



# COMMUNIQUE

A LEGISLATIVE PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS.



**"Mississippi's Advocate for Public Education"**



*Mississippi Association of Educators  
775 North State Street  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202*



# LET US MAKE GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS A REALITY

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In order for Mississippi to compete nationally and globally, we must make sure our children are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to be successful in our ever changing society. Mississippi's children must attend a great public school and receive a quality public education. Our schools must have the capacity to be successful. Our educators must have access to all the necessary resources they need to provide our students with adequate instruction to be competitive.

Quality public education means making sure Mississippi fully funds its commitment to public schools through the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP). Quality public education means having a highly qualified teacher in every classroom across this state, and that our educators are adequately compensated for their work. Quality public education means smaller class sizes so that our children can receive the appropriate individualized instruction necessary to be successful. Quality public education means that Mississippi's school buildings have the capacity to allow our children to learn, grow, and feel safe. Quality public education means that our children and educators have the most current books and materials they need in this 21st century environment.

Additionally, MAE understands that the future of Mississippi depends on a well educated and trained workforce. In order to provide this, Mississippi must be able to recruit and retain the best and brightest into the profession. The Mississippi legislature can help achieve this by addressing teacher recruitment, professional pay, and professional development issues in the state.

MAE believes in collegiality and collaboration of all stakeholders. The legislature is a very important partner in this education consortium. Together we can make public education great for every child in Mississippi.

THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS ADVOCATES FOR FULL AND EARLY FUNDING OF THE MISSISSIPPI ADEQUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM (MAEP) AND ALL OTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES NEEDED TO ENSURE GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD IN MISSISSIPPI.



## O U R M I S S I O N

THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS ADVOCATES GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD BY EMPOWERING MEMBERS, PROVIDING SERVICES AND PROMOTING PARENTAL/ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

# Sharing the Message...

MAE understands that the future of Mississippi depends on a well educated and trained workforce. And it all begins with teachers! The Mississippi Legislature can help to ensure the best and the brightest choose to enter and remain in the teaching profession. These efforts should address teacher recruitment, better pay, professional development as well as a better learning environment.

Quality public schools are crucial to revitalizing communities across Mississippi. More than ever our students need better textbooks, better equipment, and better facilities. Fully funding public schools is essential to building quality communities and a stronger Mississippi. Mississippi children deserve a long term commitment from legislators, parents, teachers, business and community leaders to ensure lifelong success. MAE is at the state capitol daily to help ensure "Great Public Schools for Every Child in Mississippi."

*MAE Representatives recently met with Legislative committee chairs to discuss MAE's legislative agenda including salary increases and classroom supply fulfillment.*



*Kevin Gilbert, President Mississippi Association of Educators; Representative Cecil Brown, Chairman of the House Education Committee; Terry Lynn Hamm, Chief Lobbyist for the Mississippi Association of Educators*



*Terry Lynn Hamm, Chief Lobbyist for the Mississippi Association of Educators; Senator Videt Carmichael, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee; Kevin Gilbert, President Mississippi Association of Educators*

## 2008 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### MAE Will SUPPORT Legislation To:

#### **FULLY FUND THE MISSISSIPPI ADEQUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Rationale: Mississippi children can compete nationally in academics when given adequate resources and opportunities similar to other states.

#### **RESTORE EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDS TO THE CLASSROOM AS ALLOCATED BY THE EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT FUND (EEF) FORMULA**

Rationale: In order for students to optimize their learning, teachers must be able to provide adequate supplies and equipment for the classroom. Currently, many of these supplies are funded through teachers' personal income.

#### **BRING COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING TO THE MID-POINT PER FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)**

Rationale: Moving community college funding to the midpoint per FTE makes monies available for institutional advancement as well as faculty and staff salary increases.

#### **FUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SALARIES TO THE MIDPOINT AND ADVOCATE FOR AN INCREASE IN FOUR-YEAR HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING SALARIES**

Rationale: In order to recruit and retain quality professionals needed to improve student achievement, salaries must be at a competitive level with those of contiguous states or states in the region.

#### **MAINTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE WITH NO LOSS IN BENEFITS; PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO RETIREES AND RAISE THE MAXIMUM LIFETIME BENEFIT CAP**

Rationale: Another way to retain good school employees is providing good fringe benefits. The increase in major medical deductible plus a prescription drug deductible makes healthcare extremely difficult for many, especially those with dependents. It is possible a family of three could spend up to \$2,000 in deductibles and co-pays without help/re-imbursment from the plan. Funding for retirees' health plan would mean up to 60% of health care premiums for retired school employees is covered.

#### **REQUIRE COMPULSORY KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE FOR CHILDREN MEETING THE MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS AND CONTINUE TO INCLUDE KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS IN THE AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE COUNT**

Rationale: Many children begin first grade at an extreme disadvantage because of little/no attendance in a kindergarten program. By ensuring that every child attends kindergarten, students' readiness and achievement level /test scores on ESEA/No Child Left Behind required examinations will increase.

#### **PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE RETIREMENT ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES TO REMAIN IN THE CLASSROOM BY INCREASING THE SALARY SCHEDULE INCREMENTS TO 30 YEARS**

Rationale: Incentive for retirement eligible personnel would promote the retention of experienced teachers in the classroom and ease the teacher shortage in the state.

#### **INCREASE PLANNING TIME FOR TEACHERS TO A MINIMUM OF 250 MINUTES PER WEEK EXCLUSIVE OF THE LUNCH PERIOD**

Rationale: New standards require more planning.

#### **MAINTAIN THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM AS A DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN**

Rationale: The current retirement system (PERS) is a defined benefit plan. The system guarantees a lifetime retirement payment based on a formula.

## 2008 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### **ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN HIGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF EMPLOYEES IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF MISSISSIPPI'S STUDENTS**

Rationale: School employees must have access to high quality, relevant professional development opportunities. These opportunities must be provided in environments and at times conducive to employee learning. The State of Mississippi and local school districts shall provide the funding, a workable program structure and a process necessary for on-going, relevant, high quality professional development.

### **MAE WILL MONITOR LEGISLATION TO:**

#### **REDUCE TEACHER/STUDENT RATIOS IN CLASSROOMS**

Rationale: Research continues to show that student achievement is greater when there are fewer students per teacher. With increased standards placed on students and teachers, lowering the teacher/student ratio will help insure that children succeed.

#### **EXPLORE LEGISLATION FROM OTHER STATES REGARDING OPTIONS FOR SAFE AND ORDERLY CLASSROOMS, ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS, DISCIPLINE AND VIOLENCE**

Rationale: Behavioral issues in schools impact student achievement.

#### **REQUIRE ALL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF TWO YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION**

Rationale: Governing bodies of school districts should be adequately qualified for making decisions and setting policies that greatly impact students and school district employees

#### **MONITOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS INVOLVING SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGETS SPENT ON DIRECT CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION**

Rationale: Policies that may seem sound on the surface but would negatively impact school districts and children must be monitored.

### **MAE WILL SEEK LEGISLATION TO:**

#### **PROVIDE SALARY LEVELS THAT INCLUDE A MINIMUM NEW TEACHER BEGINNING SALARY OF \$40,000 AND PROVIDE A LIVING WAGE FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS. MAINTAIN A PROGRESSIVE PLAN TO ACHIEVE SALARY COMPENSATION EQUAL TO THE SOUTHEASTERN AVERAGE THAT INCLUDES COST OF LIVING INCREASES AND ADJUSTMENTS TO SALARY SCHEDULE INCREMENTS.**

Rationale: In order to recruit and retain quality professional educators, salaries must be competitive. Increment adjustments will recognize the substantial cost increase to pursue advance degrees and recognize that the option of becoming National Board Certified in their discipline is not available to all teachers.

#### **REPEAL THE PROHIBITION OF PAYROLL DUES DEDUCTION FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL**

Rationale: Mississippi's certified teachers are the only public employees in the state singled out by law, forbidding the voluntary deduction of dues to a membership organization or association.

#### **AMEND THE EDUCATIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURES LAW (EEPL) OF 2001 TO ENSURE PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE DUE PROCESS FOR ALL STATE FUNDED EDUCATION PERSONNEL AND REQUIRE EMPLOYEE INPUT INTO PERSONNEL POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

Rationale: Under current law, a certified employee is not entitled to due process for two years. If an experienced certified employee moves to a new district, that employee is not entitled to due process for one year in the new district. There is no opportunity to challenge false information.

#### **PROVIDE AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR NON-CERTIFIED SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

Rationale: Teacher Assistants now have accountability standards in place through "No Child Left Behind" legislation and deserve the right to due process and an adequate salary.

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**Reynolds, Tommy, D-Charleston** (Dist. 33-Lafayette, Tallahatchie, Yalobusha): W-662-647-3203; W-662-473-2571; treynolds@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Robinson, Walter L. Jr., D-Bolton** (Dist. 63-Hinds): W-601-866-7011; H-601-866-7973; wrobinson@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Rogers, Margaret Ellis, D-New Albany** (Dist. 14-Pontotoc, Union): no work number; H-662-534-8886; mrogers@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Rogers, Ray, R-Pearl** (Dist. 61-Rankin): work and home number 601-939-9633; rrogers@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Scott, Omeria, D-Laurel** (Dist. 80-Clarke, Jasper, Jones): no work number; H-601-649-7677; oscott@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Shows, Bobby, D-Ellisville** (Dist. 89-Jones): W-601-477-3956; H-601-477-9225; bshows@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Smith, Ferr, D-Carthage** (Dist. 27-Attala, Leake, Madison, Yazoo): W-601-859-6500; H-601-267-9510; Cell 601-832-4186; fsmith@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Smith, Jeff C., D-Columbus** (Dist. 39-Lowndes): W-662-328-2711; H-662-327-0407; jsmith@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Snowden, Greg, R-Meridian** (Dist. 83-Clarke, Lauderdale): W-601-693-5700; H-601-483-8809; gsnowden@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Staples, Gary V., R-Laurel** (Dist. 88-Jones, Perry): no work number; H-601-649-4972; gstaples@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Stevens, Mary Ann, D-West** (Dist. 48-Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Holmes, Humphreys, Leake): no work number; H-662-967-2473; mstevens@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Straughter, Rufus, D-Belzoni** (Dist. 51-Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, Washington, Yazoo): W-662-836-9235; H-662-247-2728; rstraughter@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Stringer, Johnny W., D-Montrose** (Dist. 87-Jasper, Jones, Newton): no work number; H-601-739-3663; jstringer@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Sullivan, Preston E., D-Okolona** (Dist. 22-Calhoun, Chickasaw, Pontotoc): no work number; H-662-447-5719; psullivan@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Thomas, Sara R., D-Indianola** (Dist. 31-Sunflower): no work number; H-662-887-2628; sthomas@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Turner, Jerry R., R-Baldwyn** (Dist. 18-Lee, Prentiss): W-662-365-8484; H-662-365-5135; sthomas@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Upshaw, Jessica Sibley, R-Diamondhead** (Dist. 95-Hancock, Harrison): W-228-867-6005; H-228-255-6619; jupshaw@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Walley, J. Shaun, D-Leakesville** (Dist. 105-Forrest, George, Greene, Perry, and Wayne): W-601-606-5603; H-601-394-2985; jwalley@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Ward, Greg, D-Ripley** (Dist. 4-Benton, Tippah, Union): W-662-837-3615; H-662-837-4416; gward@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Warren, Joe L., D-Mount Olive** (Dist. 90-Covington, Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Marion, Simpson): W-601-797-4919; H-601-797-4702; jwarren@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Watson, Percy W., D-Hattiesburg** (Dist. 103-Forrest): W-601-545-1051; H-601-544-6490; pwatson@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Weathersby, Tom, R-Florence** (Dist. 62-Copiah, Rankin, Simpson): W-601-845-2017; H-601-845-2017; tweathersby@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Whittington, Linda, D-Schlater** (Dist. 34-Carroll, Holmes, Humphreys, Leflore, Montgomery, Washington): no work number; H-662-658-1241; lwhittington@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Woods, Tommy L., R-Byhalia** (Dist. 52-DeSoto, Marshall): W-901-489-3090; H-662-838-6201; twoods@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Wooten, Adrienne, D-Jackson** (Dist. 71-Hinds, Rankin): W-601-859-1567; H-601-502-2444; awooten@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Young, Charles L. Sr., D-Meridian** (Dist. 82-Lauderdale): W-601-693-1961; H-601-483-5453; cyoung@mail.house.state.ms.us.

**Zuber, Hank, R-Ocean Springs** (Dist. 113-Jackson): W-228-875-1097; H-228-875-4866; hzuber@mail.house.state.ms.us.

# Mississippi Senate

**Baria, David, D-Bay St. Louis** (Dist. 46, Hancock, Harrison): no home number; W-228-270-0001; dbaria@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Blount, David, D-Jackson** (Dist. 29, Hinds): H-601-955-6952; no work number; dblount@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Brown, Terry, R-Columbus** (Dist. 17-Lowndes): W-662-386-6732; H-662-329-3399; tbrown@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Browning, Nickey, D-Ecru** (Dist. 3-Calhoun, Pontotoc, Union): no work number; H-662-489-5979; nbrowning@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Bryan, Hob, D-Amory** (Dist. 7-Itawamba, Lee, Monroe): W-662-256-9601; H-662-256-9989; hbryan@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Burton, Terry, R-Newton** (Dist. 31-Lauderdale, Newton, Scott): W-601-683-6695; H-601-683-7050; tburton@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Butler, Kelvin, D-Magnolia** (Dist. 38-Adams, Amite, Pike, Walthall, Wilkinson): no work number; H-601-783-2706; kbutler@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Carmichael, Videt, R-Meridian** (Dist. 33, Clarke, Lauderdale): no work number; H-601-693-2750; vcarmichael@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Chassaniol, Lydia, R-Winona** (Dist. 14, Attala, Carroll, Grenada, Leflore, Montgomery, Tallahatchie): W-662-453-3172; H-662-283-2355; lchassaniol@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Clarke, Eugene "Buck," R-Hollandale** (Dist. 22, Bolivar, Humphreys, Sharkey, Washington, Yazoo): W-662-827-7261; 662-827-5685; bclarke@senate.state.ms.us.

**Davis, Doug, R-Hernando** (Dist. 1, DeSoto) work number unavailable; H-662-449-5617; ddavis@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Davis, Vincent, D-Fayette** (Dist. 36-Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Jefferson,): no work number; H-601-786-8309; vdavis@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Dawkins, Deborah, D-Pass Christian** (Dist. 48, Harrison): no work number; H-228-452-3868; ddawkins@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Dearing, Bob M., D-Natchez** (Dist. 37-Adams, Amite, Franklin, Pike): W-601-446-7651; H-601-442-0486; bdearing@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

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**Fillingane, Joey, R-Sumrall** (Dist. 41-Covington, Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Marion): W-601-268-6551; H-601-271-2070; jfillingane@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Flowers, Merle, R-Southaven** (Dist. 19-DeSoto): W-662-349-3983; H-662-536-3782; mflowers@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Frazier, Hillman T., D-Jackson** (Dist. 27-Hinds): no work number; H-601-982-1871; hfrazier@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Gollott, Tommy, D-Biloxi** (Dist. 50-Harrison): W-228-432-0097; H-228-374-1431; tgollott@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

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**Hopson, Briggs, R-Vicksburg** (Dist. 23-Issaquena, Warren and Yazoo): no work number; H-601-636-6399; bhopson@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Horhn, John, D-Jackson** (Dist. 26-Hinds, Madison): W-601-366-4285; H-601-362-1045; jhorhn@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Hudson, Billy, R-Purvis** (Dist. 45-Forrest, Lamar, Pearl River, Perry, Stone): phone numbers non-published; bhudson@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Hyde-Smith, Cindy, D-Brookhaven** (Dist. 39, Lawrence, Lincoln, Simpson): Work and home 601-835-3322; chydsmith@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Jackson, Gary, R-French Camp** (Dist. 15-Attala, Calhoun, Choctaw, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, Webster, Winston): no work number; H-662-262-9273; gjackson@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Jackson, Robert, D-Marks** (Dist. 11-Coahoma, Quitman, Tate, Tunica): W-662-326-4000; H-662-326-3637; rjackson@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Jackson, Sampson, D-DeKalb** (Dist. 32-Kemper, Lauderdale, Noxubee, Winston): W-601-743-5900; H-601-677-2305; sjackson@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Jones, Kenneth, D-Canton** (Dist. 21-Attala, Holmes, Madison, Yazoo): no work number; H-601-849-34-38; kjones@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Jordan, David, D-Greenwood** (Dist. 24-Holmes, Leflore, Tallahatchie): W-662-453-2246; H-662-453-5361; djordan@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**King, Tom, R-Petal** (Dist. 44, Forrest, Lamar, Perry): Work and home-601-582-3617; tking@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Kirby, Dean, R-Pearl** (Dist. 30-Rankin): W-601-939-5968; H-601-932-1966; dkirby@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Lee, Ezell, D-Picayune** (Dist. 47-Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, Stone): W-601-798-6961; H-601-798-5270; elee@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Lee, Perry, R-Mendenhall** (Dist. 35-Copiah, Covington, Rankin, Simpson): no work number; H-601-847-1178; plee@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**McDaniel, Chris, R-Ellisville** (Dist. 42-Jones): no work number; H-601-428-0541; cmcdaniel@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Mettetal, Nolan, D-Sardis** (Dist. 10-Panola, Tate): no work number; H-662-487-1512; nmzettetal@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

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**Moffatt, Tommy, R-Gautier** (Dist. 52-Jackson): W-228-497-2533; H-228-497-2237; tmoffatt@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Montgomery, Haskins, D-Bay Springs** (Dist. 34-Jasper, Jones, Scott, Smith): no work number; H-601-764-3068; hmontgomery@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Nunnelee, Alan, R-Tupelo** (Dist. 6-Lee, Pontotoc): W-662-840-9911; H-662-680-8671; anunnelee@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Powell, Eric, D-Corinth** (Dist. 4-Alcorn, Tishomingo, Tippah): H-662-286-9953; no work number; epowell@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Stone, Bill, D-Ashland** (Dist. 2-Benton, Marshall, Tippah): no work number; H-662-224-3949; bstone@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Simmons, Willie, D-Cleveland** (Dist. 13-Bolivar, Humphreys, Sunflower): W-662-846-7433; H-662-846-7080; wsimmons@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Tollison, Gray, D-Oxford** (Dist. 9-Lafayette, Tallahatchie, Yalobusha): W-662-234-7070; H-662-234-8395; gtollison@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Turner, Bennie, D-West Point** (Dist. 16-Clay, Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Noxubee): W-662-494-6611; H-662-494-5061; bturner@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Walls, Johnnie, D-Greenville** (Dist. 12-Bolivar, Washington): W-662-335-6001; H-662-332-4522; jwalls@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Ward, Giles, R-Louisville** (Dist. 18, Leake, Neshoba, Winston): H-228-762-2272; gward@senate.state.ms.us.

**Watson, Michael, R-Pascagoula** (Dist. 51-Jackson): no work number; H-228-475-3103; mwatson@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Wilemon, J.P. Jr., D-Belmont** (Dist. 5-Itawamba, Prentiss, Tishomingo): no work number; H-662-454-7585; jwilemon@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

**Yancey, Lee, R-Brandon** (Dist. 20-Madison, Rankin): no work number; H-601-292-3329; lyancey@mail.senate.state.ms.us.

# Legislative Monitoring Tools

## COMPREHENSIVE SITES

<http://www.clarionledger.com/>  
<http://www.mississippi.gov/>  
<http://www.50states.com/>  
<http://www.vote-smart.org/>  
[www.stateline.org/live/states/Mississippi](http://www.stateline.org/live/states/Mississippi)

## POLITICAL AND OPINION BLOGS

<http://www.clarionledger.com/>. (Explore Blogs tab)  
David Hampton blog  
Marshall Ramsey blog  
Red/Blue blog (Andy Taggart and Jere Nash)  
Sid Salter blog  
Student Voices  
Community Voices

## FIRST AMENDMENT BLOG

<http://www.yallpolitics.com/> (Alan Lange)  
<http://www.cottonmouthblog.blogspot.com/> (John Leek)  
<http://www.majorityinms.com/> (Brett Kittredge)  
<http://www.willbardwell.blogspot.com/> (Will Bardwell)  
[www.jacksonprogressive.com/JPBlog/](http://www.jacksonprogressive.com/JPBlog/) (Tom Lowe)  
[www.jacksonfreepress.com/ladd.php](http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/ladd.php) (Donna Ladd)

## STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Gov. Haley Barbour: <http://www.governorbarbour.com/>  
Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant: <http://www.ltgovbryant.com/>  
Sec. of State Delbert Hosemann: <http://www.sos.state.ms.us/>  
Attorney General Jim Hood: <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/>  
State Treasurer Tate Reeves: <http://www.treasury.state.ms.us/>  
Agriculture Commissioner Lester Spell: <http://www.mdac.state.ms.us/>  
Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney: <http://www.doi.state.ms.us/>  
State Auditor Stacey Pickering: <http://www.osa.state.ms.us/>

## ADVOCACY GROUPS

Christian Coalition of Mississippi: <http://www.cc.org/>  
Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation: <http://www.glaad.org/>  
Equality Mississippi: <http://www.equalityms.org/>  
Mississippi ACLU: <http://www.msacul.org/>  
Mississippi Christian Action Commission: <http://www.christianaction.com/>  
Mississippi Family Council: <http://www.msfamily.org/>  
Mississippi Right to Life: [www.nrlc.org/states](http://www.nrlc.org/states)  
National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League: <http://www.naral.org/>

## AGRICULTURE

Mississippi Farm Bureau: <http://www.msfb.com/>  
Bill Status/monitoring

## HOUSE AND SENATE BILL STATUS UPDATE.

**PHONE: (601)359-3719.**  
Bill status: <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/default.htm>  
House Clerk. (601)359-3360. Copies of House Bills (601)359-3358.  
Senate Clerk. (601)359-3202. Copies of Senate Bills. (601)359-3229.  
Miss. Center for Public Policy: [www.msppolicy.org/index.php](http://www.msppolicy.org/index.php)

## BUSINESS/LABOR ISSUES

XP DNC International Organized Labor Directory: [www.xpdnc.com/links](http://www.xpdnc.com/links)  
Mississippi Economic Council: <http://www.msmecc.com/>  
Mississippi Manufacturers Assn.: <http://www.mma-web.org/>  
National Federation of Independent Business: <http://www.nfib.org/>  
Mississippi Assn. of State Employees: [www.geocities.com/capitolhill/lobby/4017](http://www.geocities.com/capitolhill/lobby/4017)

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Campaign Finance Division Secretary of State's Office. Phone: (601) 359-1350. FAX: (601)359-5019. [www.sos.state.ms.us/elections/CampFinc](http://www.sos.state.ms.us/elections/CampFinc).  
Campaign Finance Information Center. <http://www.campaignfinance.org/>.  
Center for Responsive Politics. <http://www.opensecrets.org/>.  
Federal Elections Commission. <http://www.fec.gov/>.  
Institute on Money in State Politics. <http://www.followthemoney.org/>.

## THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

<http://www.publicintegrity.com/>.

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Miss. Assn. of Supervisors: <http://www.masnetwork.org/>

## DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Mississippi Data Center: [www.olemiss.edu/depts/sdc](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/sdc)  
U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/>

## DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Miss. Bureau of Narcotics: <http://www.dps.state.ms.us/>  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency: [www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/mississippi.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/mississippi.html)

## EDUCATION

**Mississippi Assn. of Educators: <http://www.ms.nea.org/>**  
American Federation of Teachers: <http://www.aft.org/>  
State College Board: <http://www.ihl.state.ms.us/>  
State community colleges: <http://www.sbcjc.cc.ms.us/>  
State Dept. of Education: <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/>

## ELECTIONS/VOTING

Elections Division, Secretary of State's Office. Phone: (601) 359-1350.  
FAX: (601)359-5019. [www.sos.state.ms.us/elections.asp](http://www.sos.state.ms.us/elections.asp)  
League of Women Voters: <http://www.lwv-ms.org/>  
Historical voter registration data: <http://www.census.gov/>  
Population: [www.socdemo/voting.html](http://www.socdemo/voting.html)

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks: <http://www.mdwfp.com/>  
Institute for Southern Studies: <http://www.southernstudies.org/>  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/>  
Sierra Club: [www.sierraclub.org/ms](http://www.sierraclub.org/ms)

## ETHICS/INVESTIGATIVE

Legislative Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review Committee: <http://www.peer.state.ms.us/>  
State Auditor's Office: <http://www.osa.state.ms.us/>  
State Ethics Commission. 146 East Amite St. Room 103, Jackson MS 39201. Phone: 601-359-1285. <http://www.ethics.state.ms.us/>.  
Mississippi Center for Freedom of Information: <http://www.mcfoi.org/>  
National FOI Coalition: <http://www.nfoic.org/>  
Common Cause of MS: <http://www.commoncause.org/>

## FISCAL ISSUES

Miss. Management Reporting System: <http://www.mmrs.state.ms.us/>  
Miss. State Tax Commission: <http://www.mstc.state.ms.us/>

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 139 Jackson MS 39205  
Phone: 601-359-3150 Fax: 601-359-3741  
<http://www.governor.state.ms.us/>

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

State Dept. of Health and Human Services: <http://www.mdhs.state.ms.us/>  
Mississippi Health Advocacy Program: <http://www.mhap.org/>  
Mississippi Forum on Children and Families: <http://www.mfcf.org/>  
HIV/AIDS: [hivinsite.ucsf.edu/](http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/) InSite.jsp  
Mississippi Children's Health Insurance Program: [www.dom.state.ms.us/CHIP/chip.html](http://www.dom.state.ms.us/CHIP/chip.html)  
Families USA: <http://www.familiesusa.org/>  
Poverty data: [www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html)

## HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency: <http://www.msema.org/>  
Federal Emergency Management Agency: <http://www.fema.gov/>  
U.S. Small Business Administration: [www.sba.gov/disaster\\_recov/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/index.html)  
Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal: <http://www.governorbarbour.com/>

## LEGAL /JUDICIAL

Mississippi Supreme Court: <http://www.mssc.state.ms.us/>  
Miss. Lawyers World Wide Web Domain: <http://www.mslawyer.com/>  
Legislative calendar

Senate and House Docket Offices, P.O. Box 1018, Jackson MS 39215.  
601-359-3358(House), 601-359-2259 (Senate). <http://www.ls.state.ms.us/>

## LOBBYING

Lobbyists' donations: <http://www.followthemoney.org/>  
Secretary of State's Office: [www.sos.state.ms.us/elections/Lobbying](http://www.sos.state.ms.us/elections/Lobbying)

## MEDIA

Broadcasters: [www.msucares.com/news/media](http://www.msucares.com/news/media)  
Educational: <http://www.etv.state.ms.us/>  
Newspapers: <http://www.mspress.org/>

## MUNICIPAL ISSUES

Miss. Municipal League: <http://www.mmlonline.com/>  
Municipal salaries: [www.msgovt.org/files/2006SURVEYrevised.pdf](http://www.msgovt.org/files/2006SURVEYrevised.pdf).webloc

## POLICY THINK TANKS

Natl. Conference of State Legislatures: <http://www.ncsl.org/>  
Stennis Institute of Government: [www.sig.msstate.edu/mainpage.fwx](http://www.sig.msstate.edu/mainpage.fwx)  
Social Science Research Center at Miss. State Univ.: <http://www.ssrc.msstate.edu/>  
Public opinion data: <http://www.pollingreport.com/>

## POLITICS

Democrats: <http://www.msdemocrats.net/>  
Republicans: <http://www.msgop.org/>  
Magnolia Report: <http://www.magnoliareport.com/>  
Web political resource site: <http://www.political1.com/>

## STATE RETIREMENT PROGRAMS

Public Employees Retirement System: <http://www.pers.state.ms.us/>  
state Tax Climate  
The Tax Foundation: [www.taxfoundation.org/research/topic/38.html](http://www.taxfoundation.org/research/topic/38.html)  
Tort reform  
Miss. Trial Lawyers Assn.: <http://www.mstla.com/>  
Mississippians for Economic Progress: <http://www.mfep.org/>

## TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Miss. Dept. of Transportation: <http://www.mdot.state.ms.us/>

# Tips to Help You Communicate With Your Legislator



## TIPS TO HELP YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

*The following tips will help you communicate with your legislators with ease.*

- Arrive on time. Legislators' time is very limited, especially at the state level.
- Do not be intimidated. These legislators are in the business of representing the public's interest. They need to learn more about your association and the people who work with you.
- Know your legislators. If you don't already know your representatives, make it your business to get acquainted. You should know about issues that are important to them. Do you live in their district? What are their committee assignments? What position have they taken on your issue in the past?
- Be a resource. Legislators are expected to be experts on every issue. However, they rely on you to provide that information. Be prepared to answer questions regarding key issues. Your credibility will increase if you provide useful answers.
- Show your expertise. Yes, the legislator will want to know all about an issue from you. That is because you are the expert on your issue and how it affects the legislator. Legislators want to do what's best for their constituents.
- Avoid false promises. If you don't know the answer, make sure to ask someone who does. Nothing is worse than providing inaccurate information. Let them know you will follow up with their inquiry and do it ASAP. The quick response will get their attention and gain their respect. However, false promises could really ruin your reputation and credibility.
- Listen, and always say "Thank you." Listen to what the legislator has to say, even if you don't agree with what he or she is saying. You can state facts to back your stance, but don't argue. Thank the legislator for taking the time to talk to you. Someone will be following up with a thank you note for his or her attendance; however, if you spent a fair amount of time with a legislator, it would be more personal if you signed that letter or sent your own.
- Addressing a legislator. Always address the legislator formally as "Representative \_\_\_\_\_" or "Senator \_\_\_\_\_." If you know the legislator's leadership position, be more specific, as in "Majority Leader \_\_\_\_\_, what a pleasure to see you."
- Keep it brief. The legislator is attending your function to meet and greet your organization's employees and/or members.
- Be energetic. A good attitude and enthusiasm about your business issues will reflect in the legislator's approach to you. Communication is predominately non-verbal, so a good smile and body language will leave a resounding impression on the legislator. Say exactly what you want. Ask the legislator to vote no in committee or on the floor vote when it comes up. Make it very clear what action you want.
- Stick to the point and only address one issue per message/or letter. Don't clutter up your communication on MAE with other issues -- even if they are Educators related.
- Include your home address (this says you are a constituent and therefore can VOTE) and your home phone and office phone. This indicates you are sincere and open to learning the legislator's point of view.
- Address your message appropriately (Yes, even via e-mail):

The Honorable John Doe

State Capitol

City, State Zip

Dear Senator Doe:

The Honorable Jane Doe

State Capitol

City, State Zip

Dear Representative Doe:

- Track the action. If the legislator voted in the way you asked, send a brief thank you note. If they didn't, express your disappointment and request reconsideration in the future.

# MAE Legislative Committee

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Lucretia Woods, Vice-Chair/Delta	Roxanna Arcement, Capitol	Seyed Darbandi, Vice-President
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Janice Magers, Northeast Retired	Thelma Bowles, East Central	
Mary McEwen, BOD Liaison/Southwest	Jennifer Pratt, Northeast	
Emily Ashworth, Northwest		

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## HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

