

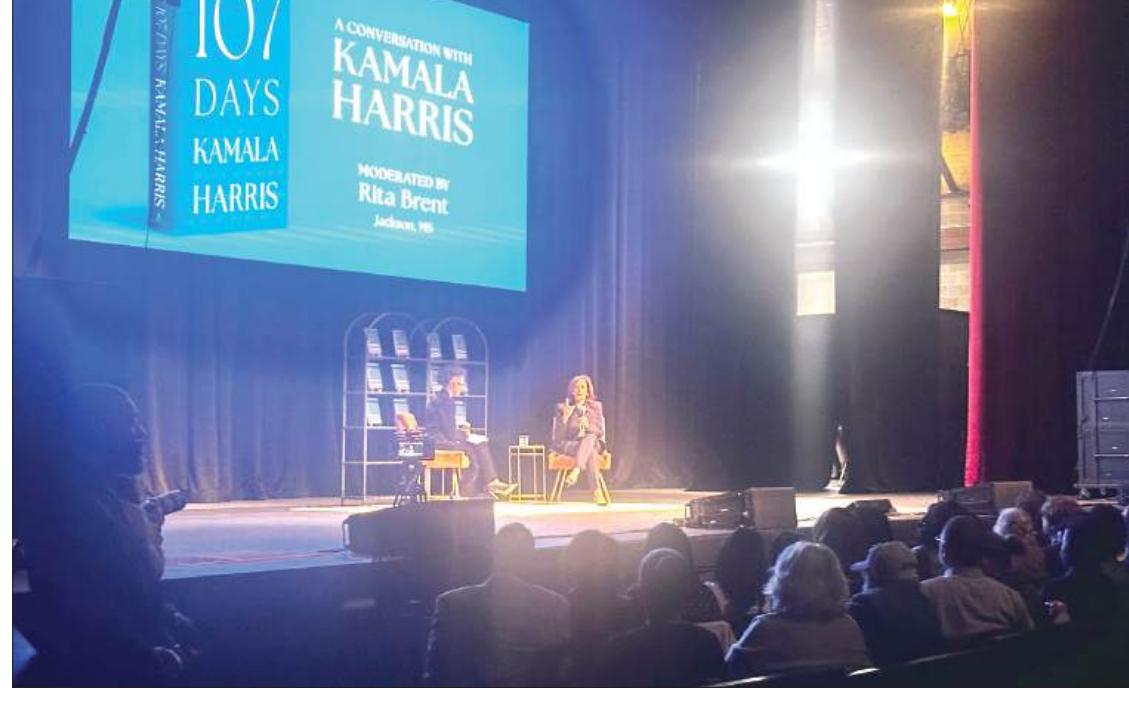
# A Conversation with Kamala Harris in Jackson, Mississippi

By James Hampton III  
Guest Writer

On January 14th, 2026, the newly renovated Thalia Mara Hall in downtown Jackson, MS hosted its first event post reopening, "A Conversation with Kamala Harris". The 49th vice president who was also the first African American and first woman in United States history to hold that position, visited The City with Soul as part of a national book tour promoting her current best-selling memoir, 107 Days. The title of the book is a reference to her historically short-yet-dynamic presidential campaign as the Democratic Candidate after Biden's withdrawal in 2024. People arrived to the 7:00 PM event two hours early. Those who had purchased special Meet and Greet tickets were allowed into the auditorium and backstage where they got their books signed and took photographs with the former vice-president while the rest of the audience waited in the lobby some chatting excitedly, some enjoying refreshments, and others just taking in the ambiance of the upgraded yet still classy venue.

The auditorium doors opened to all ticket holders around 6:50 PM and with a few mix-ups here and there people were able to find their assigned seats. The house lights dimmed and the event moderator, Jackson's own, Rita Brent, came from behind the curtain to enthusiastic applause. Moments later after a pithy introduction Kamala Harris strode

Harris  
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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON AND JAMES HAMPTON

## Jackson Mayor John Horhn delivers formal apology to civil rights icon Hezekiah Watkins

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mayor John Horhn delivered a formal public apology on behalf of the City of Jackson to civil rights icon Hezekiah Watkins during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast Celebration, this week, at Greater Bethlehem Temple Church. The apology acknowledged the harm Watkins suffered as a 13-year-old when he was wrongfully arrested.

Watkins  
Continued on page 3



L-R Brian Grizzell, John Horhn, Hezekiah Watkins, Lashia Brown-Thomas, and Kevin Parkinson

**Inside**  
Serving those in need with Girl Scout Troop 5351



35th Annual Dr. M.L.K., Jr. Prayer Breakfast echoes the long, unfinished fight for social justice and equality



Mayor John Horhn, honoree Hezekiah Watkins, Judah School of Performing Arts, and Amber Jones, Director.

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D.  
Contributing Writer

mandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." This is "a sacrificial, selfless love." Rev. James Shoulders – Pastor, Rising Sun Missionary Baptist Church – approached the podium praising and thanking God for the gift of the day. During his opening prayer, he asked God to, "Make us good stewards as we celebrate Dr. King and others. In our search for the promised land, we lift you up God." The pastor prayed for those in the community who live on edge and without a place to sleep. He also called for parents and others to work with children to reach their full potential and to welcome strangers who will become friends.

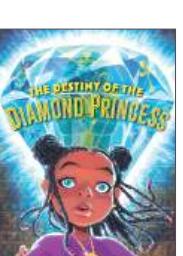
The crowd was a mixture of Hinds County Legislators, corporate partners, community service organizations, faith leaders, business leaders, professional leaders, students, and residents. Healing America from its sickness of social injustice and racism under God's guidance was the dominant theme that glued all together. Drawing on this theme, they reminded this writer of Matthew 7: 24-27, where Jesus compares those who hear and put His words to practice to a wise man who built his house on a rock, able to withstand storms, while those who hear but don't act are like a foolish man whose house built on sand lacks foundation and collapses.

Senator Hillman Frazier – Mississippi State Senate, District 27 – mentioned, "We're here because of the prayers of the righteous people." He urged those in attendance to think about Dr. King and "all that he has done for us." He noted that the fight against principalities and against efforts to close HBCUs must continue.

Representative Grace Butler-Washington – Mississippi House of Representatives, District 69 – voiced that Dr. King helped move America closer to a deeper purpose. She called for recommitment to build the dreamer's legacy with "renewed courage to believe that change is possible if we work together." Denoting John 15:12, the speaker emphasized the need for love: "This is my com-

Maxine Greenleaf – Vice President of Marketing, & Communications – Alcorn State University, asserted that the university and other HBCUs "have stood the test of time and have transformed our people in ways unimaginable." She maintained that for progress to

Destiny of the Diamond Princess



# Whose job is it to teach your children about financial literacy

By Tim C. Lee  
CEO & Founder of TCL Financial & Tax Services



Many times, adults have said to me, "Tim, if I knew then what I know now, my life would be totally different financially."

Periodically, I will receive a phone call from a listener of my radio broadcast stating, "Tim, I wish I would have known earlier in my life what you just talked about on your radio show."

On many occasions when I am having a financial counseling session with either a single individual or a married couple, I hear the words, "Tim, I wish the advice you are giving now would have been taught to me in school."

Ironically, I have never heard someone express to me, "Tim, I wish my parents would have taught me as a child about banking, finances, money, etc."

The number one influence on a child is consistently reported to be their parents. For this reason, I strongly recommend that these fundamental topics be taught early to children by their parents.

When it pertains to educating your children about financial literacy, I suggest you teach them these five

principles.

1) Earn: Personally, I do not believe in parents giving children an allowance. Indirectly, you are teaching them that money is consistently and randomly given to you without earning it. Instead, my recommendation is to create a Weekly Chore List. On this list, you will layout all of the chores around the house that your child can do to earn money. Next to each chore, have an amount they will earn once the task is completed and verified by you. Such items can include, cleaning bathroom(s), cutting the grass, doing laundry, dusting, mopping, sweeping, vacuuming, washing dishes, taking out trash, etc. Due to them being a part of the family and living rent free, I suggest placing tasks on the list that must be completed by them each week with no pay involved. If these non-pay tasks are not done, then they do not get paid for the other tasks they completed. Cleaning their bathroom, cleaning their bedroom, and making their bed are just a few examples that could fall in this category. When creating this Weekly Chore List, you want to make the amount they earn per task, and the maximum amount they will earn per week age appropriate. A child that is 10 years old should not be given \$50 per week for performing

duties on this list. In my opinion, \$10 is more appropriate.

2) Save: Once your child has earned their money for the week, you then want to teach them how to save. You want them to understand the concept of, "Pay yourself first." I recommend you open a savings account for them at a local bank or credit union. Each week as they get paid, have them deposit a minimum of 10 percent of their money earned. In addition to making these weekly deposits, you want to teach them how to log in each transaction to balance their ledger. Once your child is of mature age and responsible, in addition to having them a savings account, obtain them a checking account with a debit card attached to it. Balancing this account after each transaction should also be a requirement.

3) Spend: Teach your children how to responsibly spend the money they have earned. I do not recommend that the moment the child gets paid and make their minimum 10 percent deposit, they spend the rest of their money within hours and/or days. They need to be taught how to budget and ration their money to last until the next pay period. Children should also be taught how to gradually save money over time for things they can

not afford at that moment. As a parent, you do not want to form a habit of buying your children items they want at the time with the expectations that they will pay you back from their future earnings. Following that method is indirectly teaching them about borrowing money, impulse buying, and using credit.

4) Invest: This category might sound complicated, but to keep it simple, investing can be described as earning interest and/or a rate of return on the principle of your money. At a very young age, you want to teach your children about entrepreneurship, real estate, the stock market. From my experience, once introduced to these topics, children are eager and excited to learn more.

5) Give: You want to teach your children to have a philanthropist mindset. Not just with their money, but with their time as well. Teaching them early to give a portion of their money and time to local charities, nonprofit organizations, their place of worship, etc. is a great way to instill in them characteristics of a humanitarian.

Experts and studies show that it takes an average of 21 days to form a habit. If that is the case, then teaching your children these five principles

early in life through adulthood will instill in them more than just a habit. Essentially, you are teaching them a way of life.

Some parents might ask themselves, "How can I teach my children what I do not know, and how can I teach my children what I was not taught by my parents?"

My suggestion for these parents is to educate yourself and your children using books, Financial Advisors, Financial Coaches, the internet, podcast, seminars, etc. on topics relating to financial literacy, as well as these five principles.

Once your children are taught and grasp these principles pertaining to financial literacy, it will become second nature for them to instill and teach these philosophies to their children, and so on.

So who will break the cycle? Will it be you?

*Tim C. Lee is the CEO & Founder of TCL Financial & Tax Services, and the host of "The TCL Show" that airs every Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST on WMPR 90.1 FM in Jackson, MS. This is the show that is about "You, Life, and Money." You can e-mail Tim at [timclee@TCLFinancial-TaxServices.com](mailto:timclee@TCLFinancial-TaxServices.com)*

## At Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi,

we're not just about providing health insurance. We're creating a strong, supportive community that empowers every Mississippian to live their healthiest life. We make managing your health easier by empowering you with the tools and support you need to take proactive steps toward maintaining and improving your health. Working together, we're ensuring quality healthcare and wellness opportunities are within reach for all. Because when you are at your best, Mississippi is too.

**A healthy community begins with the health of its people – and when you thrive, we all do.**

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## Harris

Continued from page 1

onto the stage. The audience rose to give a standing ovation while the chorus of "On My Mama" by Victoria Monét played over the speakers. But just as things began to settle down Brent introduced another special guest, City of Jackson Mayor John Horhn who came out and presented Kamala Harris with the key to the city. The woman of the hour graciously thanked the Mayor and the people of Jackson while expressing why it was so important for her to come to Jackson. She said, "America's history was made in Jackson," listing such examples as "the Freedom Riders" (whose willingness to fill the jails in Jackson, MS, and even the State Penitentiary in Parchman, MS in 1961 provided the catalyst for the outlawing of racial discrimination in interstate bus transit), "Medgar Evers" (famous Civil Rights leader, legend, and martyr) and the "students of Tougaloo College" (referring perhaps to "The Tougaloo 9" and/or other history-making alums from that well-known Institution of Higher Learning). After expressing how honored she was by the gesture from the City of Jackson, Harris and Brent sat down again to begin the conversation that over 2000 people had filled the Thalia Mara Hall to hear.

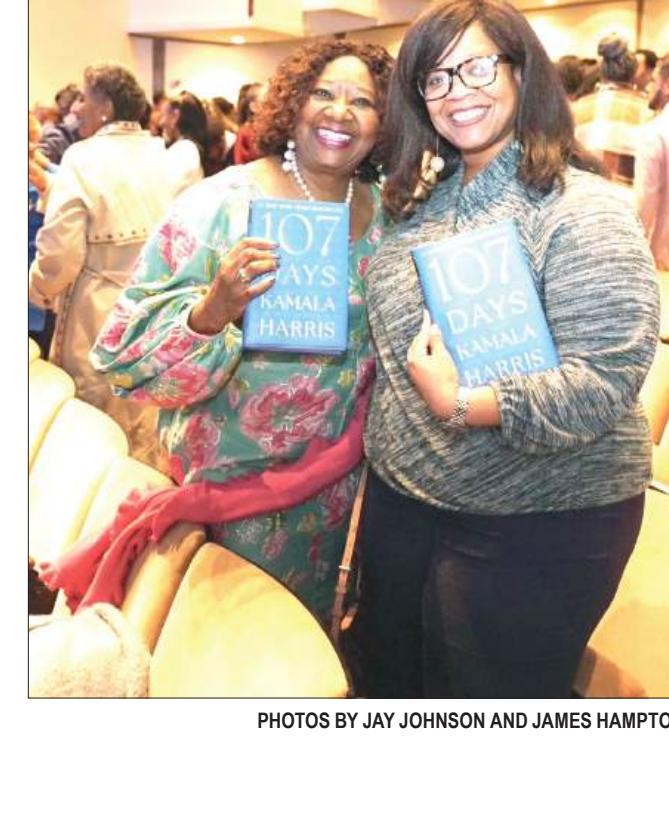
The people were not disappointed. En masse audible vocalizations like "hmm" and "mm-hmm" demonstrated audience engagement during the discussion. A great number of audience members could be seen leaning forward attentively, many nodding in agreement at various points of the interview. Often Harris' comments brought on spontaneous applause. Brent, a nationally known comedian, slid in humorous comments here and there that helped keep things light. And even Harris got multiple laughs, once by mentioning pot-holes when talking about the importance of voting in local elections as well as national ones.

The roughly one-and-a-half-hour discussion was wide-ranging. The former vice-president talked about her experiences in Jackson earlier that day. She spoke about visiting local community organization, "Springboard to Opportunities". She spoke about meeting with

a local woman, a young mother of three who she had accompanied on a grocery-shopping trip to Save-A-Lot to learn about the woman's struggles to feed her children and herself on a meager income. The woman felt neglected by people interested in how the U.S. economy is doing who had no interest in how people like herself were doing. Which led the politician/author into a discussion of what she perceives as an explicit anti-empathy stance held by the current president and those occupying high roles of leadership around him. "They will say that they believe that empathy is a sign of weakness," she told the crowd. She contrasted that idea with her own belief that, "Empathy is the strength of leader."

She also talked about voters feeling empowered while never abandoning morals and principles and everything that faith teaches about what is right and good. She also spoke about racially-targeted misinformation and disinformation. She answered a question about the political impact "greek organizations" with reference to "the Divine Nine". She spoke about grieving the loss of her mother to cancer. Her mother, an activist, a scientist, and advocate, was a huge influence on the former U.S. Senator's life. She spoke about grieving her mother's loss being "the other side of the coin" of being blessed with her in the first place. And she compared that grief to the grief she felt for the nation upon hearing the results of the 2024 U.S. Presidential election.

During the audience questions portion of the conservation, 6th Grade Class President, Penelope, asked about being a good leader, and received encouragement and positive advice about listening to the people you represent and prioritizing the problems to solve based on what you hear from them. Including that one, Harris, aka Madam Vice-President, answered multiple questions from the audience. In answer to another "leadership" question from the audience, this time from Nehemiah Hicks, she encouraged him to be empowered if ever he finds himself bringing diversity to any environment that would be all the poorer for his absence.



PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON AND JAMES HAMPTON

## MLK Breakfast

Continued from page 1

occur, intellectual truth and loving action are needed. She backed up her claim with a quote by Dr. King: "One day we will learn that the heart can never be totally right if the head is totally wrong."

Dr. Donzell Lee, President, Tougaloo College, viewed students' matriculation as the key to their success. "Their degrees," he said, "are tools for transformation." The work behind those degrees is instilled within. He then appealed to those present to not only serve, but "to serve with humility," a significant link to progress.

Horhn injected a long, overdue appreciation to civil rights activist Hezekiah Watkins, who was 13-years-old in 1961 when he (a peaceful protestor) was treated as a criminal, taken into custody from the bus station, held by police, and sent to Parchman (Mississippi State Penitentiary). "He should never have carried the fear and humiliation that came with being sent to Parchman at

13-years-old."

Several faith representatives came with offerings of prayer. Pastor Robert Berry, Jr. (Word of Life Poindexter) gave gratitude to God and asked Him to bless gifts for His glory. In essence, the pastor appealed to the Father to enable people in the city, state, and nation – as they come into the knowledge and truth of what America may be - to do the work that He instilled in them for the good of humanity.

The Rev. James Edwards (Rosemont Missionary Baptist Church) called for people to return to God for healing and restoration. He further called for leadership to run their race with integrity and truth for living quiet and peaceful lives. Forging ahead, Edwards offered thanks for a peaceful day to come.

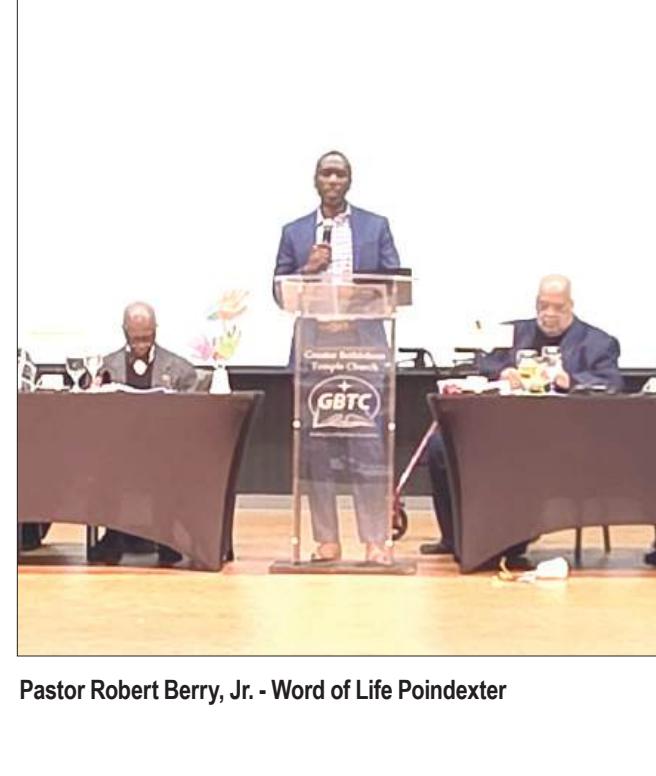
The Rev. Anne Maxwell, Priest, St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathe-

dral, prayed for the future by asking God for humility, honesty without bitterness, and courage while remembering Dr. King's words, "I have decided to stick to love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." The priest ended her prayer with a charge to the audience, "Ask what makes you come alive, and go do that because what the world needs is people to come alive. [Be] a dreamer [and make] communities whole with discipline, integrity, accountability, and compassion."

The Rev. Robert Fortson, Sr., pastor of Greater Bethlehem Temple Church, during his remarks and closing, prayed for God to continue to provide provisions. Along with that, the shepherd asked that God would enable His children "to strive to be what You will have them to be."



Audience reads litany, Dream Keepers.



Pastor Robert Berry, Jr. - Word of Life Poindexter



Representative Earle S. Banks presides.

## Watkins

Continued from page 1

rested in Jackson during the Civil Rights Movement and sent to Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman.

Watkins, often recognized as Mississippi's youngest Freedom Rider, was arrested at the Greyhound bus station in 1961 and transported to Parchman, where he was held on death row alongside adults, despite being a child. In the decades since, he has become a powerful voice for truth and reconciliation, sharing his story with visitors and students at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and serving his community as a longtime businessman and neighborhood leader.

"Today, the City of Jackson publicly acknowledges that what happened to Mr. Hezekiah Watkins as a child was wrong," said Horhn. "He should never have been treated as a criminal for walking

into a bus station in his own city, and he should never have carried the fear and humiliation that came with being sent to Parchman at 13 years old. Yet instead of allowing that trauma to harden his heart, Mr. Watkins turned his pain into purpose. Jackson is a better city because he chose to tell the truth, to teach our young people, and to keep believing in the possibility of a more just Mississippi."

The apology builds on previous recognition from Horhn, including a proclamation declaring "Hezekiah Watkins Day" last year in honor of his courage, his work in civil and human rights, and his decades of community service in Jackson.

In accepting the apology, Watkins reflected on both the injustice he faced and his hope for future generations.

"I cannot forget what happened to me as a young boy, but I have

never let it stop me from loving this city or from telling my story," he said. "To receive this apology in my lifetime means a great deal, not just for me, but for every child who has ever felt that the system was stacked against them. My prayer is that Jackson will keep moving toward truth, toward justice, and toward a future where no young person has to go through what I went through."

"Dr. King reminded us that greatness is found in service and that we are called to be drum majors for justice," Horhn said. "By honoring Mr. Watkins and telling the truth about what he endured, we take a step toward the kind of city and state Dr. King envisioned. There is more work to do, and the City of Jackson is committed to doing that work."

# HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

## READING FAIR HELD AT GARY ROAD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Gary Road Intermediate School recently hosted its annual Reading Fair, which featured strong student participation and enthusiastic competition across grade levels. The event highlighted students' creativity, comprehension, and love for reading.

Congratulations to the Reading Fair winners listed below. These students will represent Gary Road Intermediate School at the district Reading Fair later this month.

### Reading Fair Winners

3rd Grade Fiction: The Mystery of the Haunted House — Miguel Rasso-Calderon (Stewart)

3rd Grade Nonfiction: Salt in His Shoes — Kyson Sulton (Booten)

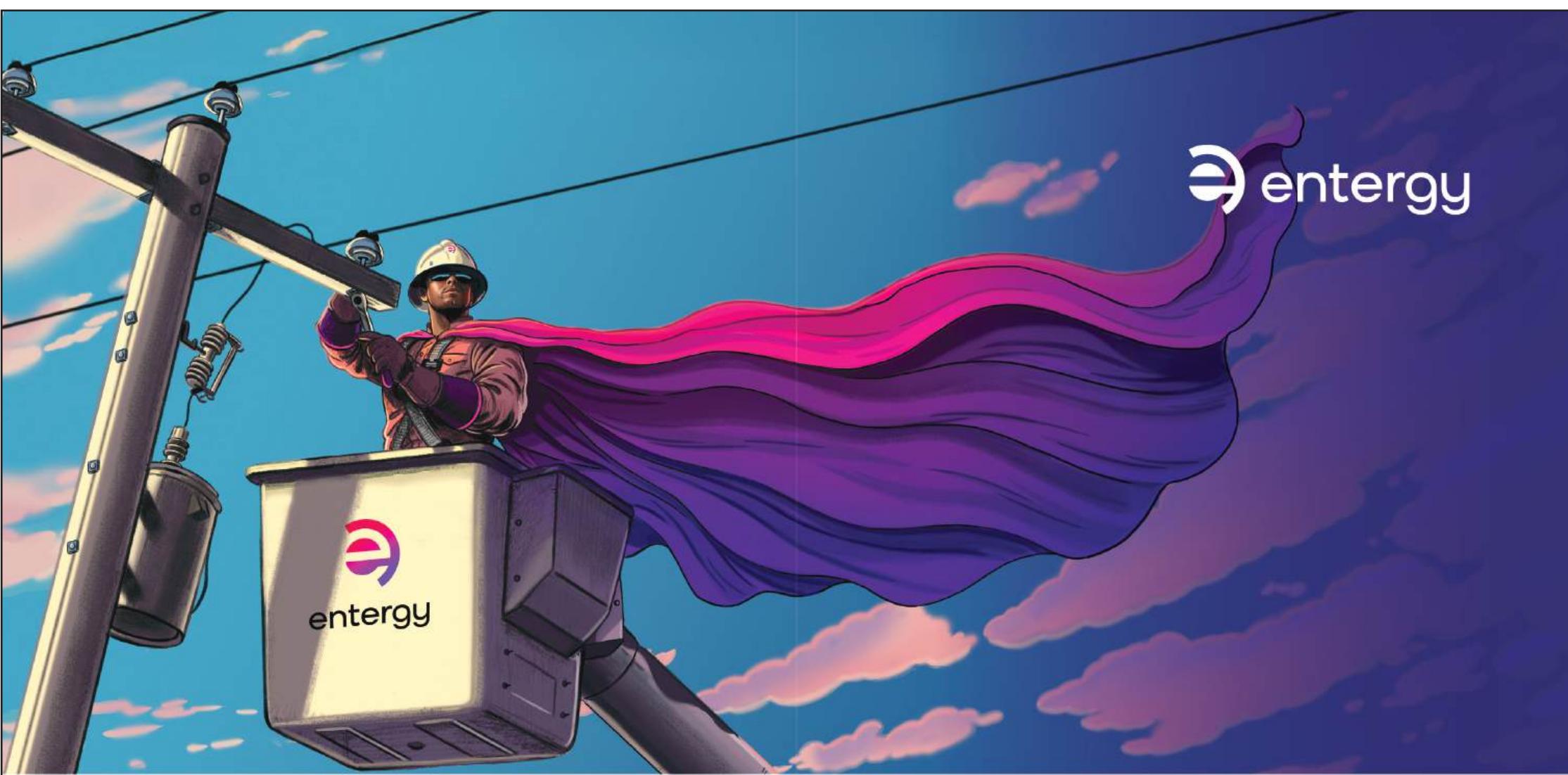
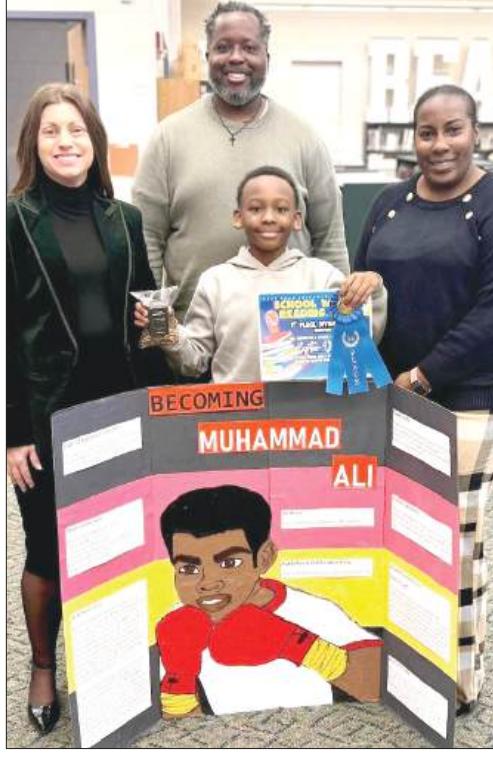
4th Grade Fiction: Sticks and Stones — Araja Harrison (Lamb)

4th Grade Nonfiction: Becoming Muhammad Ali — Carter Davis (Harvey)

5th Grade Fiction: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Party Pooper — Davis Nicholson (Austin)

5th Grade Nonfiction: To the Top of the World — Zoey

Gary Road Intermediate School commends all participants for their hard work and dedication and wishes the winners continued success at the district level.



## My mission: cut outages by 50%

Superpower Mississippi is strengthening the grid at a lower cost to you

Entergy's Superpower Mississippi plan will invest 50% more in strengthening the grid to help reduce outages by 50%. You'll see our teams installing stronger poles and clearing more vegetation to reduce outage risks. And, we're using smarter technology that reroutes and restores power faster if there is an outage.

Entergy is making these investments to meet your growing energy needs while keeping rates well below the national average. And since Mississippi is our home, too, every Entergy employee is on a mission to fight outages and keep costs low. Learn how new, large customers like Amazon are lowering costs for you at [entergymississippi.com/superpowerms](http://entergymississippi.com/superpowerms).

More and better power at a lower cost – that's Superpower Mississippi.

We power life.<sup>SM</sup>



# Hope in Life Worship Center dedicates opening of their new sanctuary

By Pastor Erica Kimbrough  
New Zion Baptist Church

On Sunday, January 18, 2026, members and friends of Hope in Life Worship Center gathered for a dedication service marking the official opening of their new sanctuary at 903 St. Louis Street, Jackson, MS. 39203.

The dedication service celebrated the culmination of 8 years of prayer, planning, and faith. Church leaders described the building not only as a place of worship but as a center for ministry, outreach, and community engagement.

The service was led by Rev. Dr. Jonathan T. Phillips, the pastor of Dr. Barbara D. Green, who emphasized the spiritual purpose of the dedication. "This building is set apart for the glory of God and the service of God's people," Dr. Barbara D. Green said. "It stands as a testimony to faith, perseverance, and unity."

The ceremony included scripture readings, congregational



A hug of love and appreciation from Dr. Barbara D. Green to Pastor Erica Kimbrough



Bishop Bobby L. McCarter of Charity FGB church preaching the church dedication service.



Dr. Jonathan T. Phillips, Pastor Joshua Myers, Pastor Willie J. Berry, Dr. Barbara D. Green, Pastor Jerry Kelly Jr. and Pastor Erica Kimbrough.

worship, a prayer of dedication, and remarks from church leadership. Special recognition was given to ministry leaders, volunteers, and community partners who supported the project from its inception.

Founded in 2017, Hope in Life Worship Center has served the community through worship services, outreach ministries, and educational programs. The new facility will

allow the church to expand its ministries, host community events, and better serve families in the area.

The dedication concluded with a call to continued service, reminding attendees that the true mission of the church extends beyond the building itself.

Hope in Life Worship Center invites the community to join weekly worship services

Sundays at 10:00 am. For more information, visit [www.hopeinlifeworshipcenter.com](http://www.hopeinlifeworshipcenter.com).

"The gift of this building to Pastor Barbara Green and her congregation from Pastor Erica Kimbrough, New Zion Baptist Church, is a living testament to the faithfulness of our God. It reminds us that when we are willing to labor in the shadows and wait on the Lord, He will eventually open doors that no

man can shut. I celebrate Pastor Green's heart for the Kingdom and this beautiful new chapter for her congregation," said Pastor Audrey Hall, Senior Pastor, Holy Temple Baptist Church

"For more than ten years, I (this writer) had the honor of serving as pastor in this building, and I do not take lightly the responsibility God placed in my hands. When the time came, I

knew the Lord was leading me to turn this building over to Hope In Life Worship Center. God blessed me with stewardship over this space, and He then allowed me to bless another woman of faith with it. I am confident this church and this building are in good hands, and I look forward to seeing how God continues to use this ministry to impact lives and the community."

## An open letter to Legislative Democrats and allies fighting for public education

By Derrick T. Simmons  
Senate Minority Leader

The night before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he delivered what many have called one of his greatest speeches. In the weight of that historical moment, knowing the danger before him, Dr. King spoke with clarity, courage, and conviction. It was not only a powerful address; it was one of the most consequential moments in the ongoing fight for democracy itself.

In that speech, Dr. King urged us to give ourselves fully to the struggle. He warned that nothing would be more tragic than to stop at this point, to retreat just as justice comes into view. He called on us to see the work through to the end and to develop what he described as a "dangerous unselfishness" in service of the common good.

That charge speaks directly to where we stand today.

The fight before us, thinly veiled as so-called "school choice" is not merely a policy disagreement. It is a moral test. It is a struggle over whether we will continue to invest in public education as the bedrock of our democracy, or whether we will allow it to be weakened, divided, and drained of the resources our children and communities deserve.

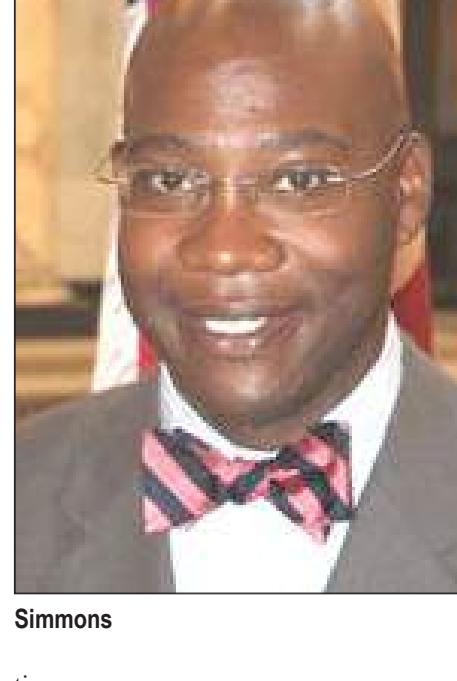
Dr. King also reminded us of the parable of the Good Samaritan. He said that too often the first question we ask is, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But the Good Samaritan reversed the question and instead asked, "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

That is the question before us now.

This fight cannot be measured by political risk, personal comfort, or temporary backlash. It must be measured by the consequences of inaction by what happens to our public schools, our communities, and our children if we fail to act.

Let the record reflect this truth: every single Legislative Democrat, joined by our allies for public education, stood united in support of the continued success of Mississippi's public schools. We stood for teachers. We stood for students. We stood for parents. And we stood for communities that depend on strong, fully funded, and equitable public education, not privatization schemes that pick winners and losers while leaving too many children behind.

We are here to help our public schools. We are here to strengthen our communi-



Simmons

ties.

And we are here to fight for all of our children, every child, in every zip code, without exception.

This struggle is not over. But history reminds us that progress has never belonged to those who quit when the pressure mounted.

So, we will not give up.

We will not retreat.

And we will not abandon this fight half-way through.

Instead, we will see it through to the end, with courage, unity, and a dangerous unselfishness that places children over profit, communities over convenience, and justice over expediency.

Public education remains one of the most powerful instruments of democracy ever created. Defending it is not optional. It is our responsibility.

And together, we will continue this work—steadfast and unshaken—until the promise of public education is protected not just for today, but for generations to come.

In solidarity and determination,  
In never giving up,  
In a dangerous unselfishness for others,  
A signature on a white background  
Description automatically generated

Derrick T. Simmons  
Senate Minority Leader  
Mississippi Senate

## Mississippi Taxpayers the pawns of corporate welfare

*Welfare to those that don't need it. Everyday Mississippians continue to suffer.*

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

Their game is simple and hides in plain sight – just one of the many affronts that keep Mississippi on the bottom. An endless list of Mississippi governors talking smack about welfare in our state and doing whatever they can to dog-whistle African Americans in the process. They are not the first, the welfare queen rhetoric rose to plain view in Ronald Reagan's campaign for president. Governor Reeves continues the tradition through both words and actions: declaring April as Confederate Heritage Month, endorsing the Critical Race Theory bill, not hiring or promoting African Americans to lead state agencies when in most cases he has that power.

A year ago, while touting the state's success in attracting economic investment in his State of the State Address, Reeves said, "America is over \$36 trillion in debt. Changes will be coming to Medicaid. We can't have welfare expansion (as if Medicaid and welfare are the same thing). Now is not the time to expand welfare in our state. It's the worst possible time to do it. After all, why would we change course and sprint left when so many things are happening here as a result of our conservative policies."

Reeves talks about the national debt, but he certainly never speaks of Mississippi's own indebtedness, which sources estimate between \$6.5 and 14.17 billion – not counting the Mississippi's Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) indebtedness of \$26 billion. S&P Global, one of the largest credit rating agencies, rates Mississippi as AA (Negative Outlook) citing "persistent weak economic and demographic trends, as well as risks from phased-in income tax reductions."

During Reeve's tenure as governor, now in his sixth year, billions of taxpayer dollars have been invested in economic development projects. If there was a throughline to reducing poverty it would be one thing, but we remain the poorest state in the country. Reeves' point-man is Bill Cork, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority. At an event in August 2025, the Magnolia Tribune wrote that Cork told the audience, "Much of the recruiting strat-



Governor Reeves delivering the State of the State address January 29, 2025. PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG.



Bill Cork, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority. PHOTO: MAGNOLIA TRIBUNE, AUGUST 11, 2025.

egy must remain a state secret. I can't go too in-depth about our strategies because our competitors are watching. I will say that our approach to attracting investment centers around relationships, responsiveness and results. When our team is presenting Mississippi to a company, we lead with credible data and deliver with results."

What is not said aloud is that companies like Aurora Flight Sciences – they design, build, and fly advanced aircraft – a wholly owned subsidiary of Boeing – is that they don't need Mississippi taxpayer money, but if we're giving it away, sure, why not. The AFS website shows a photo of their leadership team which is 100 percent white. Boeing appears to be worth \$193 billion, and gets enticed to Columbus, Mississippi, with layers of our taxpayer money. Another example, Anduril Industries is a private defense technology company with an estimated value of \$66 billion and a 15-member leadership team – based on their website, one may be Asian. They are coming to Stone County, Mississippi, flush with our tax money. Another is Amazon Web Services (AWS) coming to Madison and Warren counties. As a segment of Amazon, it brought in \$100 billion in 2024, coaxed to Mississippi with a secret recruiting strategy equating to free money.

You don't have to dig too far to find the secret sauce details of Mississippi's grandiose corporate welfare. Reeve's deceitfully talks to the public about these investments in millions of dollars, but it's billions. A combination of tax credits, grants, loans, and exemptions; especially in low-income areas of the state. Then there is the site development, and workforce development including customized training and what they call a talent pipeline. Combine all

these freebies with low red tape and the second lowest in the nation's cost of living, and you can see why these companies are coming here. All on the backs of Mississippi's taxpayers. Who are the real welfare recipients in Mississippi?

State leadership has a responsibility to improve things, not further imperil our population. They turn the old saying, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it," on its head. In Mississippi we

have a lengthy history of falling to our knees and begging companies to come here, and then when they do come, they don't deliver. Significant documentation exists showing where state aid (corporate welfare) has been stopped when companies fail to meet their investment obligations and job

creation promises. Do you think the jobs that do come allow for equal employment representation along racial and gender lines? And wouldn't it be impressive if Reeves actually admitted why he has to beg.

We're still poor. We're still deeply in debt. We're now gradually cutting away a major source of our state income by eliminating income tax, even as we empty the coffers into economic development. In the words of a Republican state legislator, speaking to The Mississippi Link newspaper on the condition of anonymity, "it's very frustrating. They don't bother telling you that it will take Mississippi 20-30 years to be made whole by any one of these economic development projects."

The theft of TANF funds, orchestrated by state leaders and their appointees, which has resulted in a \$100 million dollar demand for return to the federal government, is a drop in the bucket compared to the latest wave of corporate welfare – always perpetrated by white people who insinuate African Americans are the cause of our welfare state.

# How soaring costs are reshaping health care access

*In partnership with American Community Media – National Briefing Series*

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

One out of every five dollars spent in the US is related to health care, according to a new KFF study. Health care expenditures are now 18 percent of America's GDP. Costs are expected to rise further as Affordable Care Act enhanced premium tax credits expires. As open enrollment ends this week in many states, millions of Americans enrolled in ACA plans have signed on to monthly premiums at double the cost. Four million people are expected to drop out of health insurance coverage entirely. And small businesses are scrambling to insure their employees even as premiums sharply rise.

Sunita Sohrabji, Health Editor at American Community Media and co-producer of the National Briefing Series, led the discussion by three expert panelists focused on the factors behind the high cost of coverage and care, including pharmaceuticals, and elicited their options for addressing the widening gap in health care access. Over 70 media outlets from around the globe participated in the briefing, which is the first in a three-part series on affordability.

Sohrabji introduced the panelists and asked Anthony Wright, Executive Director, Families USA, a non-profit healthcare consumer advocacy organization, to address the fight at the federal level to extend enhanced premium tax credits. "20 million folks who are in the marketplaces, but in many cases, it's not just hundreds, it's thousands of dollars of costs. On average, it is over a doubling of their premiums, and in many cases, it's a tripling or a quadrupling. For a lot of low-income people who maybe were getting coverage for \$0, \$5, \$10 a month, are now paying, literally hundreds of dollars per month. In some cases, people who are at a little bit higher income, or who are older - we've seen couples in their 50s and 60s have to pay now more than \$10,000, \$15,000 for their coverage this year. That is a huge amount. Again, the existing policy that has expired basically put a cap on how much people had to pay as a percentage of

their income at 8 percent."

The next panelist was Dr. Neale Mahoney, Professor of Economics at Stanford University and George P. Shultz inaugural fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. He focused his comments on a perspective of healthcare as the lion's share of a household budget, and also some of the drivers behind the high cost of care. "I've been thinking about healthcare markets and teaching health economics to students for nearly two decades now, and so I will try and lift up and talk about the problems of cost and access in the United States, and how it impacts our economy, small businesses and families and talk a little bit about solutions. Over the last two generations, healthcare expenditure in the United States has grown from

about 8 percent of our gross domestic product - the sum total of everything we produce in the United States - to about 18 percent, so it is more than doubled. The United States is now spending a larger share of our resources on healthcare than any other country in the world."

"Why do we spend so much? Americans have a different mix of health conditions, a different disease mix, and we consume different healthcare services. But the most important driver is that the prices are too high. From drugs to hospital care, our prices are higher than anywhere else. The federal government, and I think rightfully, pays close to 50 percent of our healthcare costs, because it's so unaffordable for millions of families. Also, for people who rely on Medicaid, we are throwing sand in the gears of

the processes that people use to apply for and continue Medicaid - and that is just complete junk. It's going to push people who need Medicaid off the plan in ways that will be harmful for their health and cause higher costs for our system. Also, it's important to reverse those so-called work requirements, which are really just administrative burdens. It's in the government's negotiating power to increase access to Medicare to allow people to buy into Medicare, breathing more computation into the health insurance exchanges, the ACA exchanges, by revisiting the idea of a public option. I think those are important steps which are good for families, and they're also good for our markets."

Merith Basey, Executive Director, Patients for Affordable Drugs, shared about the

high cost of pharmaceuticals and what can be done to bring the costs down. "The reality is that 1 in 3 Americans cannot afford to pay for their prescription drugs. Americans are paying between 4 and 8 times at least, on average, what patients in other high-income countries are paying for the very same brand name drugs. It doesn't have to be this way. The key point is that pharmaceutical corporations are setting prices, and controlling the market through their monopolies, and Congress, until recently has allowed these practices to continue. Recent polling has shown that 47 percent of Americans are concerned that they're not going to be able to pay for their healthcare costs in 2026. What can be done is to take away the massive amount of power that the industry has in setting those launch prices...some are in the seven figures attached to some of the new cell and gene therapies, especially for things like sickle cell, that are coming to market. 80 percent of Americans support patent reform, and 9 out of 10 Americans want Congress to do more to lower drug prices."

Go to <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/how-soaring-costs-are-reshaping-health-care-access> to watch the entire 65 minute briefing.



Anthony Wright. PHOTO: CAPITOLWEEKLY.NET



Merith Basey. PHOTO: STATNEWS.COM



Dr. Neale Mahoney. PHOTO: ECONOMICS.STANFORD.EDU

# The Dream cannot be realized without financial freedom

By Ben Crump  
Guest Writer

We honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. each January with speeches, service projects, and by

reciting powerful quotes we know by heart. But too many Black families will spend much of MLK Day the same way they spend most Mondays.

With the gas tank hovering near empty, hoping the car can go until the next paycheck arrives. With a prescription waiting at the pharmacy counter because they cannot afford the cost. With a paycheck that has to stretch further than what seems possible. Dr. King understood that true dignity means being able to afford and build a good life. In one of his clearest reminders, he asked what it means to "eat at an integrated lunch counter" if you cannot "buy a hamburger and a cup of coffee."

That question still carries weight for many. Personal freedom will not be achieved without financial freedom. Dr. King spent the final chapter of his life pushing the country to face economic injustice. The day before he was tragically assassinated, Dr. King stood with sanitation workers in Memphis to call for economic equality. He helped launch the Poor People's Campaign because he knew

freedom hollowed out by



New York State Attorney General Letitia James speaks during the New York State Democratic Convention in New York, Feb 17, 2022 AP PHOTO/SETH WENIG, FILE

poverty is not freedom at all. Dr. King kept pushing America to match its promises with practical pathways.

That is the part of his legacy

we should sit with this MLK Day.

This work has never been more important or needed. The cost of groceries, rent,

and childcare has become an increased burden. And many families go from stable to scrambling with just one unexpected expense. These realities

are on display in a recent national survey commissioned by DreamFi, echoing what so many families already feel so deeply. More than one in four respondents told us they

used check-cashing services in the past year. This finding makes it clear that too many households still need simpler and more accessible options for moving money.

The survey also shows how unexpected expenses impact families. Only 41% of Black respondents said they could cover a \$1,000 emergency, compared with 56% of white respondents. When a tire blows out, when a child gets sick, when hours get cut, the question is

not theoretical. The question is immediate, and the impact is real. We must shine a light on this struggle and work to equip families with tools to build better futures. We must recognize Dr. King's wisdom and acknowledge that financial stability is a civil

rights issue, because financial instability limits the ability to have choices.

The survey also found hope that can guide how we move forward. Black families are not turning away from the idea of building stability. In fact, they are reaching for it. In the survey, 79% of Black respondents said they sought out financial education in the

past six months. Ours is a community hungry for tools

and a fair shot at creating a better tomorrow.

So what does it mean to honor Dr. King right now? It means we get practical.

It means we expand access to clear, trustworthy financial education that respects people's time and speaks to real solutions. It means we support savings pathways that help families prepare for emergencies before emergencies arrive.

It means we encourage options that make routine transactions easier and less costly, so a family is not paying extra simply to manage their own money.

Most of all, it means we stop treating financial instability as normal. Because normal is not the same as acceptable.

Dr. King asked America to make its promises real. The best way to honor him now is to provide opportunities for everyone to achieve Dr. King's dream.

Ben Crump is a nationally renowned civil rights attorney and founder of Ben Crump Law. Known as "Black America's attorney general," he has represented families in some of the most high-profile civil rights cases of our time, including those of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tyre Nichols, and Ahmaud Arbery. He is also co-founder of DreamFi, a financial empowerment platform focused on helping everyday people build stability through practical resources.

# If you voted against the Affordable Care Act Subsidies, shame on you

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.  
President Emeritus  
Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio



There are times when life-altering decisions must be made. We know some of them. If you have lived as long as I have, you probably know all of them.

In making the decisions, we wrestle with our conscious. It is a tug of war and sometimes it involves life and death. At other times, it will involve right and wrong.

Leaders must make decisions based upon the people they represent. The environment they work in also plays a role. The question is if it is a toxic atmosphere, will they

succumb to it? Simply put, some do and some don't.

Those that do go along to get along. They are a bit nervous and on edge afraid they will no longer be a part of the in crowd. They'll be ostracized and will go from the A list to the Z list.

Those that don't garner the admiration and respect of their constituents and the electorate. Behind closed doors, the weak hearted also applaud their courage and resolve.

Standing strong in right when the majority is sitting in wrong takes gumption and fortitude.

For the past several months healthcare for Americans has been a topic for lawmakers. The conversations were tense,

terse, and heated. At issue is the Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare. The very name "Obamacare" has rattled some in political office. They don't like it however those who put them in office love it. Their reluctance is also because of their relationships with drug companies. They are receiving large donations for their campaigns.

According to an ABC News report, "An estimated 22 million of the 24 million ACA marketplace enrollees are currently receiving enhanced premium tax credits to lower their monthly premiums, and many are preparing to see their premiums soar in 2026."

Rep. Ami Bera (D-Calif.) said, "The public now gets that

the subsidies are what's keeping health care costs down. So, I think they will blame the party in charge." I agree with those comments. Bera is a medical doctor.

However, I don't think the other side as currently constructed cares. Their votes and actions signify that they fall short on compassion.

Healthcare is a necessity in our lives. No matter what our age, we need it from the youngest to the oldest. When we were young, we didn't know we had it because our parents paid for it. Having a job as adults gives us health insurance at a cost. It's not free.

Some countries like Canada and France provide its citizens with free or reduced health

care. There are flaws in their healthcare systems, however the conversations about it have not been contentious and can-tankerous.

Will this country ever have similar systems? Probably not because of the billions made by the insurance companies. It is my opinion that paying for it is imbedded in the American way of life. We don't have a willingness to change it so tweaking the current system is about the best that we are going to do.

Fox News has an online headline that reads, "Expired Obamacare subsidy deal inches toward Senate floor vote amid bipartisan talks." A group of senators from both sides have been meeting to solve this

healthcare problem.

More specifically, Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio) are spearheading this effort. Senator Collins said, "Parts of the bill are similar to what Senator Moreno, and I proposed originally with a two-year extension with some reforms in the first year and then more substantial reforms in the second year."

Let's stay tuned to this proposal as it may signal that some of our elected officials really want to help us. It is clear and not cloudy that our healthcare system is broken and needs a fix now. People are hurting because our healthcare is being compromised. Elected leaders, we know that you know a lot so now we want you to care a lot.

## We must finish the work Dr. King died doing

To honor Martin Luther King Jr. honestly is to remember that he was organizing to make the dream real—and to decide whether we are willing to carry that dangerous, unfinished work forward.

By Ben Jealous  
People For the American Way



This year let's honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday by remembering his final mission—and by picking up the mantle he left behind.

Every year, America remembers a dream. But the work that placed Dr. King in the greatest danger was not dreaming. It was organizing to make the dream real.

Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis in April 1968 while supporting striking sanitation workers and preparing to launch the Poor People's Campaign. He was there because he had come to understand something fundamental about American life: that racism and economic exploitation are intertwined, and that neither can be defeated without confronting both.

He was not killed while leading a desegregation battle in a northern suburb. He was killed while trying to unite economically struggling Americans across racial lines around shared demands for dignity, wages, and opportunity.

When that unity fails—when workers and the poor are kept divided—the consequences are not abstract. Wages stagnate. Healthcare becomes conditional. Food insecurity spreads quietly. People turn on one another while decisions that shape their lives are made far out of reach. Division does not just weaken movements; it deepens suffering.

The Poor People's Campaign was designed to confront that reality directly. King envisioned a coalition of poor people drawn from many communities—Black and white, Native American, Latino, Asian American, and other communities pushed to the margins—coming together to demand economic rights that democracy had long promised but rarely delivered.

History reveals a pattern we are often reluctant to name.

In the United States, one of the most dangerous roles a leader can take on is the work of uniting poor and working people across racial lines—especially when that unity threatens systems that depend on division to function.

Fred Hampton understood that early.

Most people remember Hampton only as a Black Panther, frozen in time at age 21, killed during a predawn police raid in Chicago in December

1969. But before joining the Panthers, Hampton first gained recognition as a teenage organizer in the NAACP. As a youth leader, he showed a rare ability to mobilize people, build coalitions, and translate moral clarity into action.

That instinct carried forward.

As a Panther leader, Hampton helped build the original Rainbow Coalition—bringing together the Black Panthers, the Puerto Rican Young Lords, and the Young Patriots Organization, made up largely of poor white Appalachian migrants. In one of his most consequential public moments, Hampton stood at a press conference alongside William "Preacher" Fesperman, a leader of the Young Patriots, to declare that poor and working people had more in common with each other than with the forces exploiting them.

That image—Black, brown, and white organizers standing together, unapologetically—was the point.

Less than a year later, Hampton was killed by Chicago police in a predawn raid.

The same pattern appears, with devastating clarity, in the lives of Harry and Harriette Moore.

Harry Moore was the founding president of the Florida NAACP and one of the most effective organizers the association ever produced. Under his leadership, Black voter registration in Florida surged despite poll taxes, intimidation, and violence. He fought for equal pay for Black teachers and worked closely with labor and progressive allies, believing racial justice and economic justice could not be separated.

Harriette Moore was not simply his wife. She was an organizer, educator, and strategist who sustained the work under constant threat.

Despite Harry Moore's effectiveness, he was never elevated into the national leadership of the NAACP. The historical record offers no single explanation. What it does show is that his work—rooted in voter power, labor solidarity, and interracial organizing—placed him at extraordinary risk in the Jim Crow South.

On Christmas night in 1951, a bomb exploded beneath their home in Mims, Florida. Both Harry and Harriette Moore would die from their injuries. Their crime was not extremism. It was effectiveness.

Malcolm X's life followed a similar arc. After returning from Mecca in 1964, he spoke and wrote about en-

countering a brotherhood that crossed racial lines. His politics remained complex and uncompromising, but the direction was unmistakable: away from race as destiny and toward coalition as possibility. Within a year, he was assassinated.

Dr. King came to the same conclusion.

His final campaigns were not a departure from civil rights work. They were its fulfillment. He understood that rights without economic security are fragile—and that democracy without solidarity is easily divided against itself.

That truth matters now.

Today, millions of Americans are hurting in concrete ways. Just look at the news. Families lose healthcare when a job disappears. Parents skip meals so their children can eat. Seniors choose between prescriptions and groceries. Workers live one illness or one missed paycheck away from crisis.

These outcomes are not inevitable. They are what happens when division succeeds.

Dr. King understood that uniting people across racial lines was not just morally right—it was practically necessary. It was the only way to build enough power to secure healthcare, fair wages, food security, and basic stability for everyone.

That is why the work was dangerous.

And that is why it remains unfinished.

So, when we honor Dr. King, we should be careful to remember him accurately—not as a safely sanitized icon, but as a leader who followed justice to its most challenging conclusion.

This holiday should not simply reassure us. It should challenge us.

To remember Dr. King honestly is to remember that he died doing unfinished work—work that remains dangerous precisely because it remains necessary.

The question before us is the same one history keeps asking:

Are we willing to continue the work Dr. King died doing?

Because the pattern tells us what happens when we do.

And today's headlines keep telling us what happens when we don't.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former president and CEO of the NAACP.

## Can a chicken dinner fix your marriage?

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.  
Tips for a Good Marriage



Can a chicken dinner fix your marriage? Most people love chicken especially fried while others love it baked, barbecued, smothered—I love baked chicken and my husband loves fried. Believe it or not our teens/ young adolescents prefer baked chicken over fried chicken—it just taste better. Big Daddy and I mostly consume seared chicken like skinless chicken breast now for health purposes. Let me tell you, well write—no one can sear chicken like my Big Daddy. I just don't understand how he manages to make skinless chicken juicy—is it the olive oil? Although, we love our chicken dinners—is it enough to fix a marriage that is falling apart?

Why are so many marriages falling apart? Some marriages are falling apart due to little or no communication, financial issues, spouse neglect, spouse abandonment, careers and jobs prioritizing over the marriage, failure of a spouse helping with children and chores, infidelity, abuse, and so many more factors. If you sense that your marriage is in trouble—seek help immediately, especially if you both want to remain married. The earlier you deal with any issues from minor to major in your marriage—the better chances your marriage have of avoiding separation and divorce. The best example that I can utilize to help you understand my plea is as follows: medical research reveals the importance of men especially older men getting annual prostate checks in hopes of catching any early stages of Prostate Cancer—the earlier the stages—the greater your chances of surviving. Some marriages are in stage one of Cancer—don't let it proceed to stage four and worse before you address it. As my mother often expresses—sometimes it can be too little too late. I also love B.B King's spill on it—The Thrill is Gone. Once the thrill is gone—it is almost impossible to get it back even if you weren't cooking for twenty-five years of your marriage and then you suddenly decide to cook now...I am sorry to tell you, but it's going to take more than a chicken dinner to help heal your troubled marriage especially if the trouble being brewing for a while.

Signs that your marriage is falling apart can include the following:

- You can feel and sense it
- Marriage Vows are ignored and forgotten about
- Can't remember the last time, I love you was expressed by you or both of you
- You or both of you are completely checked out of the marriage
- Stay married only because of the children
- Life becomes consumed by your children's affairs/activities

• Stay married only for the benefits—silent divorce

- Rarely or not do we celebrate special occasions/holidays with one another
- Sad/hopeless/anxious/fearful
- Little to no communication
- Arguing more frequently
- No arguments
- Gaslighting becomes the norm
- Silence—lose the desire to talk to your spouse about anything and everything
- Loneliness
- Little to no dating
- Find ways to avoid being around one another
- Sleep in separate spaces/beds—silent divorce
- Plan without considering your spouse
- Begin not to care about your spouse or marriage
- Marriage is about convenience—silent divorce
- Fantasize life solo or with someone else
- Emotional and physical affairs begin
- Diminished sex life or no sex life
- Looking for divorce attorneys
- Hopelessness
- The thrill is gone
- Have no desire to reconcile—ready for marriage to end
- Find yourself googling, is my marriage falling apart

If you are experiencing any of the signs above, seek immediate help for your marriage today before it is too late. Please find a professional Marriage Counselor, Pastor, can even reach out to me and my husband for counseling. I want to reassure you there is NOTHING too hard for God to do even in your troubled marriage; God saved my marriage that was falling apart, now, we consume all the seared chicken we want. If God can restore my marriage, then He certainly can restore yours too. Can a Chicken Dinner Fix your marriage? No, not in most cases, but you both can fix your marriage by fighting for your marriage. If you are having signs that your marriage is falling apart, the first step is to admit it, communicate to each other about it and listen to each other attentively with patience and without defensiveness (yes, this tough conversation must occur to help save your marriage if it's not too late—this is not being negative—it's just tough facts), seek counseling, forgiveness, healing, pray consistently until things change, be patient, reflect on your vows, let love rule, and cook some chicken dinners together.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

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JANUARY 22 - 28, 2026

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## LEGAL

### RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
JESSE EARL CARR, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. P2024-574 M/4

PETITIONERS: JESSICA CARR

### SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JESSE EARL CARR, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Jessica Petitioner, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Jesse Earl Carr, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 1:00 o'clock p.m., on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County before Honorable Crystal Wise-Martin, Chancellor. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 5 day of January, 2026.

EDDIE JEAN CARR  
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,  
MISSISSIPPI

BY: B. Johnson



1/8/2026, 1/15/2026, 1/22/2026

## LEGAL

### SECTION 1 ADVERTISEMENT

CITY OF JACKSON

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The City Clerk of the City of Jackson will receive bids for the replacement of the bridge located on Martin Luther King Drive, City Project No. ERBR-25-250(03) no later than 3:30 P.M., Local Prevailing Time, February 17, 2026, in the Municipal Clerk's Office located at 219 Soul President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

1) Removal/Replacement of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Bridge in its entirety, plus related approach work.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment, and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein. Contract time shall be 120 consecutive calendar days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00 plus any additional actual costs above \$500.00 incurred by the Owner. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction-related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder, or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder, or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Ms. Yika Hoover (Manager) in the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City, to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal form to be provided, sealed in an envelope, and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for CITY OF JACKSON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT". Each bidder shall write their Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing their proposal. Bids and EBO Plans shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed, and deposited with the City Clerk's Office, City Hall - 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi before the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

A pre-bid conference will be held on February 5, at 10 am in the Public Works Department 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:

1. City of Jackson - Public Works - Warren Hood Bldg. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Engineering Manager Office, 200 South President St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201.
2. CiViTech, Inc., 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206

Copies of the Contract Documents, Contract Drawings, and Contract Specifications may be procured through the following:

1. All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from CiViTech, Inc., located at 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, MS 39206 (Mailing address: P.O. Box 12852, Jackson, MS 39236-2852) upon payment of \$100.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.

2. All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained through Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com), upon payment for each set, which will not be refunded. Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to electronic bidding, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid surety. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

2017<sup>th</sup>, together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standard duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities.

Henry Chia  
Department of Public Works

Publications and Publishing Dates  
The Clarion Ledger & Mississippi Link  
Publication Dates: 01/15/2026, and 01/22/2026  
Pre-Bid Date: 02/05/2026  
Bid Opening Date: 02/17/2026

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS

#### TO THE CITY OF JACKSON ZONING ORDINANCE

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in anywise affected thereby, that the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, will be conducting a public hearing on proposed text amendments to the City of Jackson Official Zoning Ordinance as adopted on May 29, 1974 and subsequently amended.

Amendments to the text of the Zoning ordinance are intended to provide for a more efficient Zoning Ordinance and establish more effective zoning regulations for each of the zoning districts. Copies of the proposed text amendments will be available for review at the Office of City Planning 200 S President Street, Suite 204, Jackson, MS 39201. For additional information please submit an email to [eainsworth@city.jackson.ms.us](mailto:eainsworth@city.jackson.ms.us).

The said proposed text amendments will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL [EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US](mailto:EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US) TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO JANUARY 19, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 30th day of December 2025.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

1/8/2026, 1/22/2026

## LEGAL

### ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI AMENDING ARTICLE III – OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, DIVISION 1, BY CREATING SECTION 173 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, TO ESTABLISH PROHIBITIONS AGAINST RELATIONSHIPS OR DEALINGS BETWEEN CITY OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES, AND INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL DRUG ACTIVITY (DOPE DEALERS).

WHEREAS, Article III, of the Jackson Code of Ordinance establishes the protocol for officers and employees of the City of Jackson, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, recognizes the importance of maintaining the integrity, transparency, and public trust in all operations of city government; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that association or involvement by any city official or employee with individual's engaged in illegal drug trafficking or distribution undermines public confidence, creates conflicts of interests, and poses risks to the safety and reputation of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to ensure that all city employees conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the highest ethical standards and complies with state law.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE. Article III, Division I of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, is hereby amended to add a new Section 173, to read as follows:

Section 173. Prohibition of Dealings or Relationships with Individuals Engaged in Illegal Drug Activity (Dope Dealers).

Purpose. The purpose of the section is to protect the integrity of city government and ensure that all officers and employees maintain conduct consistent with the law, free from the influence or association of individuals engaged in illegal activity (dope dealers).

Definitions.

For the purpose of this section:

City official or Employee means any elected or appointed official, officer, department head, or employee of the City of Jackson.

Illegal Drug Activity means the distribution, possession, sale, or trafficking of controlled substances in violation of state law.

Association or Relationship means any ongoing personal, financial, or business relationship that could reasonably be perceived as comprising the integrity of a city employee.

(c) Prohibited Conduct.

No city official or employee shall knowingly maintain a personal, business, or financial relationship with any person engaged illegal drug activity (dope dealers).

No city official or employee shall knowingly conduct city business, enter into contracts, or engage in any transaction on behalf of the city with any individual or entity involved in illegal drug activity.

No city official or employee shall knowingly provide favors, access or information to any person known to be engaged in illegal drug trafficking or related criminal activity.

(d) Duty to Report

Any city official or employee who becomes aware that another official or employee is engaged in a prohibited relationship or dealing as described in this section shall immediately report such information to the City Attorney.

(e) Ventilation and Penalties.

Any violation of this section shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Section 2. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

Yeas – Brown-Thomas, Grizzell, Hartley, Parkinson and Stokes.

Nays – None.

Abstention – Clay.

Absent – None.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting December 2, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 458-461".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 20th day of January 2026.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

1/22/2026

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

#### ZONING CASE NO. 4317

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Brad Tisdale d/b/a Tisdale Properties, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a diversity of residential uses that are compatible to the character of the Belhaven Heights Historic District and community for the properties located at 1027 Quinn St (Parcel 18-125), 1020 Monroe St. (Parcel 18-126), Parcel 18-127 on Quinn St., Parcel 18-128 on Monroe St & 1002 Monroe St. (Parcel 18-130), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel 18-125

Lot 16 of Block 73 Belhaven Hgts, a Subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book/Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 41 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7179 at Page

9287.

Parcel 18-126

Lot 17 of Block 73 Belhaven Hgts, a Subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book/Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 41 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7179 at Page

9289.

Parcel 18-127

LOT 18, BLOCK 73, BELHAVEN HEIGHTS, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 1 at Page 41, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 18-128

LOT 19, BLOCK 73, Belhaven Heights, Part 1, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book/Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 41 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being the same property described as "Parcel 2" in Instrument recorded in Book 7116 at Page

3078.

Parcel 18-130

Lot 21, Block 73, Belhaven Heights, Part 1, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 1 at Page 41, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A

# CLASSIFIED

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JANUARY 22 - 28, 2026

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 9

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING (REVISED)

#### ZONING CASE NO. 4316

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that William Lake has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District & R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a residential subdivision for the properties located at Parcels 20-49 & 20-48 on Boyd St. and Parcels 20-38, 20-41 & 20-42 on N. Jefferson St. and 949 N. Jefferson St. in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel 20-38  
Lot Five (5) of Ewing Subdivision of 5-Acre Lot 8, North Jackson, as shown by map or plat of said subdivision on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of said County, at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book "A" at Page 233, reference to same being in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 20-41

Lot 9 of Ewing Subdivision of Five (5) Acre Lot No. Eight (8), a North Jackson, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book A, at Page 233, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 20-42

Lot 9 of Ewing Subdivision of Five (5) Acre Lot Eight (8), North Jackson, Mississippi according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book "A" at Page 233, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 20-48

East 1/2 of Lot 15 of Ewing Subdivision of 5 Acre Lot No. 8 North Jackson together with all right, title, and interest in mutual driveway, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Surveyor's Record Book A at Page 233, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description, less and except a strip of land 5 feet in width off the north side of the west 1/2 of Lot 15

949 N. Jefferson St. (Parcel 20-37)  
LOT 4 EWING SUBN OF LOT 8 N J

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL [EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US](mailto:EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US) TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO JANUARY 23, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 12th day of January 2026.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

1/15/2026, 1/22/2026

1/22/2026, 1/29/2026

1/22/2026, 1/29/2026

## LEGAL

### CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

#### WEST WOODROW WILSON AVENUE Resurfacing W. Woodrow Wilson Avenue from Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to Mill Street Bridge Federal Aid Project Number: STP-0250-00(053) LPA / 108075-701000

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, 219 South President Street, P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until **3:30 P.M. (Local Time), Tuesday, February 24, 2026**, for supplying all labor and materials (as specified) necessary for construction of W. WOODROW WILSON AVENUE RESURFACING Federal Aid Project No. STP-0250-00(053) LPA / 108075-701000, at which time said bids shall be opened and read aloud.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

Pavement repairs, milling, leveling, overlay, striping, and miscellaneous improvements on a 0.81± mile five lane section of W. Woodrow Wilson Avenue from Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to the Mill Street Bridge, and all other related items of work required to complete the project as shown and specified in the Contract Documents.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment, and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

The contract time shall be **123 working days** from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. Liquidated Damages will be assessed in accordance with the Schedule of Deductions table in Section 108.07 of the 2017 Edition of the Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

The attention of the bidders is directed to the Contract Documents governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates have been determined by the Secretary of Labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581, Work Hours Act of 1962, as set forth in the Contract Provisions.

The Proposal and Contract Documents in their entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the City Clerk, prior to the hour and date above designated. Each Bidder must also deposit with his proposal, a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of his bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. No bidder may withdraw his bid within one hundred twenty (120) days after the date of the actual bid opening, without the City of Jackson's consent. The successful bidder shall furnish a performance and payment bond in the amount of 100% of the bid. The bidder shall also submit a current financial statement if requested by the City.

The Official Bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810.4814.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi State Highway Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, 2017", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications. The attention of Bidders is directed to the provisions of Subsection 102.07 pertaining to irregular proposals and rejection of bids.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and other Contract Documents are on file and open to public inspection in the office of the Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, Warren Hood Building, 4th floor, 200 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi and in the Office of the Municipal Clerk, City Hall, 1st Fl., 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Copies of the Contract Documents, Contract Drawings, and Contract Specifications may be procured at the office of the Engineer, Southern Consultants, Inc., 5740 County Cork Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39206, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Local Time, Monday through Friday, upon payment of \$100.00 for each set, which will not be refunded. Checks are to be made payable to the Engineer.

The award of a Contract, if made, will be to the lowest and most responsible qualified bidder whose proposal complies with all the requirements prescribed herein and in the Contract Documents. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Lorenzo Anderson, P.E.  
Director, Department of Public Works,  
City of Jackson

1/22/2026, 1/29/2026

1/22/2026, 1/29/2026

## LEGAL

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

#### CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

#### WEST WOODROW WILSON AVENUE Resurfacing W. Woodrow Wilson Avenue from Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to Mill Street Bridge Federal Aid Project Number: STP-0250-00(053) LPA / 108075-701000

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The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

Pavement repairs, milling, leveling, overlay, striping, and miscellaneous improvements on a 0.81± mile five lane section of W. Woodrow Wilson Avenue from Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to the Mill Street Bridge, and all other related items of work required to complete the project as shown and specified in the Contract Documents.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment, and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

The contract time shall be 123 working days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. Liquidated Damages will be assessed in accordance with the Schedule of Deductions table in Section 108.07 of the 2017 Edition of the Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

The attention of the bidders is directed to the Contract Documents governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates have been determined by the Secretary of Labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581, Work Hours Act of 1962, as set forth in the Contract Provisions.

The Proposal and Contract Documents in their entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the City Clerk, prior to the hour and date above designated. Each Bidder must also deposit with his proposal, a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of his bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. No bidder may withdraw his bid within one hundred twenty (120) days after the date of the actual bid opening, without the City of Jackson's consent. The successful bidder shall furnish a performance and payment bond in the amount of 100% of the bid. The bidder shall also submit a current financial statement if requested by the City.

The Official Bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810.4814.

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The award of a Contract, if made, will be to the lowest and most responsible qualified bidder whose proposal complies with all the requirements prescribed herein and in the Contract Documents. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Lorenzo Anderson, P.E. Director, Department of Public Works, City of Jackson

1/22/2026, 1/29/2026

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## LEGAL

### ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, MODIFYING CHAPTER 26: ARTICLE XII. RENTAL REGISTRATION PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2022, the governing authority for the City of Jackson adopted Ordinance No. 2023-4(3), requiring registration and inspection of rental property within the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Apartment Association appealed the adoption of the ordinance in the Circuit Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Cause No. 22-795, and argues that the yearly registration fee constituted an impermissible tax, the local agent requirement violated the Commerce Clause of the Constitution and the requirement of the removal of personal property conflicted with the State's eviction statute; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court held:

1. The inspection fees of Section 26-527 are unenforceable unless and until the City makes a fact-based determination of the expected cost of inspections, the revenue generated by the Rental Ordinance, and the set fees reasonably calculated to be based upon the expected cost;

2. The following language in Section 26-522, "...who resides in the city limits of Jackson, Mississippi ..." be stricken from the definition of Local Agent;

3. The following language "...after a warrant for removal has been executed. Personal property or trash shall be disposed of in a legal landfill or moved to storage, and the owner must provide proof of said action." be stricken from in Section 26-526 (c); and

4. The City should make certain that an appeal process for decisions by the Department of Planning and Development is available.

WHEREAS, as directed by the Circuit Court, the Department of Planning and Development made a fact-based investigation to determine the true expected cost to the city of registration and inspection; and

WHEREAS, the Department performed a cost analysis relative to the registration and inspection processes and determined that inspections incur administrative costs of \$80.00 per unit, and registration tasks incur administrative costs of \$64.68 per registration, and a copy of which is attached as "Exhibit A" and is incorporated herein by reference. Administrative costs included the salaries and benefits for research technicians and code inspection personnel, computers, software and hardware, vehicles and maintenance costs for vehicles, cell phones, and the uniforms for the field personnel; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rental registration fees are fact-based and cover the public expenditures on inspection, record-keeping, processing, and the cost of the Department's use of its regulatory powers. The revised rental registration fees are as follows:

Single-family home, new registration fee	\$50; maximum of \$2,000 per Owner
Single-family home, inspection fee	\$50 per unit inspected
Single-family home, renewal registration fee	\$50; maximum of \$2,000 per Owner
Single-family home, inspection fee	\$50 per unit inspected
Multi-family, new registration fee	\$50 per property
Multi-family, inspection fee	\$25 per unit inspected
Multi-family, renewal fee	\$50 per property
Multi-family, inspection fee	\$25 per unit inspected
Re-inspection fees (after corrections made)	\$50 per unit

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City Council to set reasonably calculated fees based upon expected costs of the program, strike the language in Section 26-522 of the Ordinance that states, "...who resides in the city limits of Jackson, Mississippi, ...after a warrant for removal has been executed. Personal property or trash shall be disposed of in a legal landfill or moved to storage, and the owner must provide proof of said action," and make certain that an appeal process for decisions by the Department of Planning and Development is available to citizens of Jackson, Mississippi.

THE THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, that Chapter 26, Article XII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Mississippi is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-521. - Purpose and authority.

The purpose of this article is to establish a registration requirement for owners of rental housing units to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public insofar as they are affected by the maintenance of said units and the occupancy thereof. The purpose shall be accomplished by requiring rental housing units to be registered and inspected. This article shall be construed to secure this express intent.

The Department of Planning and Development will be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this article.

Sec. 26-522. - Definitions.

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following words and phrases as used in this article shall have the following meanings:

**Certificate of Compliance:** A document provided by the Department to an Owner after the Owner has registered, paid the applicable fees, and passed all required inspections hereunder that permits the Owner to operate as provided for hereunder.

**Department:** The Rental Registration Division of the City of Jackson's Planning and Development Department.

**Managing Agent:** An individual or entity designated in writing by the Owner to act on behalf of the Owner and to respond reasonably to contact made by Department officials on a 24-hour basis. The property manager of a multifamily unit is assumed to be acting as a managing agent.

**Multifamily unit:** A residential building that contains two or more attached dwelling units.

**Owner:** The individual or corporate owner of a property with one or more rental housing units or a managing agent for the property. For corporate entities, the term Owner refers to the corporation, company, or partnership as opposed to individual shareholders, members, or parties.

**Property Maintenance Standards:** The provisions of the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code, as currently adopted by the City of Jackson, and as may be amended in the future, together with any other property maintenance requirements applicable to rental housing adopted by the Jackson City Council.

**Registration:** The act of an Owner to provide the Department with information about the Owner's rental housing operations necessary to facilitate the Department's identification of the Owner's rental housing units and the inspections required hereunder.

**Renewal or Renewal Registration:** The act of an Owner to confirm and/or to update the Department with information about the Owner's rental housing operations on the timelines set forth herein.

**Rental Housing Unit:** Any dwelling, dwelling unit, or part thereof, including but not limited to, any single-family housing unit, duplex, triplex, quadruplex, multifamily unit, apartment, condominium, rooming house, or boarding house.

**Tenant:** A person occupying a rental housing unit pursuant to a written or oral agreement.

Sec. 26-523. - Applicability.

(a) The registration fees, renewal fees, and inspection provisions of this article shall apply to all rental housing units except:

- (1) Rental housing units that a government entity or housing authority owns, operates or manages; and
- (2) Institutional dormitories;
- (3) Rental housing units that receive funding or subsidies from federal, State, or local government provided the units are subject to federal, State, or local inspections. This exemption is intended to apply to those properties whose good condition is already being verified pursuant to other governmental programs, such as properties participating in federal housing programs that are subject to the inspection standards and timelines established by 24 C.F.R. § 5.701 et seq. On written request of the Department, the Owner shall, within 30 days, provide satisfactory documentation verifying the Owner's rental housing unit and/or property participates in a qualifying program and is subject to inspections thereunder, failing which the Department may revoke the Owner's exemption, notify the Owner of its intent to inspect the Owner's units, and require the Owner pay all fees applicable to non-exempt units and properties.

- (b) The Department reserves the right to inspect properties otherwise exempt upon reasonable information and belief that specific units at such properties are in violation of Property Maintenance Standards, in which case such units will be subject to the inspection processes and fees specified hereunder.

Sec. 26-524. - Registration requirements/Renewal requirements.

- (a) Owners must provide the following information in order to register or renew the registration of rental properties and units:

- (1) The legal name, physical address and mailing address of the Owner of a rental housing unit. Proof of ownership may be required if the information provided differs from Hinds County records;

- (2) The Owner's privilege license, if any. Whether or not the Owner already has a privilege license will not delay the Department's processing of the Owner's registration or renewal registration.

- (3) The address of an Owner's rental housing property or unit, the number of rental housing units at each address, and the individual unit numbers, if any;

- (4) The name, address, phone number and email address of an individual Local Agent authorized to act on behalf of the Owner with respect to each of the Owner's properties and rental units;

- (5) Such other information deemed necessary by the Department to enable the Department to identify the Owner's rental units and to perform the required inspections hereunder; and

- (6) Such other information deemed necessary by the Department to enable it to verify that the Owner, and the Owner's rental properties and units, comply with laws, rules and regulations that promote the health and safety of the rental housing Tenants in the City of Jackson.

- (b) If there is a change of circumstances that result in a change of information provided by the Owner during registration, or renewal registration, the Owner must provide such updated information to the Department within 30 days of the change.

- (c) Owners who have not previously registered their rental housing units, including Owners of new units and new Owners of existing units, must register as follows:

- (1) A new Owner of rental housing units must register with the Department within 90 days of taking ownership. Such Owner must register each unit even if it was registered by a prior Owner. If the unit has been inspected within the last six (6) months under a previous Owner and the tenant has not changed, the inspection requirement may be waived;

- (2) The Owner of a newly constructed rental housing unit, or an existing dwelling that was not previously rented, must register such unit with the Department before renting the unit; and

- (3) All other Owners must register unregistered rental housing units on or before October 11, 2025.

- (d) A property manager or other managing agent hereunder may register, or renew the registration of all rental housing units under management without the Owner having to register the same properties and units.

- (e) No Owner may permit occupancy of a rental housing unit by a Tenant after the deadline for registering that unit or after the deadline for renewing the registration of that unit. An Owner registering or renewing the registration of a rental housing unit is authorized to permit occupancy of such unit until the Department makes a final decision on whether to issue a Certificate of Compliance hereunder.

Sec. 26-525. - Inspection requirements.

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- (a) The Department will inspect an Owner's rental housing units after the Owner registers its units and again after the Owner renews the registration of its units. If the Owner has 5 or fewer rental housing units, the Department will inspect 1 unit. If an Owner has more than 5 rental housing units, the Department will inspect no more than 20% of an Owner's units. However, if the Department finds no violations of Section 26-525(b)(1) through (9) in the first 10% of units inspected, the Department may issue Certificates of Compliance for the rest of the Owner's units without conducting additional inspections. The Department will conduct the same number of inspections based on the number of rental units under management if a property manager or other managing agent qualifying as Owner hereunder registers or renews the registration of rental units under management.

- (b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 26-525(a), the Department may inspect additional units of an Owner upon finding violations of Property Maintenance Standards affecting the present habitability of a rental housing unit during a required inspection hereunder.

- (c) The Department will notify the Owner and Managing Agent, in writing, of the individual units that are set to be inspected at least fourteen (14) calendar days' prior to the date of the inspections so that the Owner may notify the affected Tenants.

- (d) Without limiting the Department's right to inspect for other violations of Property Maintenance Standards, the Department will verify that each inspected unit complies with the following:

- (1) The address of the rental property and/or rental unit must be visible;

- (2) All electric outlets in the rental unit must have proper covers;

- (3) There will be no visible defects in the roof, ceiling, floors, walls or exterior doors of a rental unit due to improper maintenance by the Owner;

- (4) There will be an unexpired fire extinguisher located in the kitchen of the rental unit;

- (5) There will be a working smoke detector in each bedroom of a rental unit and each path of egress from the unit;

- (6) There will be no visible rodents or other infestations;

- (7) The exterior breaker box for the rental unit must be secured and covered, and any interior breaker box must be secured in a manner that complies with manufacturer safety requirements;

- (8) All exterior entrances to the crawlspace of a rental unit, if any, must be secured and covered; and

- (9) There will be no active plumbing leaks in the rental unit.

- (e) The Department will issue a Certificate of Compliance for units that pass inspection and for units that are not required to be inspected under this article. In each Certificate, the Department will designate the rental housing units to which it applies. The Department may, but is not required to, issue one Certificate of Compliance covering all rental units in an Owner's entire portfolio or all rental units at a multi-unit property.

- (f) The Department must, within ten days of a failed inspection, notify the Owner in writing of the deficiencies. The Department will give the Owner forty-five days to address the deficiencies before the Department re-inspects. If the deficiencies

require a building permit to satisfy the requirements of this section, the Owner must apply for a building permit within seven (7) calendar days. The forty-five-day period will begin tolling upon the issuance of a building permit by the Department. The Department may inspect a failed unit earlier if the Owner notifies the Department that the identified deficiencies have been addressed. If, after four inspections, the Department finds that the Owner has not remedied the violations of the Property Maintenance Standards, the Department may elect to deny the Owner a Certificate of Compliance.

(g) If the Owner or Tenant of any rental housing unit refuses entry upon request of the Department to carry out inspections under this article, the City will apply to the appropriate judicial officer for a warrant based on constitutional standards in effect at the time of the application. No city official will enter a rental housing unit to carry out an inspection under this article without consent, lawful warrant, or other legal authority.

Sec. 26-526. - Certificate of compliance, renewal.

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(a) Owners receiving a Certificate of Compliance are authorized to operate all units designated in the Certificate for one year from the date the Department issues the Certificate. The Department may, but is not required to, establish a single renewal registration deadline for an Owner of multiple properties or multiple rental housing units to avoid an Owner having multiple renewal registration deadlines.

(b) Owners must apply to renew the registration of rental units, and pay the renewal fees, at least 30 calendar days before an active Certificate of Compliance expires. Timely renewing the registration of rental units is the responsibility of the Owner.

(c) When a tenant has been lawfully evicted, the owner shall properly dispose of or otherwise remove any personal property or trash left on the curb within five business days.

Sec. 26-527. - Fees.

Single-family home, new registration fee	\$50; maximum of \$2,000 per Owner
Single-family home, inspection fee	\$50 per unit inspected
Single-family home, renewal registration fee	\$50; maximum of \$2,000 per Owner
Single-family home, inspection fee	\$50 per unit inspected
Multi-family, new registration fee	\$50 per property
Multi-family, inspection fee	\$25 per unit inspected
Multi-family, renewal fee	\$50 per property
Multi-family, inspection fee	\$25 per unit inspected
Re-inspection fees (after corrections made)	\$50 per unit

Inspection fees will not be refunded if, after inspections have begun, the Department elects to limit the number of inspections to 10% of an Owner's units upon finding those inspected in good condition pursuant to Section 26-525(a).

Should ownership or management change, registration fees will not be refunded beyond 90 days from the payment date.

Sec. 26-528. - Enforcement and penalties.

Failure to register rental unit by deadline, per unit .... \$250.00

Failure to timely renew registration of rental unit, per unit .... \$250.00

Unauthorized occupancy without certificate of compliance, per unit .... \$500.00

Failure to remove evicted tenant's property as required under section 26-526(c) .... \$500.00

An Owner who knowingly submits false information to the Department about the ownership and operations of a rental housing property or unit in connection with the initial Registration or Renewal Registrations shall, after notice and a reasonable time to correct said information, pay a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000). Each day thereafter in which the Owner fails to correct such false information shall constitute a separate offense punishable by a separate fine pursuant to Sections 21-13-1 and 21-17-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, or other statutes. Owner falsification of information provided to the Department may be subject to additional fines and penalties pursuant to laws, regulations and ordinances outside of this article.

An Owner is subject to all other penalties pursuant to the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code, as adopted by the City of Jackson, and as may be amended in the future, and any other remedies available to the City to correct the condition giving rise to violations of Property Maintenance Standards.

Sec. 26-529. - Severability.

# AUCTION FOR CITY OF JACKSON ABANDONED, STOLEN, SEIZED VEHICLES, EVIDENCE, AND RECOVERED PROPERTY

"To all interested parties, known and unknown, Pursuant to the MS State Code of 1972, Section 21-39-21, the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will sell at Public Auction, the impounded, abandoned, lost, stolen, or misplaced motor vehicles and equipment listed on the attached schedule. Unclaimed motor vehicles and equipment may be sold after the expiration of ninety (90) days from their receipt or recovery by the City of Jackson. The auction will be held online at <a href="https://marketplace.autura.com/auctions/jac-ms/">https://marketplace.autura.com/auctions/jac-ms/</a> on January 29, 2026 at 10:00 am	#8841020 • 2022-119047 • 2018/CHEVROLET/IMPALA/SILVER • 1G1105S30JU132882 • EVIDENCE	#8843419 • 2023-003462 • 1997/CHEVROLET/GMT-400/WHITE	2000/BUICK/LESABRE/GOLD	ABANDONED	*****	#8864846 • 23-09-08836 • 2000/CHEVROLET/OTHER/TAN • 1GCCS14W1YK202499 • EVIDENCE
	#8841021 • 2023-011075 • 2003/TYOTA/COROLLA/RED • 1NXBR32E33Z123275 • ABANDONED	#8843428 • 23-06-04694 • 2003/FORD/WINDSTAR/GRAY	• 1GCEC19R7VE255856 • EVIDENCE	• 1G4HP54K5Y4140150 • ABANDONED	*****	#8858743 • 2023-06-01135 • 2013/GMC/ACADIA/GRAY
		#8841034 • 23-07-02026 • 2017/HYUNDAI/SONATA/SILVER • 5NPE24AF2HH442464 • ABANDONED	#8843444 • 23-5-01134 • 2007/SATURN/VUE/GREEN	• 1GKRRKD5DJ136809 • ABANDONED	*****	• 1GKRRKD5DJ136809 • ABANDONED
			#8841034 • 23-07-02026 • 2017/HYUNDAI/SONATA/SILVER • 5NPE24AF2HH442464 • ABANDONED	• 1GKRRKD5DJ136809 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
A list and description of abandoned/unclaimed vehicles will be posted pursuant to statutory requirements in the following locations: Hinds County Court House Hinds County Chancery Court Building Jackson City Hall/City Clerk's Office"	#8841064 • 2023-011075 • 1996/LEXUS/LS/SILVER • JT8BH22F8T0050260 • ABANDONED	#8843452 • 23-6-07751 • 2000/HONDA/CRV/RED	• 1G1ZB5ST3GF232789 • STOLEN	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC13T51R135732 • ABANDONED	*****
1/8/2026, 1/15/2026 1/22/2026	#8841064 • 2023-011075 • 1996/LEXUS/LS/SILVER • JT8BH22F8T0050260 • ABANDONED	#8843471 • 2023-004913 • 2002/CHEVROLET/SILVERADO/SILVER • 2GCEC19W521201863 • ABANDONED	• 1G1ZB5ST3GF232789 • STOLEN	• 1ZVFT80N965265133 • ABANDONED	*****	#8865042 • 23-6-00750 • 2015/HYUNDAI/SONATA/BLUE • 5NPE24AA2FH162626 • STOLEN
	#8841081 • 2023-001367 • 2017/DODGE/CHALLENGER/RED • 2C3CDZF7JHH640062 • STOLEN	#8843481 • 2022-137998 • 1998/HONDA/CRV/SILVER	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8841099 • 23-05-02212 • 2005/HONDA/ACCORD/GOLD	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1JHLRD2849Y007136 • ABANDONED	*****	#8865092 • 2023-001840 • 2008/GMC/SAVANA/WHITE • 1GDJG31C581909072 • ABANDONED
		#8841099 • 23-05-02212 • 2005/HONDA/ACCORD/GOLD	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
	#8840490 • 23-5-10499 • 2007/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/GOLD • 3GNFC16007G276688 • ABANDONED	#8844584 • 23-08-03889 • 2006/CHEVROLET/IMPALA/SILVER	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8865106 • 23-09-08827 • 2015/FORD/EXPLORER/WHITE • 1FM5K8GT0FGB56419 • ABANDONED
		#8841104 • 23-03-04332 • 2009/HONDA/ACCORD/WHITE	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8841104 • 23-03-04332 • 2009/HONDA/ACCORD/WHITE	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8865291 • 23-04-02760 • 2008/NISSAN/ALTIMA/BLACK • 1N4AL21E08N521497 • ABANDONED
	#8841104 • 23-03-04332 • 2009/HONDA/ACCORD/WHITE	#8844584 • 23-08-03889 • 2006/CHEVROLET/IMPALA/SILVER	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8841115 • 23-6-01658 • 2003/JTEDS4A382012985 • STOLEN	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8865308 • 2023-012379 • 2004/CHEVROLET/TAHOE/WHITE • 1GNEK13Z64R183638 • EVIDENCE
		#8841115 • 23-6-01658 • 2003/JTEDS4A382012985 • STOLEN	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
	#8840510 • 22-54151 • 2003/LINCOLN/AVIATOR/GRAY	#8844583 • 23-03-04253 • 2014/DODGE/CHARGER/GRAY	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8867673 • 23-07-04256 • 2005/JEEP/GRAND CHER/RED • 1J4HR58N95C535379 • ABANDONED
		#8840510 • 22-54151 • 2003/LINCOLN/AVIATOR/GRAY	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
	#8840491 • 23-3-06123 • 2008/TOYOTA/HIGHLANDER/BLACK	#8844583 • 23-03-04253 • 2014/DODGE/CHARGER/GRAY	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8867921 • 23-08-09936 • 2020/NISSAN/ALTIMA/GRAY • 1N4BL4BVXLC207262 • ABANDONED
		#8840491 • 23-3-06123 • 2008/TOYOTA/HIGHLANDER/BLACK	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
	#8841151 • 23-05-05854 • 2003/WDBUF65J23A236375	#8844583 • 23-03-04253 • 2014/DODGE/CHARGER/GRAY	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
		#8841151 • 23-05-05854 • 2003/WDBUF65J23A236375	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
	#8840515 • 23-05-4536 • 2003/5LMEU68H83ZJ01044 • STOLEN	#8844595 • 2023-015806 • 2008/CHEVROLET/IMPALA/WHITE	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
		#8841127 • 23-9-10107 • 2009/PONTIAC/G6/BLACK	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8841127 • 23-9-10107 • 2009/PONTIAC/G6/BLACK	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
	#8840515 • 23-05-4536 • 2003/2007/GMC/ENVOY/GOLD	#8844611 • 23-04-06006 • 2003/FORD/FOCUS/RED	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8840515 • 23-05-4536 • 2003/2007/GMC/ENVOY/GOLD	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
	#8841151 • 23-05-05854 • 2003/2011/FORD/PISTA/SILVER	#8844611 • 23-04-06006 • 2003/FORD/FOCUS/RED	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8841151 • 23-05-05854 • 2003/2011/FORD/PISTA/SILVER	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
	#8841152 • 23-013229 • 2001/PONTIAC/SUNFIRE/RED	#8844620 • 23-07-07275 • 2017/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8841152 • 23-013229 • 2001/PONTIAC/SUNFIRE/RED	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
	#8840555 • 2023-009775 • 2002/GMC/SIERRA/GREEN	#8844622 • 23-05-10592 • 2019/FORD/MUSTANG/SILVER	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8840555 • 2023-009775 • 2002/GMC/SIERRA/GREEN	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
	#8840868 • 23-07-01357 • 2008/FORD/E-250/VAN/WHITE	#8844622 • 23-05-10592 • 2019/FORD/MUSTANG/SILVER	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8840868 • 23-07-01357 • 2008/FORD/E-250/VAN/WHITE	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
	#8840891 • 23-6-01317 • 2004/CHEVROLET/AVALANCHE/RED	#8844629 • 23-07-07275 • 2017/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8840891 • 23-6-01317 • 2004/CHEVROLET/AVALANCHE/RED	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
	#8841174 • 23-9-013229 • 2001/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE	#8844632 • 23-05-05308 • 2009/HONDA/CIVIC/GRAY	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8841174 • 23-9-013229 • 2001/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
	#8841174 • 23-9-013229 • 2001/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE	#8844635 • 23-05-05308 • 2009/HONDA/CIVIC/GRAY	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
		#8841174 • 23-9-013229 • 2001/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE	• 1HGP26849A130809 • EVIDENCE	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	#8861534 • 2021-138296 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/WHITE • 3GNEC16R5XG159490 • ABANDONED
	#8841174 • 23-9-013229 • 2001/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE	#8844635 • 23-05-05308 • 2009/HONDA/CIVIC/GRAY	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
	#8841174 • 23-9-013229 • 2001/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE	#8844635 • 23-05-05308 • 2009/HONDA/CIVIC/GRAY	*****	• 1GNEC23379R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	*****

## LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

RFP-91235-021726 Resurfacing of Existing Tennis Courts and Installation of New Pickle Ball Courts at Grove Park Tennis Area

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT [WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV](http://WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV) & [WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM](http://WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM)

"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.CentralBidding.com](http://WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM). Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted [www.CentralBidding.com](http://WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM). For any question relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814."

The above must comply with the City's specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, and Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of Bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1851. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, and Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any Bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best company submitting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item; or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the Bid proposal. In those cases where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this effect will be included on the proposal form. Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the Bid review.

Monica Oliver, Purchasing Manager  
Purchasing Division  
(601) 960-1023 or (601) 960-1028

1/15/2026, 1/22/2026

## LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2026. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

Financial assistance up to \$5,000.00 is available to support arts and community development activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the arts and improve the quality of life among the citizens of Jackson. This solicitation seeks proposals with an emphasis on community exposure, history and education.

Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support of arts projects and community development-based projects. To be eligible for funding, proposing organizations must have verifiable cash match contributions that equals to at least 50% of project cost.

For the Request for Proposal packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at (601)960-0383. All proposals must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for General Funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on January 27, 2026

The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: [www.jacksonms.gov](http://WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV) and may be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 633 North State Street Suite 423, Jackson MS 39202.

By: Pamela D. C. Junior - Director  
Department of Human and Cultural Services

1/15/2026, 1/22/2026

## LEGAL

## Public Notice

All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Hinds, County, are hereby advised that the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, to provide transportation services to elderly and disabled persons. These services will be beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Service is being provided within Hinds County. This program consists of existing services with no environmental impact, and no relocation resulting from the project. The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit and paratransit operators,

of the service being planned for providing transportation services for persons with disabilities within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a program would not represent a duplication of current or of proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.

Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time beginning January 13, 2025, through January 27, 2025, from 8:00am to 5:00pm. All comments should be addressed to Mr. Primus Wheeler at the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation at 601-982-8467 or via email at [p Wheeler@jacksonmedicalmall.org](mailto:p Wheeler@jacksonmedicalmall.org).

1/15/2026, 1/22/2026

## LEGAL

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
RURAL AREA PROGRAM

South Central Community Action Agency of, Jackson, Mississippi 39212, is considering applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division, for assistance through its Rural Area Program to provide public transportation services within Hinds, Rankin, and Simpson Counties. Funding is available to state agencies, local public bodies and agencies thereof, non-profit organizations, operators of public transportation services in locations other than urbanized Area, and, under special circumstances, private operators of public transportation on a competitive basis to undertake eligible transportation activities.

The goals of the Rural Area Program are: to enhance the access of people in non-urbanized Areas to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services and recreation; to assist in the maintenance, development, improvement, and use of public transportation systems in rural and small urban Area; to encourage and facilitate the most efficient use of all Federal funds used to provide passenger transportation in non-urbanized Area through the coordination of programs and services; and to provide for the participation of private transportation providers in non-urbanized transportation to the maximum extent feasible.

The purposes for which these funds can be used are capital purchases that include such items as support vehicles, communication equipment, wheelchair lifts, etc.; administrative costs that include such items as salaries, office supplies, insurance, etc., and operating expenses that include such items as driver's wages, fuel, oil, etc. More specific details regarding eligible activities, program requirements and the program criteria will be provided at a public hearing which will be held at South Central Community Action Agency Inc., 3891 I-55 South Frontage Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39212 on February 3, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application.

1/22/2026

PICK UP  
THE MISSISSIPPI LINK  
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

**J A C K S O N**  
**BULLY'S RESTAURANT**  
3118 Livingston Road  
**CASH & CARRY**  
Capitol Street and Monument Street  
**CITY HALL**  
219 S President St  
**GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX**  
2659 Livingston Road  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
2030 N Siwell Rd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
4331 Highway 80W  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
304 Briarwood Dr  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
2855 McDowell Rd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
104 Terry Rd  
**J & A FUEL STORES**  
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.  
**LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST**  
2325 Livingston Rd.  
**MCDADEF'S MARKET**  
Northside Drive  
**MCDADEF'S MARKET #2**  
653 Duling Avenue  
**PICADILLY CAFETERIA**  
Jackson Medical Mall  
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue  
**SHELL FOOD MART**  
5492 Watkins Drive

**SPORTS MEDICINE**  
Fortification and I-55  
**MURPHY USA**  
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)  
**REVELL ACE HARDWARE**  
Terry Rd (South Jackson)  
**WALGREENS**  
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

**C A N T O N**  
**A & I**  
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS  
**B & B**  
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# Measles: What you need to know and why vaccinations still matters

By Vince Faust MA  
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

Measles is back in the news, and for good reason. Once nearly wiped out in the United States, this highly contagious disease is making a comeback in some communities. But what is measles and why should we still be concerned about it in 2026? Let's break it down in a way that's easy to understand and share with your family, friends and neighbors.

Measles is a disease caused by a virus. It spreads very easily from person to person, especially in places where people are close together, like schools, airports, train stations or crowded events. If someone with measles coughs, sneezes or even breathes near you, you can catch it. The virus can stay in the air for up to two hours after the person has left the room.

The symptoms usually start about 7 to 14 days after you've been exposed. At first, it might feel like a regular cold with fever, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes. But then a red, blotchy rash appears, usually starting on the face and spreading to the rest of your body. Some people also get white spots inside their mouth.

Measles aren't just uncomfortable, it can be dangerous. It can lead to serious problems like:

- Ear infections
- Diarrhea and dehydration
- Pneumonia (a lung infection)
- Encephalitis (swelling of the brain)
- Blindness
- Even death, especially in young children or people with weak immune systems

Thanks to vaccines, measles was declared eliminated from the U.S. in 2000. That means it wasn't spreading regularly in the country anymore. But in recent years, measles have come back in some areas. Why? Because not enough people are getting vaccinated.

When fewer people get vaccinated, the virus has more chances to spread. That's why we're seeing outbreaks again in schools, in neighborhoods and even in places where people thought they were safe.

What Is the MMR Vaccine?

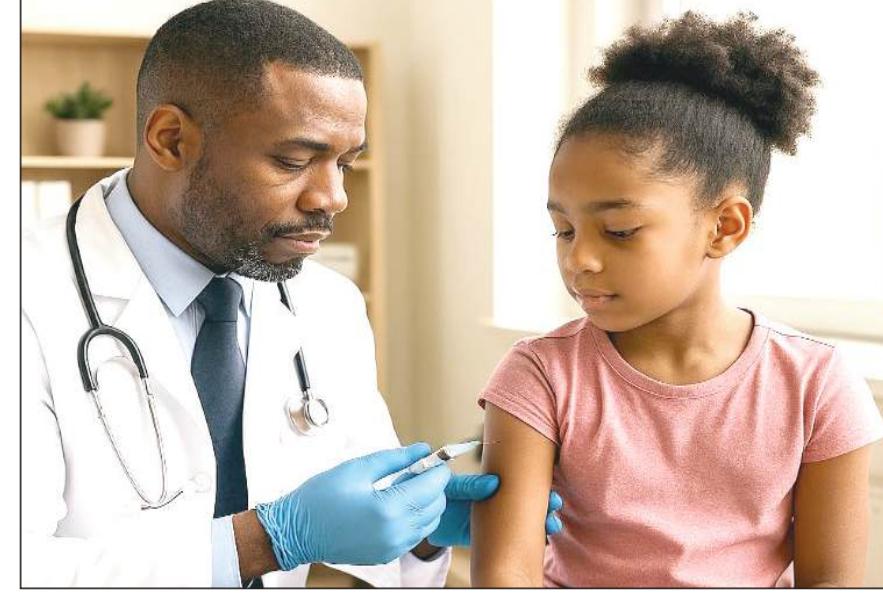


PHOTO OF CHILD BEING VACCINATED - CREATED BY VINCE FAUST

The MMR vaccine protects against three diseases, measles, mumps and rubella. That's why it's called MMR.

Most children get their first dose of the MMR vaccine around their first birthday. They get a second dose before starting school, usually between ages 4 and 6. These two doses give strong, long-lasting protection.

The MMR vaccine is very effective. About 97 out of 100 people who get both doses are protected from measles for life. That's a powerful shield.

Can You Still Get Measles After the Vaccine?

Yes, but it's rare. A small number of people, about 3 out of 100, might still get measles even after being fully vaccinated. This is called a "breakthrough infection."

But here's the good news: if a vaccinated person does get measles, their symptoms are usually much milder. They're also much less likely to spread the virus to others. That's because their immune system is already trained to fight it off.

Can You Spread Measles If You're Vaccinated?

No. If you've been vaccinated and you're not sick, you can't spread measles. The vaccine itself does not contain a live virus that can infect others. And if you don't catch measles, you can't pass it on.

This is why vaccines are so important, not just for you, but for everyone around you.

What Is Herd Immunity?

Herd immunity is like a safety net for the whole community. When most people are vaccinated, it's harder for a disease to spread. That's because the virus has fewer people to infect.

Think of it like this: imagine a fire trying to spread through a forest. If most of the trees are wet, the fire can't go very far. But if many trees are dry, the fire spreads quickly. Vaccines are like water; they help stop the fire before it gets out of control.

Herd immunity is especially important for people who can't get vaccinated. This includes:

- Babies who are too young for the vaccine
- People with cancer or other serious illnesses
- People with allergies to vaccine ingredients

When you get vaccinated, you're not just protecting yourself, you're protecting your neighbors, your grandparents, your classmates and your community.

What Are Mumps and Rubella?

The MMR vaccine also protects against two other diseases, mumps and rubella.

Mumps

Mumps is a virus that causes swell-

ing in the salivary glands, especially the ones near your cheeks and jaw. That's why people with mumps often look like they have "chipmunk cheeks."

Other symptoms include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Tiredness
- Loss of appetite

Mumps can also cause more serious problems, like:

- Swelling of the testicles or ovaries
- Hearing loss
- Meningitis (swelling of the brain and spinal cord)

Before the vaccine, mumps was very common in children and teens. Now, thanks to the MMR shot, it's much less common but outbreaks can still happen, especially in places like colleges or sports teams where people are in close contact.

Rubella (German Measles)

Rubella is a mild illness for most people. It causes a low fever, sore throat and a pink rash that starts on the face and spreads. But rubella is very dangerous for pregnant women. If a woman catches rubella while pregnant, it can cause serious birth defects or even miscarriage.

That's why rubella vaccination is so important. It helps protect future generations.

Why Are Some People Not Vaccinated?

There are different reasons why some people don't get vaccinated:

- Medical reasons: Some people have health conditions that make vaccines unsafe for them.
- Access issues: In some areas, people may not have easy access to healthcare or vaccines.
- Misinformation: Some people are afraid of vaccines because of things they've read online or heard from others. But the truth is, vaccines are safe and effective. They go through years of testing before they're approved.

What Happens When Vaccination Rates Drop?

When fewer people get vaccinated, diseases like measles, mumps and rubella can come back. We've seen this

happen in the U.S., Europe and other parts of the world.

In 2019, there were over 1,200 cases of measles in the U.S., which is the highest number in nearly 30 years. Most of those cases were in people who hadn't been vaccinated.

It's a reminder that we can't take our health for granted. Vaccines work, but only if enough people get them.

What Should You Do?

Here's how you can help keep your family and community safe:

- Check your vaccine records. Make sure you and your children have had both doses of the MMR vaccine.

- Talk to your doctor. If you're not sure about your vaccine status, your doctor can help.

- Share the facts. If someone you know is unsure about vaccines, share what you've learned. Sometimes, a calm conversation can make a big difference.

- Stay home if you're sick. If you have symptoms of measles, mumps or rubella, call your healthcare provider and avoid contact with others.

Measles, mumps and rubella are serious diseases, but they're also preventable. The MMR vaccine is one of the best tools we have to protect ourselves and each other.

In communities like ours, where we gather in airports, train stations, schools and family events, it's especially important to keep these diseases out. When we protect ourselves, we protect our elders, our children and our future.

Let's keep our communities strong, healthy and informed. Vaccines are a gift we give to each other and a promise to keep each other safe.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

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# AMR Medics warn cold weather can maim and kill

Mississippi Link Newswire

With dramatically low temperatures soon to hit the Deep South, American Medical Response (AMR) is specifying how to avoid, recognize and provide first aid for two deadly cold-related illnesses: hypothermia and frostbite. Both conditions can and do occur in Mississippi.

Deaths in the United States related to cold weather doubled between 1999 and 2022, according to a study published in December 2024 in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The research reported more than 3,000 Americans died from cold-related factors than each of the previous several years. The study found nearly all of the increase was between 2016 and 2022. The researchers said rising homelessness, increased social isolation, the aging of the U.S. population and climate change potentially contributed to the increase.

Death directly due to cold weather is most likely when an unhealthy, inadequately dressed person is outdoors in cold, wet conditions for an extended period. Examples are



Pollard

a cognitively impaired person who wanders from home or a lost or injured hunter caught in rain or snow for an extended period with no way to communicate. However, death from extreme cold can also happen indoors.

Overexposure to cold can kill or cripple the healthiest person but some groups are at greater risk: older adults, small children, the chronically ill, substance abusers and homeless individuals. Check on older adults frequently because age

and some medications hinder the body's ability to sense and adapt to temperature changes.

"To avoid hypothermia and frostbite, wear several layers of loose clothing – even indoors," said Jim Pollard from AMR Central Mississippi. "Layers of clothes provide more insulation than one thick garment. The clothing against your body should be silk or a synthetic such as polyester. Those fabrics will wick moisture from your skin, on top of the first layer, add increasingly bulky clothing. Wool is a good choice if you are certain, you will not get it wet. When you are outdoors, the top layer should resist rain, sleet or snow and have zippers for venting body heat if you become too warm."

Pollard also suggested:

Since a substantial percentage of body heat escapes through the scalp, wear a stocking cap, even indoors.

Mittens keep hands warmer than gloves.

Wearing more than one pair of socks, especially thick socks, keeps feet warmer.

Remove clothing that gets wet as soon as possible.

"We should remember that

hypothermia can happen indoors as well as outside," Pollard said. People with little or no source of heat should move to a friend's or family member's home or to a public shelter.

To combat cold in your home, Pollard advised: Use a south-facing room. Close the doors for all rooms you do not have to use and for other parts of the home where heat could be wasted. Stuff towels between the bottoms of doors and the floor, especially where there are drafts. Close the vents in unused rooms.

In the daytime, open your curtains for the warmth of sunlight. Stay bundled up with blankets. If you have a fireplace that you know is working well, use it. To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never bring a generator indoors and do not use a gas stove for heat. Be careful with kerosene heaters, space heaters and candles.

It is wise to check smoke detectors and install carbon monoxide detectors.

AMR: Prevent, Recognize & Give Proper 1st Aid For Hypothermia & Frostbite

Hypothermia: Hypothermia

is dangerously low cooling of the body's internal temperature. Hypothermia victims go through stages of shivering, numbness, confusion and drowsiness. Eventually, they lose consciousness. Unless emergency aid is provided, death can soon follow.

First aid for hypothermia includes moving the person from the cold setting and removing any wet clothes. Wrap the person in warm materials and, if the victim is alert, give warm, non-alcoholic fluids. Never give anything by mouth to someone who is less than fully alert.

Frostbite: Frostbite rarely happens in Mississippi, but it is possible. Frostbite is the actual freezing of a body part, most often the fingers, toes, ears or nose. Frostbitten body parts may feel hard or waxy and become blue, black, grayish-yellow or white. Affected body parts may have sensations of pins and needles, burning, stinging or numbness. If not treated, frostbite can require amputation of injured body parts and lead to potentially fatal infection.

First aid for frostbite includes removing the person from the cold setting. Handle the affected part gently to protect it from further injury. Do not rub the frostbitten part or allow the victim to try to use it, such as walking on frostbitten toes. Wrap the part in a dry, clean dressing.

Never put ice on frostbite. Re-warm the frostbitten body part only if emergency care is remote or unavailable. After re-warming, never let the part re-freeze.

If you suspect someone is hypothermic or suffering frostbite, call 911 for emergency medical service immediately.

For more information, visit the National Safety Council at nsc.org.

Pollard added, "Remember to take care of the four P's – people, pipes, pets and plants."

*About American Medical Response (AMR) Operating in 15 Mississippi counties, AMR companies are among the state's busiest ambulance services.*

*AMR is part of Global Medical Response, the largest air and ground emergency medical service provider in the United States.*

# Serving those in need with Girl Scout Troop 5351

By Dr. Timothy Rush  
Guest Writer

For the past several years, Girl Scout Troop 5351 of College Hill Baptist Church has gathered early on the morning in which the nation remembers and reflects on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to give a day of service to those in need. This year I was honored along with a small group of men from College Hill to tag along and offer our support.

The day of service for these vibrant young ladies began when they, along with their troop leaders and parents gathered inside the Family Life Center at College Hill and prepared grab bags that included refreshments, socks, and backpacks. After all the bags were stuffed, we headed to Pittman Park, a well-known homeless community. Upon our arrival, we found other community organizations present. We were able to serve more than 40 people at this loca-



Girl Scouts of College Hill along with their other family members and representatives of the Laymen's Ministry preparing bags to distribute to the unhoused and others in need on Dr. MLK, Jr. Day of Service.

tion. After that distribution stop and under the advice of a local minister who identified herself as "Street Mama," we traveled to Shepherd's Park. There we did not find anyone to share our ministry with, because those in need had left that location.

We then proceeded to Battle-

field Park and from there, we proceeded to Monument Street, where we were met by several law enforcement officers from the Hinds County Sheriff's Office along with more than 40 volunteers who were engulfed with their day of service activity: cleaning up Gallatin Street, spearheaded by local businessman and disc jockey Chris Carr.

Because of the clean-up project, the unhoused that are usually widespread at that location had been told they had to leave so that the area could be cleaned and cleared of all the debris that had piled up there.

After that encounter, we found ourselves under the infamous bridge on Monument

Street where there is a small 'tent' city. It was very humbling for the scouts and adults alike to witness families living in makeshift tents, the troops and adults were happy to share our backpacks. We then traveled to the Pilot Truck-Stop and there we found families staying in what appeared to be broken-

down vehicles.

The mission of the troop is guided by service. Not wanting to return with anything in hand, we then proceeded to the Billy Broomfield House and then made our way to the Stewpot Opportunity Center. Arriving just in time when a large crowd was gathered, we were able to disburse more than 60 bags at this location.

At the end of the day, Girl Scout Troop Leaders Mary Fisher and Jackie Hampton reminded the girls how blessed they were and how they had been a blessing to so many in need. With what we are dealing with in this country, I am particularly grateful that Girl Scout Troop 5351 have learned the principals of "serving the least of them." One thing was constant the entire day, an attitude of gratitude filled the spaces we were in as each group responded with the same cheers of thanksgiving.





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## Scholastic and the Council of the Great City Schools Select JPS as 2025-2026

**Richard M. Robinson Literacy Champion**



JPS Newswire

Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education, and media company, with the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS), a coalition of 81 of the nation's largest urban public school systems, announced Jackson Public Schools as the fifth annual winner of the Richard M. Robinson Literacy Champion Award. Named in honor of the late Scholastic Chairman and CEO, this annual award recognizes a CGCS member school district for demonstrated progress in advancing reading achievement with the goal of further supporting gains by increasing access to digital and print books, magazines, and materials within the district.

"At Scholastic, we believe literacy is the foundation for equity and opportunity," said Tai Chapman, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships at Scholastic Education. "Dr. Greene, his team, and Jackson Public Schools' commitment to expanding access to books and fostering a culture of reading reflect the very spirit of the Richard M. Robinson Literacy Champion Award. We are honored to celebrate their achievements and to support their continued efforts to ensure every child has the chance to thrive through the power of reading."

As the Richard M. Robinson Literacy Champion Award-winner, Jackson Public Schools is provided the opportunity to select a site for a school library makeover. This spring, Shirley Elementary will receive a donation of more than 6,000 high-quality books, and every enrolled student will receive a summer book pack of 10 titles to take home and own, encouraging independent reading beyond the classroom. In addition, the school will also receive a one-year site license to Scholastic Literacy



## JSU features personal items of famed Mississippi author Margaret Walker Alexander in new Smithsonian exhibit

By William Kelly  
Jackson State University

Jackson State University (JSU) is expanding its cultural reach as a partnering institution with "At the Vanguard: Making and Saving History at Historically Black Colleges and Universities." This special exhibit highlights rare collections from five HBCUs, including JSU's Margaret Walker Center (MWC). It will feature Margaret Walker Alexander's, Ph.D., personal journals, the Elizabeth Catlett sculpture of Phillis Wheatley, and the typewriter Alexander used to produce notable works such as the revised 'Jubilee' manuscript.

"At the Vanguard" affirms what Historically Black Colleges and Universities have long known and practiced—preserving history is central to our mission. Jackson State University is honored to contribute to this exhibition through the Margaret Walker Center, where lived experience, scholarship and cultural memory are preserved with care," said JSU Interim President Denise Jones Gregory, Ph.D. "This moment recognizes the role HBCUs play in safeguarding the past and preparing future generations to study, interpret and carry that history forward."

The project is the culmination of a five-year pilot initiative, known as the HBCU History and Culture Access Consortium (HCAC), in which JSU serves as an inaugural member. Launched by the National Museum of African American History & Culture (NMAAHC) in 2021, partners of the consortium engage in activities and programming that seek to strengthen the role of HBCU museums and archives in America.

"At the Vanguard" will display over 100 objects telling a story of resilience, preservation, scholarship and more through the lens of the partnering HBCUs. Additionally, JSU's MWC contributes nearly 30 publications, photographs from the 1973 Phillis Wheatley Poetry Festival, historical markers and political buttons.

Director of the Margaret Walker Center Robert Luckett, Ph.D., says the contribution continues JSU's commitment to the arts through education.

"The support for the Margaret Walker Center and Jackson State University to preserve and promote our historic collections through digitization and this exhibition is crucial to our long-term sustainability



On Monday, January 12, Jackson State University faculty, staff, students and administrators were invited to attend a special preview of "At the Vanguard: Making and Saving History at Historically Black Colleges and Universities." PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SMITHSONIAN



This bronze bust of Phillis Wheatley, a mid-18th-century poet, is one of many historical items that can be found at the National Museum of African American History & Culture. The bust was sculpted by Elizabeth Catlett.

WILLIAM H. KELLY III/JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



Robert Luckett, Ph.D., serves as the director of the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University. Luckett is an inaugural member of the HBCU History and Culture Access Consortium, whose role is to strengthen HBCU museums and archives in America. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SMITHSONIAN



"At the Vanguard," will feature the IBM typewriter formerly owned by famed author and scholar Margaret Walker Alexander, Ph.D. Alexander used the typewriter to produce notable works such as the revised 'Jubilee' manuscript.

WILLIAM H. KELLY III/JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

and visibility, and the opportunity to introduce our students at Jackson State to this field of public history has been a game changer," adds Luckett.

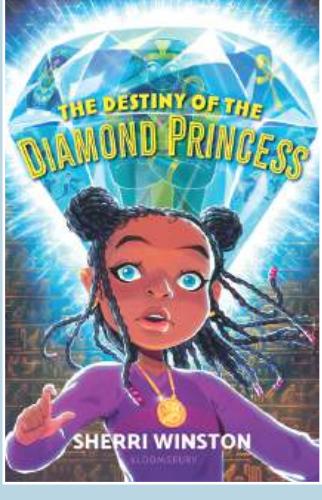
The HCAC initiative has been a transformative partnership with our sister institutions at these other four HBCUs and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American

History and Culture," adds Luckett.

Other HCAC partnering institutions include Clark Atlanta University, Florida A&M University, Texas Southern University and Tuskegee University.

"At the Vanguard" debuts at the National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Jan. 16. The exhibit will remain at the NMAAHC throughout July 19, 2026, and travel to the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson in April 2027.

To donate, book a tour or learn more about the Margaret Walker Center, visit their website here.



# BOOK REVIEW: DESTINY OF THE DIAMOND PRINCESS

BY SHERRI WINSTON  
C.2026, BLOOMSBURY  
\$18.99 • 240 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

Dripping in jewels from head to foot.

If you were a princess or a queen, that's what you'd have. Jewels, gold, lux gowns and plush thrones, not to mention power and respect. It would be so much fun. It would mean a lot of work, too. And in the new book, "Destiny of the Diamond Princess" by Sherri Winston, it might include an ancient curse.

For her entire life, Zahara-Grace Jones had known that she was adopted. What she didn't

know was that her life was a lie!

That whole time, her Mom claimed she didn't know a thing about Zahara-Grace's birth parents. She didn't even have names, she said, but on the evening of Zahara-Grace's twelfth birthday, the truth was revealed.

She'd known a lot about Zahara-Grace's birth; in fact, she was there right after Zahara-Grace entered the world, and she was given a mysterious box to give to Zahara-Grace on her twelfth birthday.

Inside the box was a medallion, a statue, and a letter that

said everything would make sense soon. Zahara-Grace put the medallion around her neck immediately, as she seethed with anger. Why did her mother keep such an important secret for so long? She hated to be mad at the people who loved her most, but she had so many questions.

And then there was more: As Zahara-Grace competed in her favorite school sport, equestrienne skills, there was a commotion on the sidelines. A tall, regal gentleman loudly announced that she was the granddaughter of the King of

Maliwanda, and the descendant of Princess Fara – which meant that Zahara-Grace was a real-life, bona-fide, honest-to-goodness princess!

What a shocker, right? Her BFFs were unfazed, her mother was nervous, and her G-Pop was gracious, but becoming royalty could seriously change a girl's life, starting with rumors of a curse, palace jealousy, and a poisoning, centuries ago.

Was Zahara-Grace the heir to that curse? And was it truly a coincidence that the mummies of her ancestors were about to

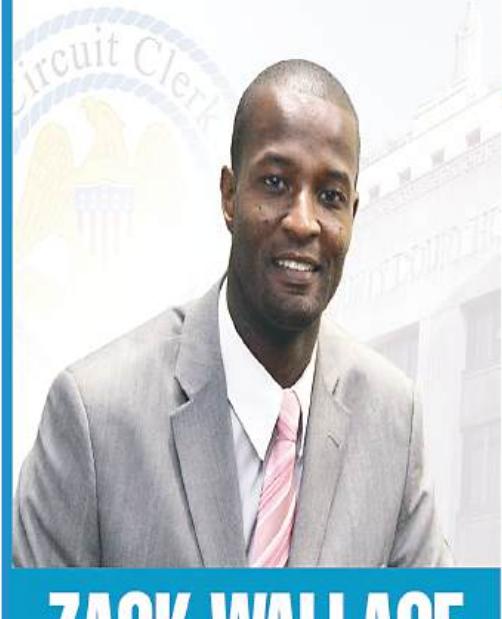
be on display at a local art museum...?

To your adult eyes, a mummy's curse novel might seem like old-school fiction. And it is, but it's also not, in this case. "Destiny of the Diamond Princess" has shades of 1932, but with a 2026 twist that's fresh as can be, and fun, too.

Author Sherri Winston's character, Zahara-Grace, is a great kid, kind and responsible, and her family is supportive of her interests, which widens the story and lets in more believability. On that same note, there's

African history and mythology in the tale, which gives it a ring of truth that your child will love, but not so much that the story feels textbookish. What young readers will probably enjoy best, though, is the exciting Indiana-Jones-like tone that Winston uses in this book. It's thrilling and just a little scary, but safely so.

"Destiny of the Diamond Princess" is meant for kids ages 8-to-11 but slightly older children might enjoy it, too. As might an adult, because this book is a gem.



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- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

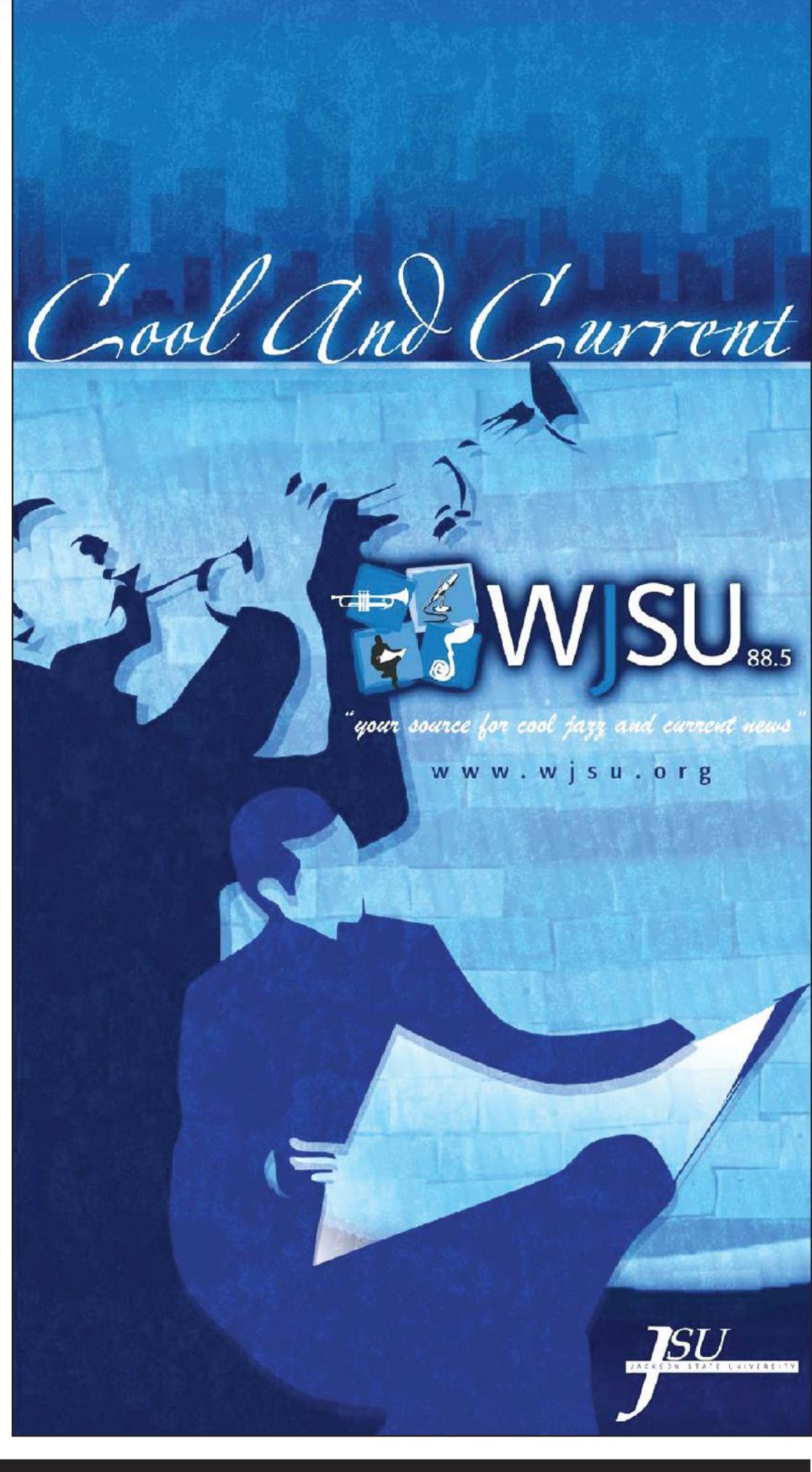
### VOTER INFORMATION

#### Verify/Update your Registration Today

- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

### MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
  - o Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
  - o Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.



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# MLK Day of Service: Let's Be a Blessing to the Unhoused

The National Pan-Hellenic Council of Metro Jackson (MS) in partnership with the JSD Foundation - Choose to Grow Family, the Jackson Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and the LeFleur's Bluff (MS) Chapter of The Links, Inc., held an MLK Day of Service Monday, January 19, 2026 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M at the Jackson Medical Mall Center Stage. The theme was, "Let's Be a Blessing to the Unhoused." Many volunteers showed up to assemble the bags which were distributed.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



# We Must Vote



As we reflect on the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we must do more than honor his words—we must recommit ourselves to the work he lived and died for. Dr. King believed in the power of collective action, moral courage, and a fully engaged democracy. That belief is central to the mission of We Must Vote.

Today, the progress of the civil rights movement is being tested. Voting rights are under threat, civic participation is being restricted, and too many rural, Black, and justice-impacted communities remain pushed to the margins of our democracy. This moment demands vigilance and action to protect not only access to the ballot, but the soul of our nation.

Dr. King reminded us that progress is rarely fast or easy. Yet justice, pursued with persistence and purpose, moves us forward. At We Must Vote, we carry that spirit by educating voters, restoring rights, and ensuring that voices long silenced are heard.

We must not be dismayed by the challenges ahead. The path we choose now—toward inclusion, equity, and civic power—will shape the future for our children, and help change the heart of this state and nation.



*From:* **Toni Johnson**  
*Executive Director*

