474, § 8(2)(b).

## **GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE**

A candidate for judicial, county district or school district office must be a qualified elector (registered voter) of the State of Mississippi and of the district, county or county district of the office for which the candidate seeks election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, § 250.*

A candidate for U. S. Senate or U. S. House of Representatives must be a resident of the State of Mississippi as of the date of his/her election to office.

All candidates for office must never have been convicted of:

- Bribery, perjury or other infamous crime, being defined as a crime punishable by a minimum of one (1) year confinement in the state penitentiary, unless pardoned for the offense. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, § 44.*
- A felony in a court of this state; or, of a felony in a federal court or of a crime in a court of another state which is a felony under the laws of this state on or after December 8, 1992; excluding, however, a conviction of manslaughter or a violation of the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violation of the tax laws of this state, unless the offense also involved the misuse or abuse of an office or money coming into a candidate's hands by virtue of an office. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, § 44.*

## **ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY OFFICE**

### **FEDERAL OFFICE**

#### **UNITED STATES PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT**

No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the Adoption of the Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States. *U.S. Constitution Article II, Section I.*

#### **UNITED STATES SENATOR**

Each candidate for Senator shall have attained the age of thirty (30) years, been a citizen of the United States for at least nine (9) years, and, at the time of the election, an inhabitant of the state he/she seeks to represent. *U.S. Const. Art. I § 3, cl. 3.*

#### **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

Each Congressional district shall be entitled to one (1) representative, who shall have attained the age of twenty-five (25) years, and been seven (7) years a citizen of the United States, and who shall, when elected, be an inhabitant of the state. *Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-1035.*

## **STATEWIDE OFFICES**

### **GOVERNOR**

A qualified elector, at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States 20 years, and a resident of the state five (5) years next preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §117, Art. XII, §250.*

### **LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

A qualified elector, at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States 20 years, and a resident of the state five (5) years next preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §128, Art. XII, §250.*

### **SECRETARY OF STATE, AUDITOR, TREASURER, INSURANCE COMMISSIONER**

A qualified elector, at least 25 years old, and a citizen of the state five (5) years next preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §§133 and 134, Art. XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. §83-1-3.*

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

A qualified elector, a practicing attorney for five (5) years, at least 26 years old, and a citizen of the state five years. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, §173, Art. XII, §250.*

### **COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE**

A qualified elector with a general knowledge of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, statistics, and general industries and an experienced and practical agriculturist. Must be a resident of the state for five (5) years immediately preceding the day of election. *Miss. Code Ann. §69-1-1; Miss. Const. of 1890, art. XII, §250*

## **STATE DISTRICT OFFICES**

### **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER**

A qualified elector, at least 25 years old, a resident of the Supreme Court district in which he/she seeks election, and a citizen of the state five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Code Ann. §77-1-1; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VII, §186, Art. XII, §250.*

### **TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER**

A qualified elector and a resident of the Supreme Court district in which he/she seeks election for five (5) years immediately preceding the day of the election. *Miss. Code Ann. §65-1-3.*

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

A qualified elector of the district and a practicing attorney admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Mississippi for two years. Must be a resident of the district for five (5) years immediately preceding the day of the election. *Miss. Code Ann. §25-31-1.*

### **MISSISSIPPI LEVEE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER**

A qualified elector and resident of the respective county and levee district from which he/she seeks election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XI, §230.* The Mississippi Levee District consists of two (2) members from each of the counties of Bolivar and Washington, and one from each of the counties of Issaquena, Sharkey and a portion of Humphreys. This election year, one (1) member shall be elected from the counties of Bolivar, Issaquena, and Washington. *Chapter 85 of the Laws of 1930.*

## **STATE LEGISLATURE**

### **SENATE**

A qualified elector of the state four (4) years, at least 25 years old, and an actual resident of the district or territory represented for two (2) years before the election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, §42.*

### **REPRESENTATIVE**

A qualified elector and resident citizen of the state four (4) years, at least 21 years old, and a resident of the district represented for two (2) years before the election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, §41.*

## **JUDICIAL OFFICES**

### **SUPREME COURT JUSTICE**

A qualified elector of the Supreme Court District in which election is sought, at least thirty (30) years of age, a practicing attorney and a citizen of the state for five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, §150.*

### **COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE**

A qualified elector, at least thirty (30) years of age, a practicing attorney, and a citizen of the state for five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, § 150.*

### **CHANCERY COURT JUDGE**

A qualified elector, at least twenty-six (26) years of age, a practicing attorney for five (5) years, and a citizen of the state for five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, § 154.*

### **CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE**

A qualified elector, at least twenty-six (26) years of age, a practicing attorney for five (5) years, and a citizen of the state for five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, § 154.*

### **COUNTY COURT JUDGE**

A qualified elector for and from the county court district, at least 26 years old, a practicing attorney for five years, and a citizen of the state for five years preceding the election. Must be a resident of the county they seek election in for two (2) years on the day before the election. *Miss. Code Ann. §9-9-5; Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-300.*

## **COUNTY OFFICES**

### **SHERIFF**

Not a defaulter to the state or any county or municipality or to the United States and a qualified elector. Must be a resident of the county they seek election in for two (2) years on the day before the election. *Miss. Code Ann. §19-25-3; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §§135 and 138; Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-300*

### **CHANCERY CLERK, CIRCUIT CLERK, TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR**

A qualified elector of the county in which he/she seeks election. Must be a resident of the county they seek election in for two (2) years on the day before the election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §§135 and 138; Art. VI, §168; ART XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-300.*

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A resident of the county for at least two (2) years prior to the general election, a qualified elector, and a regular licensed and practicing attorney. *Miss. Code Ann. §19-23-9; Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-300.*

### **SURVEYOR**

A registered land surveyor and a qualified elector of the county in which he/she seeks election. Must be a resident of the county they seek election in for two (2) years on the day before the election. *Miss. Code Ann. §19-27-1. Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V §§135 and 138; Art. XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-300.*

### **CORONER**

A resident of the county for at least two (2) years prior to the general election, a qualified elector, at least 21 years of age, possessing a high school diploma or its equivalent, of the county in which he/she seeks election. The minimum education requirement shall not apply to any Coroner holding office on July 1, 1986, who is re-elected in the 1987 general election and thereafter as long as he/she maintains continuous active service. *Miss. Code Ann. §19-21-103; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §§135 and 138; Art. XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-300.*

## **COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICES**

### **SUPERVISOR**

A qualified elector of the county and a resident in the district in which he or she seeks election for at least two years prior to the general election. *Miss. Code Ann. §19-3-3; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-300.*

### **COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER**

A qualified elector of the county and a resident in the district in which he or she seeks election for at least two (2) years prior to the general election. *Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-213; Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-300.*

### **JUSTICE COURT JUDGE**

A qualified elector and a resident of the county in which he or she seeks election for at least two (2) years prior to the general election, a high school graduate or its equivalent, and completion of a course of training required by law within six months of the beginning of the term of office. *Miss. Code Ann. §9-11-3; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, §171 and Art. XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-300.*

### **CONSTABLE**

A qualified elector of the county and a resident in the district in which he or she seeks election for at least two (2) years prior to the general election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, §171 and Art. XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-300.*

## **MUNICIPAL OFFICES**

In a Code Charter Municipality, the mayor and members of the board of aldermen shall be qualified electors (registered voters) of the municipality and the aldermen elected from and by wards shall be residents of their respective wards. Both the mayor and members of the board of aldermen shall be residents of the municipality for at least two years prior to the general election; however, this does not apply to municipalities with a population of less



than 1,000. *Miss. Code Ann. § 21-3-9; Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-300.*

In a Council form of government, the mayor and members of the council shall be qualified electors of the municipality and, the councilmen elected from and by wards shall be residents of their respective wards; however, if the city be divided into less than six wards, the remaining councilmen shall be elected at large. *Miss. Code Ann. §§ 21-7-7, 21-3-9.*

In a Commission form of government, please refer to *Miss. Code Ann. § 21-5-5.*

In a Mayor-Council form of government, please refer to *Miss. Code Ann. § 21-8-21.*

In a Council-Manager plan of government, please refer to *Miss. Code Ann. § 21-9-15.*

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE**

### **COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER**

A resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district from which election is sought and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-5-1.*

No person who is a resident of the territory embraced within a municipal separate school district or a special municipal separate school district is eligible to be a member of the county board of education. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-5-3.*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

### **CONSOLIDATED/CONSOLIDATED LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE**

A bona fide resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district in which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201, 37-7-306.*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

**MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE**

A bona fide resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district in which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, § 250; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201; 37-7-306.*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

**SPECIAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE**

A bona fide resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district in which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, § 250; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201, 37-7-306, 37-7-707*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

## **QUALIFYING FOR OFFICE**

Most individuals seeking elected office may choose to qualify as either a political party or independent candidate. A political party candidate participates in the Primary Election (and possibly the Primary Runoff Election three weeks thereafter), seeking to win a particular political party's nomination for a particular office. The winning candidates in the Primary Elections (or Primary Runoff Elections) move forward and participate in the November General Election as the respective political parties' nominees for the respective offices. An independent candidate participates only in the November General Election and, for the purposes of the ballot, has no designated political party affiliation.

*In Mississippi, candidates for special election, judicial office (with the exception of candidates for Justice Court Judge), County School Board, Consolidated/Consolidated Line School District Trustee, Municipal Separate School District Trustee and Special Municipal Separate School District Trustee run as non-partisan candidates and only participate in the November General Election, with no designation of a political party affiliation on the ballot or otherwise.*

### **POLITICAL PARTY/PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATES**

An individual who chooses to seek election as a partisan candidate and therefore participate in a primary election to seek the nomination of a particular political party must file with the proper office a "Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination," together with the applicable qualifying fee, on or before the qualifying deadline, as is explained further below. Qualifying forms for party candidates are available from the respective political party's state office or [on the Secretary of State's website](#).

### **INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES**

An individual who chooses to seek election as an independent candidate must file with the proper office a "Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate," a qualifying petition, which must be signed by a certain number of qualified electors (registered voters) from the jurisdiction from which the candidate seeks election, and pay the applicable qualifying fee, on or before the qualifying deadline, as is explained further below. The number of signatures required on the qualifying petition is dependent upon the specific office sought by the candidate. Each candidate must obtain the certification of the signatures from the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from where the signatures were collected prior to filing his/her qualifying paperwork with the appropriate office.

Independent candidates should budget sufficient time to ensure the certification of petition signatures by the respective Circuit Clerk's Office well in advance of the qualifying deadline. Qualifying forms for independent candidates are available from the Circuit Clerk's Office or [on the Secretary of State's website](#).

## **WHAT, WHEN, AND WHERE TO QUALIFY FOR OFFICE**

### **FOR U.S. PRESIDENT:**

#### **As a Political Party Candidate for the Presidential Preference Primary:**

- 1) A Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination, and
- 2) Petition, signed by not less than five hundred (500) qualified electors (registered voters) of the state OR not less than one hundred (100) qualified electors (registered voters) of each Congressional district of the state,
  - a. All petition signatures must be certified by each Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from where the signatures were collected, and
  - b. All "header" information must be completed on each petition page prior to obtaining voters' signatures.
- 3) Qualifying fee made payable to the respective State Party Executive Committee in the amount of \$2,500.00,
- 4) Filed with the State Party Executive Committee,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline.
  - o If qualifying by mail, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline. The State Party Executive Committee must be in actual receipt of the candidate's qualifying papers and fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **As a Presidential Party Nominee for the General Election:**

- 1) A Certificate of Nomination by any national convention or like assembly of any party duly organized in Mississippi, signed by the presiding officer and secretary of the convention and by the chairman of the state executive committee, and
- 2) Qualifying fee made payable to the Secretary of State in the amount of \$2,500.00,

- 3) List of six (6) names and addresses of persons, who shall be qualified electors of Mississippi. Each person listed must execute the following statement which shall be attached to the petition when filed: “I do hereby consent and do hereby agree to serve as elector fore President and Vice President of the United States, if elected to that position, and do herby agree that, if so elected, I shall cast my ballot as such for \_\_\_\_\_ for President and \_\_\_\_\_ for Vice President of the United States” (inserting in said blank spaces the respective names of the persons named as nominees for said respective offices in the certificate to which the statement is attached).
- 4) Filed with the Secretary of State’s Office,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline.
  - If qualifying by mail, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline. The Secretary of State must be in actual receipt of the nomination and fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.

\* \* \* \* \*

*As an Independent Candidate for the General Election:*

- 1) A Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate, and
- 2) Petition signed by not less than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors (registered voters) of the State of Mississippi.
  - a. All petition signatures must be certified by each Circuit Clerk’s Office of the county from where the signatures were collected, and
  - b. All “header” information must be completed on each petition page prior to obtaining voters’ signatures.
- 3) Qualifying fee made payable to the Secretary of State in the amount of \$2,500.00,
- 4) List of six (6) names and addresses of persons, who shall be qualified voters of Mississippi, equal in number to the number of presidential electors, six (6), to be chosen. Each person listed must execute the following statement which shall be attached to the petition when filed: “I do hereby consent and do hereby agree to serve as elector fore President and Vice President of the United States, if elected to that position, and do herby agree that, if so elected, I shall cast my ballot as such for \_\_\_\_\_ for President and \_\_\_\_\_ for Vice President of the United States” (inserting in said blank spaces the respective names of the persons named as nominees for said respective offices in the certificate to which this statement is attached).
- 5) Filed with the Secretary of State’s Office,
- 6) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline.

- If qualifying by mail, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline. The Secretary of State must be in actual receipt of the candidate's qualifying papers and fee by 5:00 p.m., Friday, on the date of the applicable deadline.

*Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-15-359, 23-15-785; 23-15-1093 (1972).*

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR U.S. SENATE AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE:**

**As a Political Party Candidate:**

- 1) A Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination, and
- 2) Qualifying fee made payable to the respective State Party Executive Committee:
  - a. United State Senator: \$1,000.00.
  - b. United State Representative: \$500.00
- 3) Filed with the respective State Party Executive Committee,
- 4) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline.
  - If qualifying by mail, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline. The State Party Executive Committee must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.

\* \* \* \* \*

**As an Independent Candidate:**

- 1) A Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate, and
- 2) Petition signed by not less than 1,000 qualified electors (registered voters) of the State for the office of United States Senate or not less than 200 qualified electors (registered voters) of the Congressional district for the office of United States Representative,
  - a. All petition signatures must be certified by each Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from where the signatures were collected, and
  - b. All "header" information must be completed on each petition page prior to obtaining voters' signatures.

- 3) Qualifying fee made payable to the Secretary of State in the amount of
  - a. \$1,000.00 for the office of United State Senator, or
  - b. \$500.00 for the office of United State Representative.
- 4) Filed with the Secretary of State's Office,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline.
  - o If qualifying by mail, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline. The Secretary of State must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, Petition and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR STATEWIDE, STATE DISTRICT, & LEGISLATIVE OFFICE:**

**As a Political Party Candidate:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination, and
- 2) Qualifying fee made payable to the appropriate State Party:
  - a. Governor: \$1,000.00.
  - b. Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General, and Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce: \$500.00.
  - c. Public Service Commissioner and Transportation Commissioner: \$500.00.
  - d. District Attorney: \$250.00.
  - e. State Senate and State House of Representatives: \$250.00.
- 3) Filed with the appropriate State Party,
- 4) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline. If qualifying by mail, please note, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the State Party must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Secretary of State's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**As an Independent Candidate:**

- 1) Petition signed by not less than the statutory required number of qualified electors (registered voters) of the State of Mississippi (or district, if applicable), certified by the Circuit Clerks' Offices of the respective counties from which the signatures were collected,
  - a. Governor: not less than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors of the State.
  - b. Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General, and Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce: not less than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors of the State.
  - c. Public Service Commissioner and Transportation Commissioner: not less than three hundred (300) qualified electors of the district.
  - d. District Attorney: not less than one hundred (100) qualified electors of the district.
  - e. State Senate and State House of Representatives: not less than fifty (50) qualified electors of the district.
- 2) Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate, and
- 3) Qualifying fee made payable to the Secretary of State:
  - a. Governor: \$1,000.00.
  - b. Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General, and Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce: \$500.00.
  - c. Public Service Commissioner and Transportation Commissioner: \$500.00.
  - d. District Attorney: \$250.00.
  - e. State Senate and State House of Representatives: \$250.00.
- 4) Filed with the Secretary of State's Office,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline. If qualifying by mail, please note, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Secretary of State must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, petition, and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.
- 6) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.

Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Secretary of State's Office by 5:00 p.m. the date of the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR MISSISSIPPI LEVEE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent of an Independent Candidate,



- 2) Petition signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors (registered voters) of the county and levee district from which election is sought.
  - a. All petition signatures must be certified by the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from where the signatures were collected, and
  - b. All "header" information must be completed on each petition page prior to obtaining voters' signatures.
- 3) Qualifying fee in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), made payable to the Circuit Clerk of the county of the candidate's residence,
- 4) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office in the county and levee district from which election is sought,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline.
  - o If qualifying by mail, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline. The Circuit Clerk's Office must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, Petition, and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS, CHANCERY, OR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE:**

- 1) Statement of Intent for Judicial Candidate, and
- 2) Qualifying fee
  - a. Supreme Court Justice, in the amount of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), made payable to the Secretary of State;
  - b. Court of Appeals Judge, in the amount of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), made payable to the Secretary of State;
  - c. Chancery and Circuit Court Judge, in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), made payable to the Secretary of State; and
- 3) Affidavit/Pledge of Judicial Candidate,
- 4) Filed with the Secretary of State's office,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline.
  - o If qualifying by mail, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-

mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline. The Secretary of State's Office must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, Affidavit/Pledge and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.

- 6) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 7) Written notice of candidacy, including the candidate's mailing address and telephone number, to the Commission on Judicial Performance within ten (10) days after formally announcing candidacy or officially qualifying for election, whichever shall occur first.
- 8) Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Secretary of State's office by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR COUNTY COURT JUDGE:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for Judicial Candidate,
- 2) Qualifying fee in the amount of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00), made payable to the Circuit Clerk of the county of the candidate's residence, and
- 3) Affidavit/Pledge of Judicial Candidate,
- 4) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office in the county of the candidate's residence,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline. If qualifying by mail, please note, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Circuit Clerk's Office must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, Affidavit/Pledge, and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.
- 6) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commissioner within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 7) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR COUNTY AND COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE<sup>2</sup>:**

**As a Political Party Candidate:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination, and
- 2) Qualifying fee made payable in the amount of \$100.00 to the appropriate Party.
- 3) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office,
- 4) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline. If qualifying by mail, please note, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Circuit Clerk's Office must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**As an Independent Candidate:**

- 1) Petition signed by not less than the statutory required number of qualified electors (registered voters) of the County (and district if applicable), certified by the Circuit Clerks' Offices of the respective county from which the signatures were collected,
  - a. Countywide office: not less than fifty (50) qualified electors of the county.
  - b. County district office: not less than fifteen (15) qualified electors of the district.
- 2) Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate, and
- 3) Qualifying fee made payable in the amount of \$100.00 to the County,
- 4) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office.
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline. If qualifying by mail, please note, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Circuit Clerk's Office must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, petition, and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.

---

<sup>2</sup> County and County District Office includes the offices of sheriff, chancery clerk, circuit clerk, tax assessor, tax collector, county attorney, county supervisor, surveyor, coroner, justice court judge and constable. This does not include election commissioner or school district office.

- 6) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 7) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER:**

- 1) A Statement of Intent – Candidate for Election Commissioner, and
- 2) Petition signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought,
  - a. All petition signatures must be certified by the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from where the signatures were collected, and
  - b. All "header" information must be completed on each petition page prior to obtaining voters' signatures.
- 3) Filed with the **Chancery Clerk's Office**,
- 4) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline.
  - o If qualifying by mail, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline. The Secretary of State must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent and Petition by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline.
- 5) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline (s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES**

***Political Party Candidates***

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination, and
- 2) Qualifying fee in the amount of ten dollars (\$10.00) made payable to the appropriate Municipal Party Executive Committee,
- 3) Filed with the Municipal Clerk's Office in the candidate's city of residence,

- 4) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline. NOTE: The qualifying date is an actual receipt deadline and cannot be extended under any circumstance.
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest, within fifteen (15) days of qualifying, with the Mississippi Ethics Commission, 660 North Street, Suite #100-C, Jackson, MS 39202; (601) 359-1285.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Municipal Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

*As an Independent Candidate:*

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate, and
- 2) Qualifying Petition, signed by not less than the following number of qualified electors (registered voters), certified by the Municipal Clerk of the municipality from where the signatures were collected by the candidate:
- 3) Filed with the Municipal Clerk's office in the candidate's city of residence,
- 4) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline. NOTE: The qualifying date is an actual receipt deadline and cannot be extended under any circumstance.
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest, within fifteen (15) days of qualifying, with the Mississippi Ethics Commission, 660 North Street, Suite #100-C, Jackson, MS 39202; (601) 359-1285.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Municipal Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, SPECIAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE OR CONSOLIDATED/CONSOLIDATED LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent, and
- 2) Petition signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought,
  - a. If there are less than one hundred (100) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought, the qualifying petition must be signed by not less than twenty percent (20.0%) of the qualified electors of the district,
  - b. All petition signatures must be certified by the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from where the signatures were collected, and

- c. All “header” information must be completed on each petition page prior to obtaining voters’ signatures.
- 3) Filed with the Circuit Clerk’s Office,
- 4) No more than ninety (90) days nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixtieth (60<sup>th</sup>) day before the election.
  - o If qualifying by mail, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline. The Circuit Clerk’s Office must be in actual receipt of the Qualifying Statement of Intent and Petition by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk’s Office by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent,
- 2) Petition, with Affidavit, signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought
  - a. If there are less than one hundred (100) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought, the qualifying petition must be signed by not less than twenty percent (20.0%) of the qualified electors of the district,
  - b. All petition signatures must be certified by the Circuit Clerk’s Office of the county from where the signatures were collected, and
  - c. All “header” information must be completed on each petition page prior to obtaining voters’ signatures.
- 3) Filed with the Circuit Clerk’s Office,
- 4) No more than ninety (90) days nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixtieth (60<sup>th</sup>) day before the election.
  - o If qualifying by mail, the date of the applicable deadline is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline. The Circuit Clerk’s Office must be in actual receipt of the Qualifying Statement of Intent and Petition by 5:00 p.m., on the date of the applicable deadline.
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk’s Office by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the applicable deadline(s).

## **STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST**

All elected officials (excluding federal office holders, levee commissioners and election commissioners), appointed officials and candidates seeking office are required to electronically file a Statement of Economic Interest with the Mississippi Ethics Commission. Candidates for elected office must file within fifteen (15) days of qualifying. Persons appointed to office must file within thirty (30) days of appointment. Incumbents must file each and every year on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Additional information may be obtained from the Mississippi Ethics Commission:

Physical Address

600 North Street, Suite 100-C  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

Postal Mailing Address

Post Office Box 22746  
Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2746

Telephone: (601) 359-1285

Facsimile: (601) 359-1292

[info@ethics.state.ms.us](mailto:info@ethics.state.ms.us); [www.ethics.ms.gov](http://www.ethics.ms.gov)

## **COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE**

Candidates for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals are required to forward written notice of such candidacy, together with an appropriate mailing address and telephone number, to the Commission on Judicial Performance within ten (10) days of formally announcing and/or officially qualifying for election or re-election to any judicial office.

The Commission will forward all candidates copies of: Canon 5 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, summaries of any previous opinions issued by the Special Committee, Special Committees organized for prior elections, or the Supreme Court of Mississippi, which relate in any way to campaign conduct and practices; and a form acknowledgment, which each candidate shall promptly return to the Commission. *Code of Judicial Conduct of Mississippi Judicial Conduct, Canon 5.*

Additional information may be obtained directly from Judicial Performance:

Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance

660 North Street, Suite 104

Jackson, MS 39202

Telephone: (601) 359-1273

Facsimile: (601) 359-6277

[mailbox@judicialperformance.ms.gov](mailto:mailbox@judicialperformance.ms.gov); [www.judicialperformance.ms.gov](http://www.judicialperformance.ms.gov)

Candidate Qualifying Guide

Revised November 2021

Page 25

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Excluding candidates for federal office, Mississippi law requires all candidates for elective office to file campaign finance disclosure reports.<sup>3</sup> Under the law, one is a candidate if he/she has filed qualifying papers or has spent or received *over \$200 in the aggregate* in furtherance of an election campaign. Following the qualifying deadline, all persons who have filed qualifying papers are candidates under the law, even if they have not received or spent any money whatsoever in furtherance of a campaign. Forms necessary for compliance with these laws are available from the Secretary of State's Office or the Circuit Clerk's Office. [Campaign Finance reporting forms also may be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website.](#)

### ***What information must be reported?***

All Reports of Receipts and Disbursements filed under state law must be complete and include:

- Name, address, contact information, the office sought and political party affiliation, if any, of the candidate,
- The total amount of contributions received during the reporting period, both itemized and non-itemized, and an aggregate year-to-date total of all contributions,
- The total amount of disbursements made during the reporting period, both itemized and non-itemized, and an aggregate year-to-date total of all disbursements, and
- The total amount of cash on hand to date.

### **Itemized Contributions**

A contribution must be included within the itemized total of contributions on the "Report of Receipts and Disbursements" and separately reported on the "Itemized Receipts" attachment to the report if the year-to-date aggregate total of the contribution(s) received from a particular person, business or entity exceeds \$200.00. A contribution separately itemized on the "Itemized Receipts" must identify the contribution by contributor type, contributor name and address, date(s) and amount(s) for the reporting period and aggregate year-to-date total, and the occupation or employer of the contributor, if applicable.

### **Itemized Disbursements**

A disbursement must be included within the itemized total of disbursements on the "Report of Receipts and Disbursements" and separately reported on the "Itemized Disbursements" attachment to the report if the year-to-date aggregate total of the disbursement(s) made to a particular person, business or entity exceeds \$200.00. A disbursement separately itemized on the "Itemized Disbursements" must be identified by the recipient's name and address, the date(s) and amount(s) for the reporting period and aggregate year-to-date total, and purpose of the disbursement. *Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-807(d)(ii)(iii).*

---

<sup>3</sup> Candidates for federal office are not required to file campaign finance reports in Mississippi. Federal candidates should verify reporting requirements with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) by visiting their website at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov) or calling 1(800)424-9530.



### *Non-Itemized Contributions and Disbursements*

Contributions and disbursements with year-to-date aggregate totals equal to or less than \$200.00 in a calendar year are not itemized. However, these amounts are included in the totals of all contributions and of all disbursements for the reporting period on the “Report of Receipts and Disbursements.”

### ***When are reports due?***

Reports are due in the appropriate office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the deadline. If a deadline falls on a weekend or legal holiday, the report is due at 5:00 p.m. on the first working day preceding the weekend or legal holiday. Statutory deadlines are provided on the front of each reporting form and on the schedule following hereafter.

The appropriate office must be in actual receipt of the report by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline. It is the responsibility of the candidate to make sure the report is delivered on time. *Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-807(e)*.

### ***Where to Report?***

Candidates for **Statewide Office, State District Office, Legislative Office, Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeals Judge, Chancery Court Judge, and Circuit Court Judge** file with the Secretary of State’s Office.

Candidates for **County Court Judge** file with the Circuit Clerk’s Office.

Candidates for **County and County District Office** file with the Circuit Clerk’s Office.

Candidates for **Municipal Office** file with the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

Candidates of **any School District Office** file with the Circuit Clerk’s Office.

### ***What types of reports must a candidate file this year?***

Candidates for **Court of Appeals, Chancery Court, and Circuit Court Judge** must file the following campaign finance reports on the following deadlines:

- January 31, 2022 (2021 Annual Report), due if any money was raised or spent in 2021, or if candidate previously ran for office and did not file a Termination Report.
- May 10, 2022 Periodic Report, for the period beginning January 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022.
- June 10, 2022 Periodic Report, for the period beginning May 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022.
- July 8, 2022 Periodic Report, for the period beginning June 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.
- October 10, 2022 Periodic Report, for the period beginning July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022.
- November 1, 2022 Pre-Election Report (if opposed), for the period beginning October 1, 2022 through October 29, 2022.

- November 22, 2022 Pre-Runoff Election Report, for the period beginning October 30, 2022 through November 19, 2022 (for only those candidates and political committees supporting or opposing those candidates whose names will appear on a Runoff Election ballot on November 29, 2022)
- January 10, 2023 Periodic Report, for the period beginning October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Candidates for **School District Office** must file the following campaign finance reports on the following deadlines:

- January 31, 2022 (2021 Annual Report), due if any money was raised or spent in 2021, or if candidate previously ran for office and did not file a Termination Report.
- November 1, 2022 Pre-Election Report, for the period beginning January 1, 2022 through October 29, 2022
- November 22, 2022 Pre-Runoff Election Report, for the period beginning October 30, 2022 through November 19, 2022 (for only those candidates whose names will appear on a Runoff Election ballot on November 29, 2022).
- 2022 Annual Report due no later than January 31, 2023, for the period beginning on January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

A candidate should simply check (✓) the type of report being submitted on his/her form. A candidate may submit a Termination Report at the same time as another scheduled report by placing a check in the blank preceding both the scheduled report and the Termination Report. Candidates and political committees are required to continue to file campaign finance disclosure reports in accordance with the applicable statutory schedule, which changes from year to year, unless and until a Termination Report is filed with the appropriate office. A Termination Report may only be filed, however, if the candidate or political committee no longer accepts contributions or makes expenditures and has no outstanding debts.

Campaign finance forms are available on [the Secretary of State's website](#). Please refer to the separately published ***Campaign Finance Guide*** for more detailed information pertaining to the campaign finance disclosure and reporting requirements.

## **Learning More about Elections in Mississippi**

For further information about Mississippi elections, visit our website at [www.sos.ms.gov](http://www.sos.ms.gov). At that location, you will find additional publications and resources for both the candidate as well as the voter.

This qualifying guide has been produced as an aid and a convenience for candidates who wish to qualify for elected office in 2020. Candidates should be aware changes in state law enacted or court decisions made after the printing of this guide may affect deadlines or other substantive provisions of election law. Accordingly, candidates should review all current election and campaign finance disclosure laws.

This guide does not provide information for candidates seeking to qualify for any specially called election in 2020. Candidates interested in qualifying for a specially called election should contact their Circuit Clerk's Office or the Secretary of State's Office for additional information.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Mississippi Secretary of State's Office  
Attn: Elections Division  
Post Office Box 136  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205**

<b>Elections Call Center</b>	<b>(601) 576-2550</b>
<b>Elections Hotline</b>	<b>(800) 829-6786</b>
<b>Elections Fax</b>	<b>(601) 576-2545</b>
<b>Mississippi Ethics Commission</b>	<b>(601) 359-1285</b>
<b>Mississippi Comm. on Judicial Performance</b>	<b>(601) 359-1273</b>
<b>Mississippi Attorney General's Office</b>	<b>(601) 359-3680</b>



## Mississippi Secretary of State's Office

Elections Division

P.O. Box 136

Jackson, MS 39205

601-576-2550

Elections Hotline: 800-829-6786

[www.sos.ms.gov](http://www.sos.ms.gov)