

★ ONE VOICE ★ VOTER GUIDE

One Voice, Changing Mississippi One Vote at a Time.



OUR WORK

One Voice's work with voting rights is rooted in two programs: MS Civic Engagement Roundtable and Election Protection Call Center. The Mississippi Civic Engagement Roundtable is a network of non-partisan organizations dedicated to achieving an inclusive, engaged, just, and equitable state for all Mississippians by increasing voter awareness and education. In partnership with the MS NAACP, our aim for the Election Protection Call Center is to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process by tracking election concerns and complaints through a central database.

There are some important races on the ballots across Mississippi. One Voice knows that this is one of the most important elections for voters in Mississippi. Voters going to the polls will be choosing their Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, District Attorney, Supervisor, Chancery and Circuit Clerks and several other positions.

The power to vote and elect qualified representatives is a clear and objective path to acquiring freedom. However, that right has long been denied or restricted to far too many people, especially in Mississippi. Mississippi's voting laws are some of the most restrictive in the nation. In fact, data suggests that Mississippi is the second most difficult state to vote in.

Many obstacles lie in the way of electoral freedom in this state, including voter I.D. laws, voter purging, voter suppression, polling place closures and consolidations, gerrymandering, and disenfranchisement, just to name a few.

One Voice's aim is to ensure that all people have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. Your vote is your voice. It gives you the same opportunity to have a say in the laws and ideas that impact your destiny.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ◆ **Voting In Mississippi**
- ◆ **Things To Know**
- ◆ **Absentee Ballot Process**
- ◆ **If You Have a Felony Conviction**
- ◆ **Important Dates**
- ◆ **What's On the Ballot**
- ◆ **Who's On the Ballot Statewide**
- ◆ **Mississippi Current Landscape**
- ◆ **2022 General Elections Results by County**
- ◆ **Legislative Priorities**
- ◆ **2023 Voting Laws**

Voting In Mississippi

Voting Eligibility Requirements

To vote in Mississippi, you must register. To register to vote, you must be a citizen of the United States, be at least 18 years of age (those who are 17 years of age who will be 18 before the next general election may pre-register), have lived in Mississippi for at least 30 days before the election, not convicted of a disenfranchising crime, and not declared mentally incompetent by a court. If you meet these requirements, you can register to vote.

Register to Vote

In order to participate in an election, a qualified voter must be properly registered before the election. The Circuit Clerk office will process the voter registration application and any by-mail voter registration form that has been postmarked at least thirty (30) days before the election.

To avoid any possible delays in counting your vote in the election, update and check your registration information.

Voter ID Requirements

Photo ID is required in order to vote. Expired photo IDs are acceptable as long as they are not more than 10 years old. Acceptable forms of ID are:

- A driver's license
- Photo ID card issued by a branch, department or entity of the State of Mississippi
- US passport
- Government employee ID card
- Firearms license
- Student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college or community/junior college
- US military ID
- Tribal photo ID
- Any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the US government or any state government
- Mississippi Voter ID Card

If you do not have any of these forms of ID, you can obtain a Mississippi Voter ID Card at no cost. You can apply for a Mississippi Voter ID card at any Circuit Clerk's office during normal business hours.

Provisional Ballot Rules

A voter who does not have an acceptable form of identification can cast a provisional ballot (known as an affidavit ballot in Mississippi). For the ballot to be counted, the voter must show proper ID or apply for a Mississippi Voter ID Card at the circuit clerk's office within five business days. Provisional Ballots are counted 5 business days after the election.

Things To Know

1. **Poll Schedule** - On Election Day, each polling place will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. central time. A voter in line by 7:00 p.m. has the right to vote.
2. **Voter ID** - A voter must provide a current and valid form of photo identification at the polling place in order to vote. If the voter DOES NOT HAVE photo identification, he or she may cast a provisional Affidavit Ballot on Election Day. Acceptable forms of ID include: Mississippi Driver's License; US Passport; Mississippi Voter Identification Card; Photo ID card issued by a Mississippi college; Photo ID card issued by State of Mississippi; Mississippi firearms license, with photo; US Military photo ID card; Photo ID issued by US government or any state government, such as a driver's license issued by a state other than Mississippi; Photo employee ID card issued by US Government; and Tribal photo ID card.
3. **Accessibility** - Every qualified elector is entitled to vote in Mississippi regardless of disability. A physically disabled voter may vote at a polling place through "curbside voting." Additionally, there should be voting equipment at every polling place to accommodate voters with disabilities, including non-visual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired.
4. **Assistance at the polls** - Any voter, regardless of whether he or she is able to read, write or speak English or is blind or otherwise physically disabled, has the right to receive help voting from a person of his or her choice other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union.
5. **If a voter has moved** - If a registered voter has moved to a different precinct in the same county prior to the election, he or she can vote at the polling place of his or her new residence using a provisional Affidavit Ballot. If a registered voter has moved to a different county, he or she can vote in the county and precinct in which they formerly resided if the move occurred within 30 days of Election Day and can then only vote for President.
6. **Mistake ballot** - If a voter makes a mistake or "spoils" his or her ballot, and has not yet cast the ballot, the voter has the right to a replacement ballot after returning the spoiled ballot.
7. **Polling place boundary** - Voters have the right to wait to vote (or to vote) without anyone electioneering or trying to influence their vote in any other way within 150 feet of the entrance of the building in which the polls are located.
8. **Provisional Affidavit Ballots** - A voter has the right to vote by provisional Affidavit Ballot if the voter believes he or she is properly registered to vote and:
 - the voter's name does not appear on the list of registered voters for the precinct or
 - The voter does not provide proper photo identification at the polling place. However, a provisional Affidavit Ballot should only be cast as a last resort



If You Have a Felony Conviction

Today, there are 23 crimes that disenfranchise Mississippi residents from voting. In 2005, the Mississippi Attorney General added 11 new disenfranchising crimes.

If you have been convicted in Mississippi for a disenfranchising crime, you cannot vote. The disenfranchising crimes are:

- Voter Fraud
- Murder
- Rape
- Bribery
- Theft
- Carjacking
- Arson
- Obtaining money or goods under false pretense
- Perjury
- Forgery
- Embezzlement
- Bigamy
- Armed Robbery
- Extortion
- Larceny
- Felony Bad Check
- Felony Shoplifting
- Receiving Stolen Goods
- Robbery
- Timber Larceny
- Unlawful taking of motor vehicle
- Statutory Rape
- Larceny under lease or rental agreement

However, if a voter has been convicted of a similar offense in another state or a federal felony, they can still vote in Mississippi.

If a voter is in jail awaiting trial and not convicted of a felony, they can vote. They may request an absentee ballot. If a voter in jail is not convicted of one of the above crimes, they may vote by absentee ballot.

MISSISSIPPI RIGHTS RESTORATION PROCESS

Persons seeking to regain the right to vote can attempt to do so in three different ways: they can apply for a Pardon from the Governor; they can apply for an Executive Order Restoring Civil Rights from the Governor; or they can seek to have the Mississippi State Legislature pass a Bill of Suffrage on their behalf, which must pass with a two-thirds majority. The practice results in few people gaining their rights.

To learn more contact One Voice at info@uniteonevoice.org or call 601-960-9594.



Absentee Ballot Process

Mississippi does not have regular early voting, but voters who qualify for absentee voting may vote absentee in person at their local Circuit Clerk office before Election Day.

Absentee voting is available if you meet any of the criteria below. The last day to request an absentee ballot is five days before the election. You can return your absentee ballot request form through the mail or in person. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received up to five days after the election in order to be counted. Contact your local elections office for more information.

You are eligible to vote absentee if you are a qualified and registered voter who will be absent from your county of residence on Election Day, or are:

- A disabled war veteran who is a patient in any hospital and a citizen of Mississippi
- A citizen of Mississippi temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia
- An employee engaged in interstate transportation
- A student, teacher or administrator
- An employee engaged in offshore employment, or as an employee on a vessel or other watercraft
- An employee, businessperson, professional, tradesman or worker required to be over 50 miles away from the county of residence on election day due to employment
- A person with a temporary or permanent physical disability
- 65 years of age or older
- A parent, spouse or dependent of a person with a temporary or permanent disability hospitalized more than 50 miles from home county and with such person on Election Day
- A member of a congressional delegation

Please check with your voter registrar to determine if you are entitled to vote absentee and to learn the procedures for doing so.

Those who requested an absentee ballot but end up voting in person:
You may only do so by a provisional ballot. Do not mail a ballot and vote in person.

U.S. military personnel and overseas citizens can find information on how to register to vote and request an absentee ballot at the Overseas Vote Foundation.



Important Dates

Friday, June 9, 2023
Absentee Ballot Applications Available

Tuesday, July 10, 2023
Voter Registration Deadline for Primary Election

Monday, July 31, 2023
Voter Registration Deadline Runoff Election Day (if required)

Saturday, August 5, 2023
In-Person Absentee Voting Deadline

Tuesday, August 8, 2023
Election Type: Primary

Tuesday, August 29, 2023
Primary Runoff Election Day (if required)

Friday, September 8, 2023
Absentee Ballot Applications Available

Tuesday, October 9, 2023
Voter Registration Deadline

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Election Type: General



What's On the Ballot

State Offices

Governor
Lt. Governor
Secretary of State
Attorney General
Auditor
Treasurer
Commissioner of Insurance
Comm. of Ag. & Commerce
State Senators
State Representatives

State District Offices

Transportation Commissioners
Public Service Commissioners
District Attorney

County Offices

Sheriff
Chancery Clerk
Circuit Clerk
Tax Assessor
Tax Collector
Coroner
County Attorney
Surveyor

County District Offices

Supervisors
Justice Court Judges
Constables
Election Commissioners



Who's On the Ballot Statewide

Candidates for State of Mississippi Governor

Brandon Presley - Democrat
Bob - Hickingbottom - Democrat
Gwendolyn Gray - Independent
Tate Reeves - Republican
John Witcher - Republican
David Grady - Hardigree - Republican
Gregory Wash - Democrat

Candidates for State of Mississippi Lt. Governor

D. Ryan Grover - Democrat
Delbert Hosemann - Republican
Shane Quick - Republican
Tiffany Longino - Republican
Chris McDaniel - Republican

Candidates for State of Mississippi Attorney General

Greta Martin - Democrat
Lynn Fitch - Republican

Candidates for State of Mississippi Secretary of State

Ty Pinkins - Democrat
Michael Watson - Republican

Candidates for State of Mississippi Treasurer

Addie Green - Democrat
David McRae - Republican

Candidates for State of Mississippi Agriculture Commissioner

Robert Bradford - Democrat
Robert Briggs - Democrat
Andy Gipson - Republican
Bethany - Hill Democrat
Terry Rogers II - Democrat

Candidates for State of Mississippi State Auditor

Larry Bradford - Democrat
Shad White - Republican



Who's On the Ballot Statewide

Candidates for State of Mississippi Insurance Commissioner

Bruce Burton - Democrat
Mike Chaney - Republican
Mitch Young - Republican

Candidates for State of Mississippi Public Service Commissioner

Brent Bailey - Central
Dekeither Stamps - Central
Mandy Gunasekara - Northern
Tanner Newman - Northern
Chris Brown - Northern
Dane Maxwell - Southern
Nelson Wayne Carr - Southern

Candidates for State of Mississippi District Attorney (with an opponent)

Name - District

Adam Hopper - 5
Rosalind H. Jordan - 5
Shameca Collins - 6
Tim Cotton - 6
Jody Owens - 7
Darla Palmer - 7
Michael Carr - 11
Brenda Mitchell - 11
Brandon-Adams - 14
Joey Norton - 14
Patrick Beasley - 14
Scott Colom - 16
Marc Amos - 16
J. Douglas Darlymple, II - 16
Chuck Easley - 16
Daniella Shorter - 22
Nickita Banks - 22
Bob Morris - 23
Matthew Barton - 23

Candidates for State of Mississippi Transportation Commissioner

Name - District - Party

Willie Simmons - Central - Democrat
Ricky "Pennington, Jr." - Central - Republican
Charles Busby - Southern - Republican
Steven Brian Griffin - Southern - Independent
John Caldwell - Northern - Republican



Mississippi Current Landscape

There are 148 African American county supervisors in Mississippi. In 2010 there were 134.

There are 90 African American mayors in Mississippi (298 municipalities). In 2010 there were 77.

46 municipalities are majority African American but do not have an African American mayor.

21 African American sheriffs

19 African American chancery clerks

21 African American circuit clerks

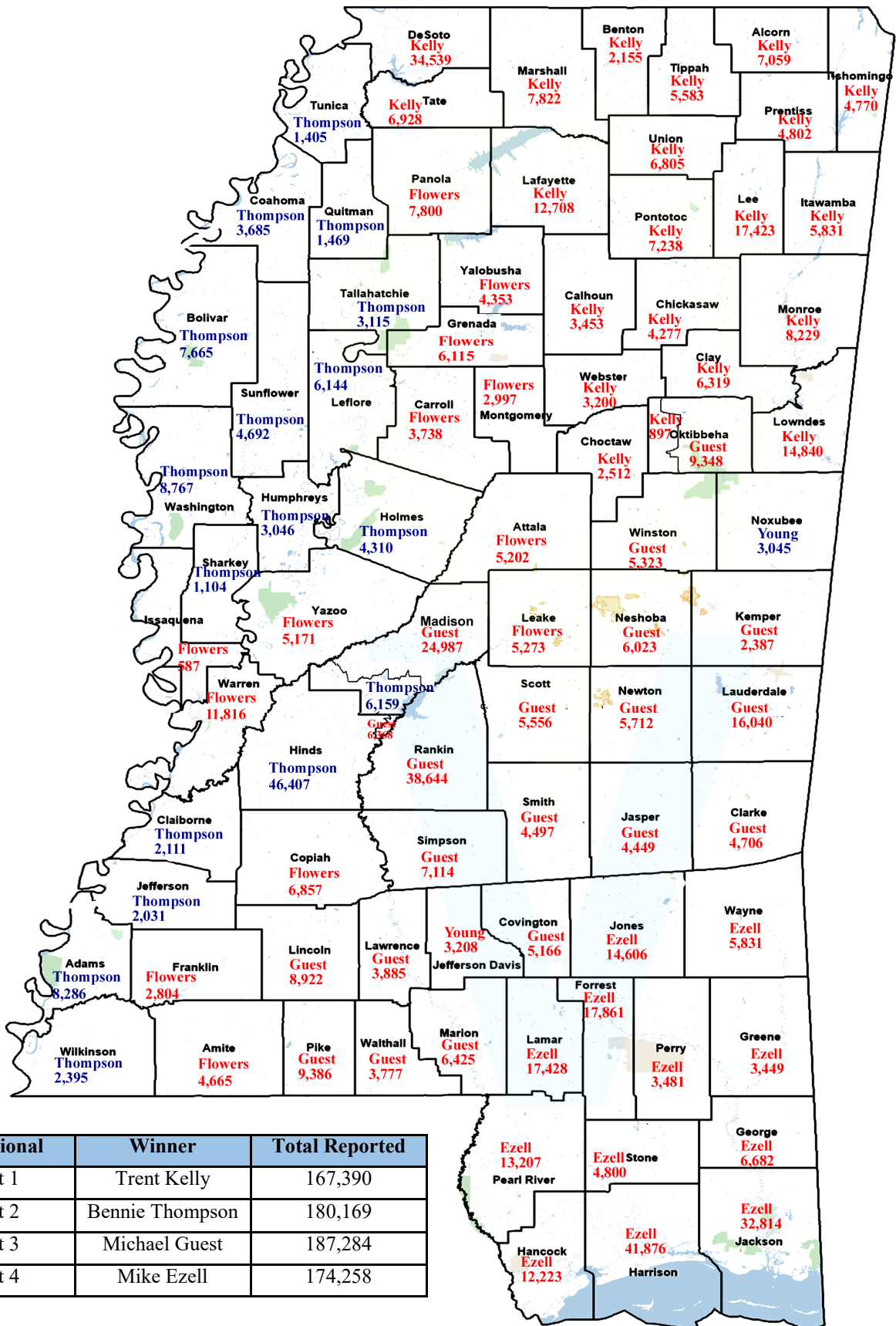
79 African American constables

10 African American county prosecuting attorneys

35 African-American tax assessors or collectors

There is at least one African-American elected official in 71 of the 82 counties.

Mississippi 2022 General Elections Results by County



Congressional	Winner	Total Reported
District 1	Trent Kelly	167,390
District 2	Bennie Thompson	180,169
District 3	Michael Guest	187,284
District 4	Mike Ezell	174,258



2023 Legislative Priorities

One Voice supports the following 2023 state legislative priorities:

Criminal Justice

Reforming the state's criminal justice system to reduce disparities and help support safe communities.

Education

Advancing educational opportunities that ensure every child in Mississippi thrives, regardless

Tax and Budget

Improving the state's budget and tax systems to help strengthen local communities.

Voting Rights

Ensuring that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process

Working Families Support

Improving the lives of working families.

2023 Voting Laws



During the 2023 Legislative Session, lawmakers introduced over 120 bills related to voting and elections. Bills introduced to authorize early voting, allow for online and same-day voter registration all died early in the legislative session. No suffrage bills to restore the right to vote to people with felony convictions passed this session. And the state failed to reinstate or amend the ballot initiative process. In all, in 2023, Mississippi lawmakers made voting rights in the state even more restrictive. Most notably, restrictive voting laws passed in 2023 include laws that make it easier to purge voters from the rolls and a law passed under the guise of “election integrity” that might deter voting from vulnerable populations.

House Bill 1310

House Bill 1310 is a voting purge law that authorizes Secretary of State Michael Watson to audit election procedures of the 2023, 2024, 2026, and 2027 general elections in all counties in the state. Under the bill, voters will be placed on inactive status if they have not voted across two federal elections. After failing to vote during that time period, local election officials are authorized to send the voter a notice by postcard to confirm his or her address. If the voter fails to confirm his or her address four years after receiving the notice or fails to vote, the voter will be purged from the voter rolls. If the voter is purged and placed on inactive status, he or she will be removed from the selection pool for jury duty and must cast an affidavit ballot to vote at their precinct in the election after being purged.

Senate Bill 2358

Senate Bill 2358 is a law that intends to prohibit ballot harvesting under the guise of “election integrity.” The penalty for violation of this law is imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to \$3,000, or both. Family members, household members, caregivers, an election official, or an employee of the United States Postal Service will not be penalized for ballot harvesting under this law, but the law is likely to have no impact on unfounded voter fraud concerns and could deter vulnerable populations like the elderly or people with disabilities from voting who rely on someone else to collect their absentee ballots in order to vote.^[7]

**Elections must reflect the will of the people,
not the interests and priorities of politicians in power.**

MISSISSIPPI CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE

**GET OUT THE
VOTE**

ELECTION PROTECTION

Have Election Questions? Call:

1-888-601-VOTE

**Have questions about the upcoming election or voting problems.
Call our Election Protection Hotline 888-601-8683.**



**To learn more or get involved, join the Mississippi Civic Engagement Roundtable by
emailing info@uniteonevoice.org or by calling 601-960-9594.**



Contact Information

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Nsombi Lambright, *Executive Director*
(601) 960-9594 • nlambright@uniteonevoice.org

Kyra Roby, *Senior Policy Analyst*
kroby@uniteonevoice.org

Monica McInnis, *Program Manager*
mmcinnis@uniteonevoice.org

Courtney Body, *Advocacy Coordinator*
cbody@uniteonevoice.org

Isaiah McCoy, *Community Organizer*
imccoy@uniteonevoice.org

For Public Relations/Communication Assistance:

Ayana Kinnel, *Communications Director*
akinnel@uniteonevoice.org

One Voice

**ONE VILLAGE
ONE VISION
ONE VOICE**

Address: 1072 W Lynch Street Suite 7 - Jackson, MS - 39203

Phone: (601) 960-9594

Email: info@uniteonevoice.org

Website: www.onevoicems.org