

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

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2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2024 Mississippi Legislative Session convened on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. The session will end on Sunday May 5, 2024, a total of 125 days.

GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI



On Tuesday, January 9th, Gov. Tate Reeves, serving as the 65th governor of Mississippi, was sworn in for his second term at the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson, MS. Reeves, 49, is serving his final term as governor and 6th term as a statewide Official.

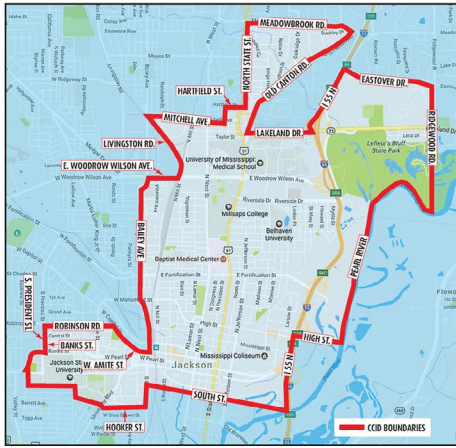
Happy New Year to our partners and supporters. It is time to start a new year advocating for the citizens of Mississippi, keeping abreast of the state legislative activities surrounding the bills both sponsored and passed. Southern Echo's goals and objectives will focus on those bills that impact our communities, specifically education, voting, criminal justice, healthcare, economic development, and most importantly, access to expanding democracy, not shrinking it.

NEW SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE:

Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann returned to lead the Senate. Meanwhile, Jason White became the state's 62nd Speaker of the House by unanimous vote on January 2, 2024. White, 51 of West, MS (Holmes County), was the only person nominated for the position. He has served as a state representative since 2011. White replaces Phillip Gunn of Clinton, MS, who decided last year not to seek reelection. The newly elected speaker wants to develop the workforce by training Mississippians to work in "highly skilled" good-paying jobs in the state. He has expressed the need to improve kindergarten through 12th-grade education, focus on the state's healthcare systems, and find ways to help "ailing hospitals." He is also open to examining Medicaid expansion. The Governor and Lt. Governor are also open to expanding K-12 educational resources.



Rep. Manly Baston of Moss Point, MS was also elected on January 2nd by House members to serve as the Speaker Pro Tempore who will preside when the speaker is unavailable and serve as an advisor to the House Speaker.



2023 - HB 1020 AND THE COURTS

The creation of a state-run municipal court is blocked. *Click here to read: [5th CIRCUIT BLOCKS HB 1020 FROM BEING IMPLEMENTED](#)*

There are two challenges to America. The challenges are racism and poverty.

- Martin Luther King



HISTORY IS MADE IN MISSISSIPPI

With the election of Fabian Nelson in Mississippi, Louisiana stands alone as the only state to have never elected someone who represents the LGBTQ+ community. *Click here to read more: [History is Made in MS: Fabian Nelson](#)*

Washington, DC - Today, LGBTQ+ Victory Fund candidate Fabian Nelson won the general election to represent District 66 in the Mississippi State House, making history as the first out LGBTQ+ candidate to win election to the state legislature. Until today, Mississippi and Louisiana were the only states that have never elected an out lawmaker.

Individual advocacy can involve keeping abreast of what laws are being proposed. Knowing what bills your state representative or state senator has sponsored can be helpful in holding them accountable for their election promises. Education on bills sponsored can be as easy as going to www.legiscan.com. Legiscan allows citizens to create a free account.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER - CENTRAL DISTRICT

Mississippi Central District has a newly elected Public Service Commissioner - De'Keither Stamps. He was officially sworn into office at the Mississippi State Capitol on Tuesday, January 4, 2024. Other newly elected Public Service Commissioners sworn in include Commissioner Chris Brown (Northern District) and Commissioner Wayne Carr (Southern District).

Commissioner Stamps, a Learned native, formerly served as Mississippi State Representative - District 66 and several years on the Jackson City Council.



EXPANDING DEMOCRACY

Each year, Southern Echo monitors the bills sponsored to expand democracy. During the 2023 legislative session, bills were sponsored to reinstate the ballot initiative, restore voting rights, and allow early voting and no excuse voting. None of those bills made it out of committee. The committee assignment of bills and the vote on bills in committee is how a bill becomes law. If the bill does not make it out of committee, it will never have a chance of getting a vote or becoming a law. Each bill is assigned to a committee. To ascertain the committee assignment of a bill, go to the legislative website at www.legislature.ms.gov/committees or anyone interested in a summary of the 2023 legislative session *click here:* [Summary of 2023 Legislative Session.](#)



Southern Echo is a nonprofit as such we do not engage in partisan politics. We seek to educate our communities, and keep them updated on legislation that impacts the community.

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