



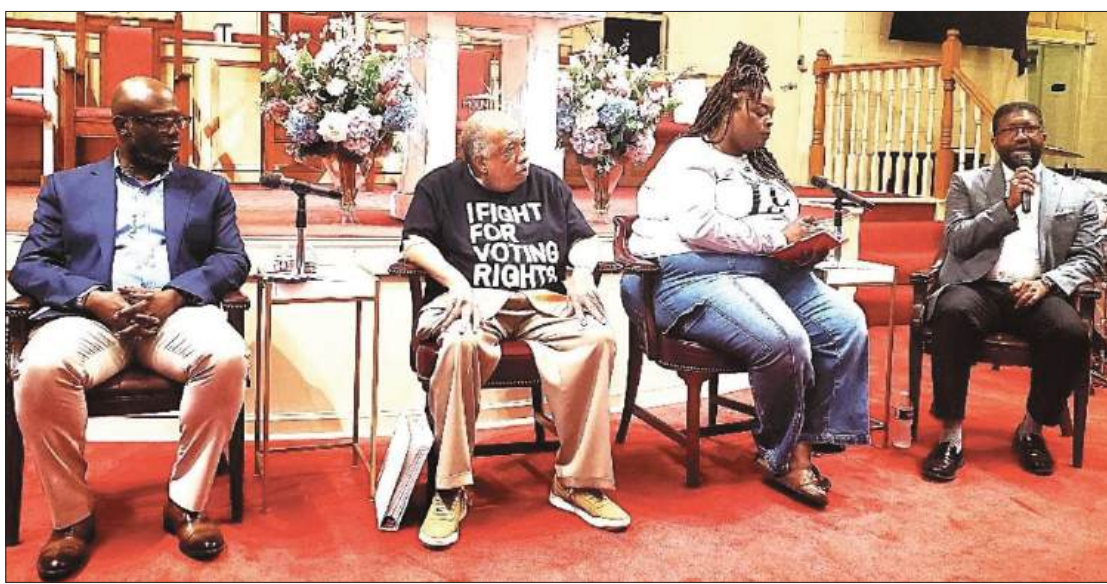
Day of Action for Voting Rights – Evening Strategy Session at Mt. Helm

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, was a truly historic day in Jackson where the Mississippi State NAACP Conference called a “Day of Action for Voting Rights” – and had so many partners. The call came against the backdrop of the April 29, 2026, Supreme Court ruling in Louisiana v. Callias – not eliminating the Voting Rights Act of 1965, but mostly gutting it. An estimated 6,000 rallied, marching from the Old Capitol to the Jackson Convention Center on a carefully planned route.

After substantial prayer at the Old Capitol, police blocked streets for marchers to make the trek up State Street, left at Mississippi Street, left on President Street with the Mississippi Capitol in view, down on past the Governor’s Mansion, all the way to Pascagoula Street, and down to the Convention Center. With the Mississippi Governor promising to “end Bennie Thompson’s reign of terror” and promising redistricting at every level, which will surely impact African American voters and their representation – the Day of Action truly rose to the challenges ahead.

Hours later, at the historic Mt. Helm Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor C.J. Rhodes moderated a strategy session, cementing another layer of effort to the eventful day. The church was filled to capacity with young people, foot soldiers, organizers, elected officials – Senators Hillman Terome Frazier and Sollie



L-R: Dr. Byron D’Andra Orey, Civil Rights Attorney Carroll Rhodes, Southern Poverty Law Center Mississippi Office Director Waikinya Clanton, and Reverend C.J. Rhodes – pastor of Mt. Helm MB Church

B. Norwood, Representative Zakiya Summers, and more. Moss Point, Mississippi, native and multiple best-selling author and Princeton University professor, Eddie Glaude, was on hand.

After prayer, when Rev. Rhodes asked Dr. Orey to summarize the path since 1865, the church got schooled. Dr. Orey is the co-author of “Mississippi: Conflict and Change” (New Edition) – a historical educational text that ignited a First Amendment Lawsuit against the State of Mississippi.

Orey began instead in 1619 and highlighted the pertinent history up to the present day, laying bare that white supremacy never left, and that voting rights and political representation for African Americans has always been challenged by and through laws, rules, and stereotypes.

He reminded us that it was

Ronald Reagan who brought a young attorney to the justice department, intent on upending the Voting Rights Act. His name is John Roberts, now the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who in 2013, authored the decision that removed preclearance from the Voting Rights Act...; in Mississippi there is “no difference between race and party...”

Attorney Carroll Rhodes, the pastor’s father, is a career civil rights attorney who participated in critical decisions and began his remarks with the Mississippi Constitution of 1890. Atty. Rhodes explained, “It was never ratified, and the folks that were doing it said they were doing it specifically to get rid of the Black vote...; they went out of their way to not mention race for fear that the US Supreme Court will say we were discriminatory...; they examined characteris-

tics of Black people and then put those up as barriers to the right to vote.

“The Mississippi Historical Society details the purpose of all this...; since 1890 up to 1965 and since then their purpose has been to make sure that Black people didn’t have the right to vote...”

Waikinya Clanton spoke about the Callias decision becoming a unifying message around voting rights. She stressed how we can no longer talk about this issue from 30,000 feet, “... we must help voters connect the dots.” She clearly articulated how the plan is to dilute the African American vote, and that we must fight back. She spoke about early morning strategy sessions being held around how we are going to fight.

Voting

Continued on page 3

“The Fight Is Far From Over” Thousands rally in Jackson for Voting Rights across the South

By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

Jackson, Mississippi became the latest battleground in the ongoing fight for voting rights last week, as thousands of activists, clergy members, students, elected officials and national political voices gathered for a day of protest, organizing and renewed calls to protect Black voting power across the South.

The rally, held Wednesday, May 20, began with a morning press conference at the historic Old Capitol before marchers filled downtown streets on their way to the Jackson Convention Complex.

Organizers said the demonstration was designed not only to spotlight concerns in Mississippi, but to connect what many leaders described as a coordinated assault on voting rights and Black political influence stretching across Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama.

The atmosphere carried echoes of the Civil Rights Movement that once transformed Mississippi into a symbol of both racial terror and Black political resistance. Chants for justice rang through the capital city as participants demanded expanded ballot access, protection against voter suppression measures and greater federal oversight of state election laws.

National voices joined local

leaders to elevate the urgency of the moment.

Congressman Jonathan Jackson of Illinois told the crowd that the struggle unfolding across Southern states represents “a national crisis for democracy,” arguing that attacks on voting access disproportionately impact Black communities that have historically relied on collective political organizing to secure representation and economic progress.

Former Florida gubernatorial candidate and ex-Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum called on young voters and grassroots organizers to remain engaged despite growing frustration with the political system.

“We cannot surrender our voices because the fight becomes difficult,” Gillum said during remarks that drew loud applause from the crowd gathered inside the convention center.

Political commentator Angela Rye framed the gathering as part of a broader movement against what she described as deliberate efforts to weaken Black political influence through redistricting battles, voter roll purges and restrictions targeting early and absentee voting.

Princeton professor, author and Mississippi native Eddie

Rally

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Republicans are rushing to redraw districts before midterms. Here’s where things stand

By David A. Lieb and Jeffrey Collins
Associated Press

Republicans are rushing to redraw congressional districts to their advantage ahead of the midterm elections, following a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that weakened minority protections under the federal Voting Rights Act.

In a matter of just weeks, new U.S. House districts have already been enacted in Tennessee and Alabama and have

cleared at least one legislative chamber in Louisiana and South Carolina. But hurdles remain in courthouses and capitols before the new maps can be used in the November elections.

Voting districts typically are redrawn after a census at the start of a decade. But President Donald Trump has urged Republican-led states to redistrict now to try to hold on to the GOP’s narrow House majority in the face of political headwinds.

A president’s party typically loses congressional seats in the midterms, and Trump’s approval ratings are in the negative. Now Republicans stand to gain seats from the aggressive redistricting.

Since Trump first urged Texas to redraw its voting districts last year, Republicans think they could win as many as 15 additional seats from new House dis-



People watch and listen during a Louisiana House and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing over redistricting in Baton Rouge, La., Thursday, May 21, 2026. AP PHOTO/GERALD HERBERT

tricts in seven states. Democrats have countered only partially, hoping to pick up six seats from

new districts in two states.

Here’s a look at where things stand on the most recent redistricting efforts:

South Carolina Republicans grapple with divisions

Republican Gov. Henry McMaster called lawmakers into a special session to consider congressional redistricting. The Republican-led House passed a plan early Wednesday that would improve the party’s chances of winning the state’s only Democratic-held seat.

Senators met for the third straight day Saturday to consider the redistricting plan, then set up a possible final vote Tuesday after what could be a dozen hours of debate. But passage is not guaranteed.

Early primary voting starts that same day, and opponents hope that puts pressure on redistricting supporters, because thousands of voters could cast ballots for congressional candidates that may not be counted.

“These votes on Tuesday mat-

Districts

Continued on page 3

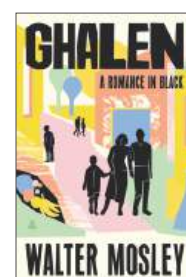
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Ghalen: A Romance in Black



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Anderson "Andy" Hardwick, Jr.

Anderson Hardwick Jr. was born on the 10th of June, 1935. Anderson, Sr., and Lillian Hardwick raised him on Crawford Street in Vicksburg, Miss. From infancy, he was immersed in music. He had aunts who sang. His Aunt Alma was a school music teacher. His Aunt Hattie owned a radio and a record-player.

Andy listened to Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Louis Jordan, Lucky Millner, and Jimmy Lunceford's band. By age 12, Andy played professionally with Fish Man Evans and the Bobcats. He later played with the Rhythm Aces and the Re-Bops.

Andy attended school at the Southern Christian Institute (SCI), a Black boarding school in Edwards, Miss., from the 7th through the 11th grade. His Aunt Alma taught there. The school closed in 1953.

The following fall, Andy transferred to the Alcorn Laboratory High School. As a high school

student, he played in the college band. He continued to play with the Re-Bops, which eventually reorganized as the world-renowned Red Tops.

At age 17, Andy became an original member and the youngest member. The Red Tops performed at the popular Blue Room Skyline in Vicksburg, as well as other venues and special events throughout Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee.

Upon graduation from high school in 1954, Andy enrolled in Alcorn State College, where he later earned a B.A. in Business Education. In 1957, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. Stationed in Paris, and directed and coordinated USO shows and all live entertainment for isolated American troops throughout Western Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

Off the clock, he "sat-in" with jazz greats, such as Art Blakey, Clifford Browne, Dexter Gordon, Oscar Pettiford, Bud Powell, Lucky Thompson, and Sarah Vaughn. He even befriended writer Richard Wright, a fellow Mississippian.

In 1960, Andy reintegrated into the live music scene in his hometown of Vicksburg. Upon his return, he helped to organize the group, the Corvettes, and completed his studies at Alcorn. After graduation, Alcorn hired Andy as the assistant

bookkeeper. On the weekends, he "gigged."

In 1967, Dr. Aaron Shirley, his fellow black physicians and Andy received federal funding and opened the Tufts-Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou, Miss., the first of its kind in the region. Dr. Shirley hired Andy as the Center's business manager. He continued to gig on the weekends.

In 1970, Andy and his family moved to Jackson, Miss., where he served as the comptroller of the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center. He formed his own group, Sounds Unlimited. The group over time expanded from a trio to a quintet. Beginning in 1975, Andy led Poets' House Band for 15 years.

In 1983, Andy took a brief hiatus from professional music to accept the position of Vice President of Fiscal Affairs at Paul Quinn College, then located in Waco, Texas. In 1985, he returned to Mississippi and divided his time between gigging at Poets and the Ramada Inn - Renaissance Hotel, which later became the Hilton. He played at the jazz brunch at the Hilton, until March 2020. Then the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic "shut down the whole world."

During the years that Andy played at Poets, but particularly at the Hilton, he offered informal apprenticeships to budding jazz musicians, as he

invited them to sit-in. The two venues served as training grounds for student musicians from area colleges, namely Jackson State University.

Indeed, Andy was always dedicated to the furtherance of the jazz tradition through mentoring up and coming jazz musicians as well as jazz enthusiasts. Over the 70-plus years that he played professionally, he had the pleasure of performing with James Brown, Red Callender, Ray Charles, Fats Domino, Lionel Hampton, Milt Hinton, B.B. King, Otis Redding, and many others.

He married the lovely Velma Sims Hardwick in May 1964. They were married 54 years, and together they raised three children: J. Kevin Hardwick (m. Carol Jean Parke Hardwick), L. René Hardwick, and June Hardwick; six grandchildren: Janah Hardwick Hemphill (m. Lemarcus Hemphill), twins Joi Hardwick, Jenae Hardwick, Justin Hefner, Jacla Hefner, and Raha Maxwell; and five great-grandchildren: Ayden McCoy Hardwick, twins Levi and Kiro Hemphill, Jera Hemphill and Cali Samuels. All of whom love music - thanks to Andy.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 30, 2026, at New Horizon Church Event Center, 1750 Ellis Avenue, Jackson, Miss. (Unity Colors: White and shades of green)

A Life Well Lived

Anderson "Andy" Hardwick, Jr.

Sunrise: June 10, 1935 - Sunset: May 2, 2026

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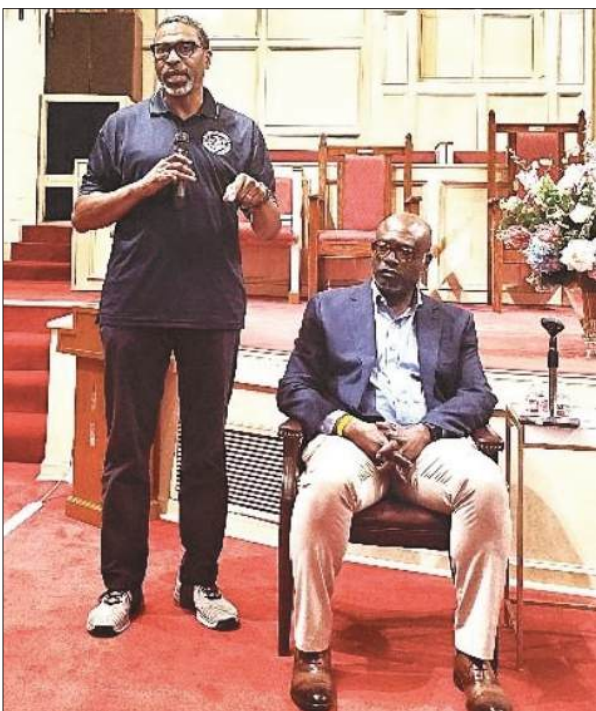


MISSISSIPPI



Voting

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National NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson and Dr. Orey. PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG.

“They want to draw us out – we are drawing ourselves back in; they want us to think that our power is going to be taken away from us just by playing with our vote and we’re not gonna let them do that. We are not going to play with these people. Sixty-five hundred people gathered today in Jackson for voting rights. We are going to have field hearings and we will have alternatives. We are building a movement. This is a multi-faceted,

multi-cultural, multi-generational fight. You have to wake up every morning with it in you....,” Clanton said.

National NAACP President Derrick Johnson was called up to share strategy and a charge going forward. “The energy in the room today was beautiful, and we should use it as a catalyst as we march toward November. The Supreme Court decision gave them license to suppress votes and we must mobilize. How do you overcome voter suppression? You overwhelm the polling places,” Johnson explained.

“Today we had representation from over 52 of the 82 counties across the state. We have a target to increase voter turnout by 75,000. During the Civil Rights Movement, it wasn’t about the big marches, it was about targeted strategic approaches. Freedom Summer made the pathway to the Voting Rights Act...; let’s figure out the lanes and let’s execute. That’s what the next steps are, execution....,” said President Johnson, underscoring that the forces trying to undermine Black voters have been successful thus far because they have been united.

The strategy session rounded out with a solid wall of fourteen attendees making their way to the microphone to contribute to the discussion, some offering resources, others reminded of keeping your voter record up-to-date, especially if you move. Zelfa Montgomery Watkins from Holmes County shared about the three dollars in her pocket: “If you don’t want my vote, then you’re not getting my money.”

Numerous speakers were young and highly engaged. Nineteen-year-old Jayla Chatmon voiced her concern about engaging the 18-39 age group and asked how they are being informed in order to increase civic engagement.

Districts

Continued from page 1

ter more than they ever have before,” Democratic Sen. Jeffrey Graham said.

Democrats and some Republicans have reservations. Some GOP senators fear that their attempt to win the district held by Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn could backfire by spreading so many Democrats into Republican-held districts, that they become susceptible to being lost.

South Carolina’s primaries are set for June 9. The legislation revising the districts would set a new congressional primary for August.

Louisiana lawmakers put forth two options for maps

The Supreme Court struck down Louisiana’s congressional map, which contains two majority-Black districts held by Democrats, as an illegal racial gerrymander. The state House is expected to debate a revised map next week that would significantly reshape one of those districts, while giving Republicans an improved chance to win it.

Although Republicans who dominate the state Legislature are aligned on the broad contours of the new map, the House and Senate have competing visions for how to divvy up certain localities, including which parishes will be kept whole and which will be sliced up.

A House committee tweaked a map previously passed by the Senate. If the House and Senate pass different versions, a joint committee

of lawmakers could try to negotiate a compromise before the session is set to end June 1.

Republican Gov. Jeff Landry postponed Louisiana’s May 16 congressional primary until later this summer to allow time for redistricting.

Court weighs whether to block Alabama’s new map

A federal court heard arguments Friday on a request to block Alabama from using congressional districts that could help Republicans gain an additional seat in the midterm elections. It’s the latest twist in a long-running legal case.

Republican state lawmakers in 2023 approved a map with one majority-Black district. The court previously blocked that map and ordered a new one that resulted in Democrats winning two seats in which Black residents comprise a majority or close to it.

But the U.S. Supreme Court recently overturned that order and directed the lower court to reexamine the case in light of the Louisiana decision.

Attorneys for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the ACLU, which are representing Black voters, want a three-judge panel to prevent the state from using the 2023 map.

They contend a preliminary injunction is warranted, because the

Louisiana decision should not affect a separate finding that Alabama’s map was intentionally discriminatory against Black voters.

Alabama’s primary elections were May 19. But new congressional primaries are scheduled for August for the districts that are different under the 2023 map.

Tennessee lawsuit claims lawmakers went too far

A state court panel heard arguments Thursday in another NAACP lawsuit seeking to invalidate Tennessee’s new congressional map, which carves up a Memphis-based, majority-Black district represented by a Democrat. The new map could give Republicans an improved chance to sweep all nine of the state’s seats.

The lawsuit contends the General Assembly included provisions in the redistricting legislation that weren’t specifically authorized or necessary under a proclamation by Republican Gov. Bill Lee, that set the agenda for the special session.

Among those is a provision repealing a state law that prohibits mid-decade redistricting. If the legislature exceeded its authority, then the lawsuit asserts that the new map cannot be used.

Associated Press writers Jack Brook and Kim Chandler contributed.

Rally

Continued from page 1

Glaude Jr. reminded attendees that Mississippi has long stood at the center of America’s racial reckoning.

“The same courage that changed this nation decades ago is required now,” Glaude said. “History is calling this generation to act.” The rally comes amid intensifying national debate over voting access and representation throughout the Deep South.

In Louisiana, legal battles over congressional redistricting have reignited questions about fair Black representation after courts challenged maps critics argued diluted Black voting strength. In Alabama, federal courts have repeatedly confronted state leaders over congressional maps found to marginalize Black voters despite the state’s sizable African American population.

Meanwhile in Tennessee, tensions over race and political power have intensified following legislative actions that critics say disproportionately target Black lawmakers and communities.

Black elected officials who once chaired influential legislative committees have been stripped of leadership assignments, while battles over district maps, voting access and political retaliation have fueled growing concern among civil rights advocates across the state.

Organizers in Jackson argued that these battles are interconnected and reflect a larger strategy aimed at limiting the political influence of Black voters in Southern states where African Americans remain a decisive electoral force.

Local elected officials from across Mississippi also attended Wednesday’s events, joining ministers, labor organizers and student activists in calling for federal voting protections and renewed civic engagement ahead of upcoming election cycles.

By afternoon, the march from the Old Capitol to the convention center had transformed downtown Jackson into a sea of signs, chants and voter mobilization efforts.

Volunteers registered voters, distributed educational materials and encouraged attendees to organize within their own communities long after the rally ended.

For many participants, the demonstration was about more than one state or one election. It was a reminder that the battle for voting rights, once fought on the bridges and backroads of the South, remains unfinished.

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2026 Graduates advised not to interpret delays as denials

By Gail Gettis
Contributing Writer

College Hill M.B. Church has maintained a tradition of promoting education and recognizing important milestones and achievements, especially for youth. On this special day, May 24, 2026, at 10 am Baccalaureate worship service, College Hill gave special recognition to its youth graduating from high school as well as college graduates, and members that were receiving advanced degrees.

Denise Griffin introduced all the graduates and shared their many accomplishments with those in attendance viewing the streaming services. Each student received special tokens from the church and from ministries which they were a part of.

One outstanding high school graduate, Blake Hansberry briefly addressed the congregation with thanks for their love and support. He spoke on behalf of all the graduates.

Hansberry, a Terry High School graduate, and honor student who has accrued a long list of accolades from his school, church and community is the son of Katrina Reeves Hansberry and Tim Hansberry.

College Hill has taken pride in consistently recognizing all high school graduates. Along with Hansberry, the exceptional 2026 group included Kristen Day, Terry High School and daughter of Diane Day; Madison Harris, Clinton High School and daughter of Areda Cockrell-Harris and the late Fred Harris; Joshua C. Jordan, Clinton H.S. and son of Reverend Chancey L. Jordan, Sr. and Lashunda Jordan; Aiden Knox, Clinton H.S. and son of Micca and Derrian Knox; and Jayda Lambert, Northwest Rankin H.S., and daughter of Cherry Price.

Coincidentally, this year's students collectively represent some of the best scholars, athletes, and leaders at their schools and in service to church ministries.

Jackie Hampton, a member of Mission Circle #7 announced winners of the R.E. Willis Scholarship, which was established by the church in the name of the late Pastor R. E. Willis, who served as pastor of College Hill from 1965 until he transitioned in 1989.

Certificate of awards were presented by Pastor Jordan and Circle #7 President, Yvette Mitchell. Circle #7 has spearheaded the awarding of these scholarships for 26 years.

Kristen Day received a \$600 book stipend; Madison Harris received a 3rd place scholarship for \$900; Joshua C. Jordan received a 2nd place award for \$1,200 and Blake Hansberry received a 1st place scholarship for \$1,500.

The service also included the recognition of students who had earned bachelor's degrees: Lanae Williams Brown received a B. S. in Engineering from JSU; Chloe Nash received a B.S. in civil engineering from JSU; Sydney Armstrong, received a degree in Political Science from Tougaloo College and Terrance Hill earned a doctorate in education administration, with an emphasis in educational leadership.

A longtime member of College Hill, an accomplished teacher, principal and currently Assistant Superintendent of Operations for the Greenville Public School District, Dr. Terrance Hill provided the culminating message to graduates: "Delayed Does Not Mean Denied."



Awardees of Dr. R.E. Willis Scholarships (L-R) Kristen Day, Madison Harris, Joshua Jordan, Blake Hansberry, Sister Yvette Mitchell - president of Mission Circle #7, and Pastor Chauncey Jordan.



Kristen Day plans to attend Mississippi State University



First Row (l-r) Dr. Terrence Hill, Chloe Nash, Sydney Armstrong, Kristen Day, Madison Harris, Lanae Williams Brown; second row (L-R) Jayda Lambert, Aiden Knox, Blake Hansberry and Joshua Jordan. PHOTOS BY HARDY TAYLOR.



Jayda Lambert plans to first attend Holmes Community College and then University of Southern MS



Madison Harris plans to attend Tennessee State University



Aiden Knox plans to attend University Southern Mississippi



Blake Hansberry plans to attend Tennessee State University



Joshua Jordan with his mother Lady Lashanda Jordan plans to attend Jackson State University

After he walked through his personal journey and emphasized what he learned as well as what others can learn from his experiences guided by God, he left the younger adults with some final words of wisdom:

1. Protect your name...; move like a camera is always on you. Carry yourself with integrity, even when no one is applauding.
2. Read. Read. Read. Never stop learning and never walk into a room uninformed, be it a business meeting, classroom, organization, or conversation. Read, research, and prepare to know something about what you are walking into.
3. Every day is a workday. Success is not built in a moment. It's built through consistency, discipline and showing up, even if no one is watching.
4. Surround yourself with spirit-led prayer warriors.... Everyone around you is not assigned to your future. If you can't pray with them, they should not be part of your close circle.
5. Do not allow setbacks to convince you that your future is cancelled. One day you will look back and find that the very thing you thought was holding you back was pushing you toward your purpose.

After service, attendees convened to the Family Life Center, where members provided the high school students with graduation gifts and encouragement. The high school graduates displayed their personal booths regarding their college or university of choice.

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MISSISSIPPI INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

State Farm Health Insurance Co.
One State Farm Plaza
Bloomington, IL 61710

Total Assets	\$ 8,820,981
Total Liabilities	\$ 51,478
Capital Stock	\$2,500,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 6,269,503
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 8,769,503
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 8,820,981

Mississippi Insurance Department

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

State Farm Life Insurance Co.
One State Farm Plaza
Bloomington, IL 61710

Total Assets	\$ 97,966,654,097
Total Liabilities	\$ 76,901,531,354
Capital Stock	\$3,000,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 21,062,122,743
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 21,065,122,743
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 97,966,654,097

Mississippi Insurance Department

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Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

State Life Insurance Co., The
P.O. Box 406
Indianapolis, IN 46206-0406

Total Assets	\$ 12,608,395,220
Total Liabilities	\$ 11,932,610,548
Capital Stock	\$3,000,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 672,784,672
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 675,784,672
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 12,608,395,220

Mississippi Insurance Department

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Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

State Mutual Insurance Co.
Post Office Box 153
Rome, GA 30162-0153

Total Assets	\$ 233,204,258
Total Liabilities	\$ 201,837,470
Capital Stock	\$0
Surplus Funds	\$ 31,366,788
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 31,366,788
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 233,204,258

Mississippi Insurance Department

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Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Stellar National Life Insurance Co.
1901 Ulmerton Road 200
Clearwater, FL 33762

Total Assets	\$ 27,084,086
Total Liabilities	\$ 22,412,181
Capital Stock	\$2,800,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 1,871,905
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 4,671,905
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 27,084,086

Mississippi Insurance Department

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Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Sterling Investors Life Insurance Co.
10201 North Illinois Street
Indianapolis, IN 46290

Total Assets	\$ 99,674,106
Total Liabilities	\$ 83,341,918
Capital Stock	\$2,500,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 13,832,188
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 16,332,188
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 99,674,106

Mississippi Insurance Department

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Sterling Life Insurance Co.
11200 Lakeline Blvd, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78717

Total Assets	\$ 31,070,017
Total Liabilities	\$ 15,559,496
Capital Stock	\$3,000,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 12,510,521
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 15,510,521
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 31,070,017

Mississippi Insurance Department

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Sun Life and Health Insurance Co. (U.S.)
One Sun Life Executive Pk., SC 3318
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

Total Assets	\$ 1,119,371,174
Total Liabilities	\$ 970,674,896
Capital Stock	\$17,946,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 130,750,278
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 148,696,278
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 1,119,371,174

Mississippi Insurance Department

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Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada
96 Worcester Street
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

Total Assets	\$ 18,693,951,172
Total Liabilities	\$ 18,005,672,315
Capital Stock	\$0
Surplus Funds	\$ 688,278,857
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 688,278,857
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 18,693,951,172

Mississippi Insurance Department

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Superior Funeral and Life Insurance Co.
P.O. Box 6040
Hot Springs, AR 71902-6040

Total Assets	\$ 206,322,928
Total Liabilities	\$ 174,920,516
Capital Stock	\$1,000,002
Surplus Funds	\$ 30,402,410
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 31,402,412
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 206,322,928

Mississippi Insurance Department

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Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Supreme Council of the Royal Arcanum
61 Battery March Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Total Assets	\$ 88,765,876
Total Liabilities	\$ 83,287,525
Capital Stock	\$0
Surplus Funds	\$ 5,478,351
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 5,478,351
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 88,765,876

Mississippi Insurance Department

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Surety Life Insurance Co.
13815 FNB Parkway, Suite 200
Omaha, NE 68154

Total Assets	\$ 35,275,190
Total Liabilities	\$ 5,346,927
Capital Stock	\$2,500,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 27,428,263
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 29,928,263
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 35,275,190

Mississippi Insurance Department

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Swiss Re Life & Health America Inc.
175 King Street
Armonk, NY 10504

Total Assets	\$ 12,317,912,953
Total Liabilities	\$ 10,764,195,135
Capital Stock	\$4,000,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 1,549,717,818
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 1,553,717,818
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 12,317,912,953

Mississippi Insurance Department

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Symetra Life Insurance Co.
P.O. Box 34690
Seattle, WA 98124-1690

Total Assets	\$ 65,302,165,737
Total Liabilities	\$ 62,591,082,324
Capital Stock	\$5,000,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 2,706,083,413
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 2,711,083,413
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 65,302,165,737

Mississippi Insurance Department

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement

as of December 31, 2025

Symetra National Life Insurance Co.
P.O. Box 34690
Seattle, WA 98124-1690

Total Assets	\$ 31,796,800
Total Liabilities	\$ 18,821,914
Capital Stock	\$2,500,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 10,474,886
Total Capital & Surplus	\$ 12,974,886
Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds	\$ 31,796,800

Mississippi Insurance Department

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.

Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance

A Conversation with Author Curtis Chin — “Who Gets to Belong in America?”

In Partnership with American Community Media National Briefing Series

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

“Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant” is Curtis Chin’s humorous and deeply reflective memoir about growing up as a Chinese American in 1980’s Detroit.

Chin’s family restaurant, Chung’s Cantonese Cuisine, served as a gathering place for residents grappling with racial and economic tensions, as well as the first recorded hate crime, the murder of Vincent Chin.

In this special briefing, held to commemorate AAPI Heritage Month, Chin explored identity and the question many immigrants grapple with - being between worlds. The familiar restaurant phrase, “For here or to go?” becomes a metaphor for belonging.

How is “American” defined, and who gets to define it? Fresh off a 10-country book tour, Chin will also discuss how Americans are perceived in other parts of the world.

Fifty media outlets joined the discussion with Mr. Chin, which was moderated by American Community Media National Briefing Series Co-Producer, Sunita Sohrabji. Chin began, “The title of the book says I grew up in a Chinese restaurant, not just any Chinese restaurant. It was in Detroit and my family owned it for 65 years.”

He asked the audience if they could guess how many eggrolls they sold in 65 years. The answer turned out to be 10 million.

“I grew up when the auto industry was struggling and there was a lot of anti-



Protestors gathered Saturday for the No Kings protest at Railroad Park. SUBMITTED BY JAYE JASPER

Asian sentiment because of the Japanese car companies. But you had crack cocaine, you had AIDS, and I personally knew five people murdered by the time I was 18 years old,” Chin says.

He adds, “Writing the book is a thank you to my parents for teaching me and my siblings everything we needed to navigate this world. But it also happened in my hometown Detroit. I think a lot of people still kind of misunderstand. I wanted to show that Detroit was still capable of producing good things like me.”

Chin explains, “The United States was

going through the Civil Rights struggle, which we are arguably still going through these days. There was a lot more violence back then, cities were burning down. In Detroit people were being killed in the streets and the National Guard had to be called in with tanks to quell the violence.

“They shut down the whole city of Detroit for five straight days. If you know anything about Chinese restaurants, they never close for five straight days, right? My parents had to find something to do, so they had sex, and nine months later I was born – their little riot baby.

“People always ask me why I talk about social justice so much – without that incident, I probably wouldn’t be around.”

Explaining his own favorite line in the book, he says, “My favorite line in the book is all about the immigration experience – ‘yes my family succeeded because of America, but America also succeeded because of my family’; immigrants come to this country, they contribute so much to the wealth of this country. They give. They don’t take.”

Chin was asked by the moderator to depart from his family story and share his perspective on America at 250 years, and who gets to live here freely.

He began, “My family’s been in this country since the 1800s, but I have a sense that the discrimination that my great grandfather faced when he first arrived here is not so different from the same stereotypes and accusations that I face, right?”

“That we are foreigners, we’re dirty – so the stereotypes that Asian American’s face have really not changed that much in 250 years ... the stereotypes, the constant idea that foreigners are taking away things from other people, from white people.”

The Mississippi Link newspaper asked Chin, “With the knowledge of America’s true history in mind, are you optimistic that America will ever achieve the ideal of liberty and justice for all?”

He responded, “I know we’re living through some very dark times right now, and a lot of people are questioning the future of the United States, even the con-

cept of democracy. I try to be hopeful. I do admit that sometimes I have my days where I am concerned. But I think back to the Obama campaign, only about ten years ago.

“I feel like that’s just the pendulum in the United States swimming back and forth. We are in a really dark moment right now, but I believe that we have a lot more people that believe in this idea of America and as a land of opportunity for people. We just need to make sure that we understand that this is something that you have to fight for, right?”

In responding to a question by Carlos Roa about bringing Americans back together, Chin said, “We live in these little silos. We don’t talk to each other. The Chinese restaurants are one of the few places where you can go and see people from a different race or religion or social economic background or religion or whatnot.

“If we could, you take that opportunity to just lean across the table and ask the person next to you: ‘Hey, what are you eating?’ It’s the small conversations that I think our country needs to start connecting with each other. The way I pitched my book to my agent was: ‘Come for the eggrolls but stay for the talk on racism.’”

Mr. Chin is the co-founder of the Asian American Writers’ Workshop. His latest film for PBS, “Warren King: King of Cardboard,” premieres this month. Readers can view the entire briefing at:

<https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/a-conversation-with-author-curtis-chin-who-gets-to-belong-in-america>.

we must vote

CALLAIS V. LOUISIANA & MISSISSIPPI VOTING RIGHTS

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

A major court case could weaken or eliminate **Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA)**—a key protection against racial discrimination in voting.

FOR MISSISSIPPI, THIS COULD MEAN SERIOUS SETBACKS FOR BLACK VOTERS AND FAIR REPRESENTATION.

WHY SECTION 2 MATTERS:

Section 2 helps communities fight unfair voting laws and maps. It has been used to:

- STOP DISCRIMINATORY REDISTRICTING
- PROTECT MAJORITY-BLACK DISTRICTS
- ENSURE FAIR REPRESENTATION AT ALL LEVELS

IF SECTION 2 IS WEAKENED:

- FEWER LEGAL PROTECTIONS AGAINST UNFAIR VOTING LAWS
- MORE RACIAL GERRYMANDERING (MANIPULATED DISTRICT LINES)
- INCREASED VOTER SUPPRESSION WITH LESS ACCOUNTABILITY

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR MISSISSIPPI:

- LOSS OF BLACK REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT
- MAJORITY-BLACK DISTRICTS WEAKENED OR ELIMINATED
- LESS POWER IN DECISIONS ON SCHOOLS, HEALTHCARE, AND JUSTICE

we must vote

MISSISSIPPI'S SHIELD ACT (SB 2588)

PRIVACY & YOUR RIGHTS:

KEY CONCERNS:

Providing sensitive information (like Social Security numbers) can raise concerns about how data is used or shared.

WHAT TO KNOW:

- Government systems already use secure identity verification
- Data sharing across agencies exists but raises valid concerns
- Trust in data protection varies across communities

WHY IT MATTERS:

Additional data requirements can:

- Discourage voter registration
- Increase confusion and fear
- Create more barriers to participation

OUR POSITION:

- No one should choose between privacy and voting
- Voter education must be clear and honest
- Communities deserve transparency and protection

TAKE ACTION

- Get Informed: Check requirements and registration status
- Help Others: Support community members with documents
- Stay Engaged: Join voter education and advocacy efforts

CONNECT WITH WE MUST VOTE TODAY!!!

We Must Vote, Inc. is organizing across Mississippi to ensure every eligible voter is informed, prepared, and empowered.

LEARN MORE

WWW.WEMUST.VOTE

WE MUST VOTE, INC. | 200 N. CONGRESS STREET - SUITE 200 | JACKSON, MS 39201

Scared Politicians are redrawing voting districts; however American voters know what is right

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



It is today but some people want it to be yesterday. Some would like to turn back the clock. There are those Americans

who want to do something that is totally against our value system.

What are they trying to do? They are attempting to push some forward and keep others back.

There is an evil that permeates the current political and social environment. I grew up in the South where segregation was practiced daily. Schools, facilities and businesses were all defined by race.

There were certain places that Black people couldn't go. Signs were placed on doors and/or people were standing there letting you know you couldn't enter.

It was stupefying to me that because of our skin color, barriers were always in front of us. Was a monopoly of rights and privileges given specifically to another race of people?

What type of psychology is practiced when you tell someone they can't because you don't look like them?

Racism is a stigma that has been attached to the South for a very long time. Back then, it was more overt. Now, it is more subtle. For some, they hide it wearing a suit or wearing a dress. Don't be fooled, it's still there.

Gerrymandering in Southern

states is happening now. State legislative bodies are jockeying for position to decrease the number of majority-Black voting districts. Those in charge are smiling while dialing back Black influence in the polls.

Louisiana is leading the charge to eliminate African American voting power. The effort is concentrated and intentional. Until recently, there were two mostly Black voting districts. Now there is only one.

According to confirmed reports, "Following recent legal decisions, Louisiana currently has only one majority-Black congressional district. The state's previous two-district map was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in April".

This district, called the 2nd Congressional district, is represented by Representative Troy Carter.

These Louisiana legislative moves have caused unrest among many Black and White citizens. It's clear that it was a ploy to weaken votes cast by African Americans. Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League and former mayor of New Orleans said, "It will impact how you are seen in history."

Unfortunately, most of them don't care about how they are viewed. Character and integrity counted yesterday, and it counts today. They take cover behind some type of false righteousness. Their constituents are filled with an unbridled disdain for anyone interested in fairness and justice.

How wise is it to create pot-

holes for failure instead of pathways for progress? Wouldn't it be better to have all citizens feel hopeful? I believe it would be.

Redrawing state voting maps that are detrimental to people who look like me is shameful and painful. The state of South Carolina also comes readily to mind as the district represented by Representative James Clyburn(D-SC) has been redrawn.

Congressman James Clyburn said, "I was led, like everybody else, to believe that the government would respect what the Supreme Court did two years ago. Disappointed but not surprised."

He is South Carolina's only Democrat in Congress. This esteemed lawmaker has been in the United States Congress over

33 years. He took office in 1993 representing South Carolina's 6th Congressional District.

With all this redistricting posturing, the Republicans are having their way politically and racially. Making it harder to vote and lessening the impact of our vote are their goals. This maniacal behavior by them is an affront to our democracy.

These methods put forth by the GOP in the South may backfire on them. America is failing its Black, Brown and White citizens now. Many believe that this group represents a clear and present danger to the future of this nation.

The votes Republicans want may not be the votes Republicans get. Stay tuned and stay uplifted. This isn't how the story ends.

Insurers are blocking Mental Health Care

By Guy Anthony
President Black, Gifted & Whole



More than one in five American adults battle depression, bipolar disorder, or some other mental illness.

And even with insurance, about two-thirds of those patients can't access treatment.

That's because insurers are openly disregarding federal law and structuring plans that provide inadequate coverage for mental health care. These barriers especially harm patients of color, who disproportionately experience mental health challenges.

Federal law requires insurers to provide equal access to mental health conditions and physical health problems. But insurers have found ways to skirt those requirements.

Consider how many insurers set reimbursement rates for mental health services so low that providers struggle to sustain their practices. As a result, many mental health providers don't take insurance - about a third of psychologists, for example, don't accept insurance.

Even patients who do find in-network providers face coverage barriers.

For example, insurers frequently rely on "prior authorization," which requires doctors to complete lengthy paperwork and jump through administrative hoops to obtain insurer approval to prescribe a medica-

tion or treatment for a patient.

Over a quarter of patients who take or seek a prescription medication for a mental health condition experience prior authorization issues, according to one recent survey.

Over 90% of doctors say that prior authorization delays necessary care, and over three in four say that patients discontinue treatment because of prior authorization challenges. Studies show that prior authorization can delay access to essential behavioral health medication, leading to decreased treatment effectiveness and avoidable harm.

I've experienced these delays firsthand. While living with bipolar disorder for more than a decade, I've had to navigate complex medication regimes and constant changes in treatment.

A few years ago, prior authorization blocked me from getting the medication that kept me stable. This wasn't about my doctor's judgment, it was an administrative barrier that put my health at risk.

If I can still face coverage gaps despite having resources and experience navigating the system, many others - especially people of color - are likely facing even greater barriers.

Many insurers even effectively impose limits on how many therapy visits a patient can have covered in a year or only offer mental health services for a limited amount of time.

One ProPublica investigation, for example, found that

UnitedHealthcare often flagged patients who received frequent "unwarranted" treatment. UnitedHealthcare allegedly flags up to 10% of cases.

The insurance giant then contacts providers to deny coverage or pressure them to cut off therapy for patients - many of whom desperately need care.

These practices harm all Americans, but they're especially damaging for communities of color. These communities are more likely to experience certain mental health challenges and less likely to receive care.

It's already difficult for many patients of color to find providers who understand their background and experiences. Insurers' restrictions only exacerbate the problem.

We can fix this system, but only if we put patients and NOT profits at the center of care. Policymakers must ensure patients can access prescribed medications without dangerous delays, especially for chronic conditions where medication adherence is critical. They should also hold insurers accountable for overriding doctors' decisions.

Patients shouldn't have to wait for systems to catch up with what the law already guarantees. Until insurers uphold both the letter and the spirit of the law, true access will remain more of a promise than a reality.

Guy Anthony is the president and CEO of Black, Gifted & Whole.

Is Love Enough?

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



Do you remember what it felt like when you met your soulmate? Your soulmate captivated your thoughts and passions; couldn't stop thinking about them. Further, your soulmate caused you to be anxious - you felt lost without their presence until you saw and/or heard from them.

Additionally, you all talked and listened to each other for hours if not all night - nothing was off limits - it was surreal. The love you felt for each other had not ever been described in a song, poem, or book - your love was magical and you could survive off each other's love alone. When you meet your soulmate, you have no doubts or questions that you have found the person you desire to spend the rest of your life with, which eventually leads to a proposal, a wedding, and marriage!

In fact, on your wedding day - you are determined that your love for each other will not only sustain your union until death do you part, but it will also help you weather every and any storm. However, is love enough?

Although, you met your soulmate and married each other - having and/or maintaining a healthy, happy, and loving marriage requires more than love. Please know, the better and for worse is coming in other words, "is your love enough" to help you get through the following:

- Unresolved childhood trauma
- Living together
- Flatulence
- Ocd
- Superstitions
- Disagreements
- Mood swings
- Arguments
- Miscommunication - misinterpretations, & misunderstandings (the m&m's)
- School/college commitments
- Job/careers commitments
- Car accidents
- Parenting/managing children

- Aging parents/sickly parents
- Death of parents
- Sick child
- Death of a child
- Teenagers (yikes!)
- Sickness
- Debilitating health issues
- Aging
- Premenopause - this is a beast!
- Menopause - this is a beast!
- Mid-life crisis - this is a beast!
- Mental health issues
- Job loss
- Financial infidelity
- Infidelity - god does permit one to divorce in this instance if they are unable to forgive
- Hair loss
- Missing teeth/no teeth
- Weight gain/loss
- Addictions
- Unfortunately, many couples learned in situations like described above and beyond that love was not enough to keep them together leading to separation and divorce and ultimately the breaking up of god given marriages and families.

Husbands and wives, and potential married couples, "yes" your love for each other is a large component of having a healthy, happy, loving, and long-lasting marriage until death do you part. But you need love plus the following:

- God - let god be your foundation
- Pray - cover marriage and family daily
- Seek counsel and healing for unresolved childhood trauma
- Reflect on marriage vows
- Remember that you or your spouse is not perfect and will never be perfect
- Patience
- Empathy
- Realize that seasons are coming - be ready - when it rains - what do you do? You get an umbrella...
- Seek godly/professional marriage counseling throughout marriage even when you are in good seasons
- Apologize - take ownership for the hurt/offense you cause
- Forgive and forgive quickly
- Read first corinthians 13 constantly
- Live everyday like it can be your last - listen to the song, "like i'm gonna lose you." By megan trainor

Don't put anyone above your spouse - includes parents, children, work, etc.

Communicate - talk about everything and listen to each other - even the tough topics - ask god to give you an approach for how to talk about the tough things

Don't fret over small things

Keep people out of your marriage - the same people that's advising you possibly in a marriage they shouldn't be in - or waiting to scoop him or her up from you [hmm...my next article?]

Spend quality time with each other

Hold your spouse accountable - don't be an enabler

Flee infidelity - emotional and physical infidelity

Build trust - if trust has been broken - help rebuild it through reassurance, truthfulness, and know that it takes time

If you mess up - fix it until marriage is restored

Avoid spouse neglect/abandonment

Nurture the relationship as you would a plant

Express appreciation to each other

Make healthy choices - exercise, adhere to healthy lifestyles/diets.

Be affectionate, intimate, and romantic

Have fun together often

Plan your future together

In conclusion, is love enough? Yes, love played a vital role in you becoming one. However, that love is not enough to help you grow as one. Spouses go out of your way to love your spouse, but please understand that love alone will not help you stay together until death do you part.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, 3931 Hanging Moss Road, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, on: Instagram: letsstaytogether4eva (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

The Mississippi Link™

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LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI AMENDING CHAPTER 114, ARTICLE II OF THE CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO LOCAL PRIVILEGE TAXES.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, previously adopted an ordinance creating Chapter 114, Article V of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances, entitled "Medical Cannabis," governing the regulation of medical cannabis business activities within the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 41-137-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code, the City Council has the authority to establish reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on medical cannabis activities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 21-19-1 et seq., Mississippi Code Annotated, the City Council has the authority to enact, amend, and repeal ordinances in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Jackson to amend Chapter 114, Article II of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, that Chapter 114, Article II of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances, entitled "Local Privilege Tax," including Sections 114-36 through 114-47, and all provisions, requirements, regulations, fees, penalties, and enforcement mechanisms contained therein, be amended as follows:

Sec. 114-36. State privilege tax law adopted.

On each privilege exercised within this city for which a municipal privilege license tax is authorized by the laws of the state, the city hereby levies a privilege license tax on each such privilege in the maximum amount authorized by the laws of the state.

(Code 1971, § 17-17)

Sec. 114-37. License—Issuance.

Upon payment of the municipal privilege license tax levied by this article, the director of revenues and assessments shall issue a license for such privilege. Each person shall procure the license and pay such tax to the city before commencing business for which such license is required.

(Code 1971, § 17-18)

Sec. 114-38. Same—Term; renewal.

The license issued upon payment of the municipal privilege license tax levied under the provisions of this article shall be valid for a period of one year from the date issued. The license may be renewed at any time within the month in which the preceding tax was paid without being delinquent.

(Code 1971, § 17-19)

Sec. 114-39. Same—Not transferable.

The license issued under the provisions of this article shall not be transferable.

(Code 1971, § 17-20)

Sec. 114-40. Delinquent payment.

If a taxpayer shall fail to procure the license and pay the tax as provided in this article, then the director of revenues and assessments shall, in addition to such tax, collect a penalty thereon in the maximum amount authorized in such case by the laws of the state. A license certificate shall be issued such delinquent taxpayer upon payment of such penalty, and the certificate shall show

that it was issued for damages and penalties for delinquency in the payment of such tax. The taxpayer shall likewise be guilty of a misdemeanor for failure to pay such tax when due, and upon conviction, may be fined and imprisoned therefor as authorized by this chapter and state law.

(Code 1971, § 17-21)

Sec. 114-41. Privilege tax on tobacco dealers.

There is hereby levied and imposed an annual privilege tax of \$50.00 upon each person in the business of distributing or selling at wholesale cigarettes or smoking tobacco; provided, however, that the warehouse or wholesale business is located in the city.

There is hereby levied and imposed an annual privilege tax of \$5.00 upon each person selling cigarettes or smoking tobacco at retail where the business is located in the city; provided, however, that this tax shall be paid for each place of business operated by such retailers.

Violation of this section shall be fined as provided by state law.

(Code 1971, § 17-22)

State law reference(s)—State tax on tobacco dealers, MCA 1972, § 27-69-1 et seq.; authority of municipality to tax, MCA 1972, § 27-69-69; state license fee, MCA 1972, § 27-69-7.

Sec. 114-42. Light wine and beer—Privilege tax for retailers.

There is hereby imposed a license on each person engaged in the business of retailing of light wine or beer; a tax of \$15.00, provided that all persons or dealers in light wine or beer who shall maintain a place of business for sale thereof, or shall sell the same within the corporate limits of the city, shall pay the privilege tax provided for above, and providing further that the persons engaging in such business as retailer shall be required to pay the tax for each place of business operated by the retailer.

(Code 1971, § 17-23)

State law reference(s)—Authority, MCA 1972, §§ 27-17-303, 27-17-345.

Sec. 114-43. Same—Privilege tax for wholesalers.

There is hereby levied a privilege tax upon every person engaged as wholesalers or distributors of light wines or beers in the sum of \$50.00; provided, however, that this shall only apply where the warehouse or plant of such wholesale distributor is located in the city.

(Code 1971, § 17-24)

State law reference(s)—Authority of municipality to tax, MCA 1972, §§ 27-17-303, 27-17-345.

Sec. 114-44. Privilege tax for medical cannabis.

(a) There is hereby levied and imposed an annual privilege tax of \$50.00 upon each person in the business of distributing or selling at medical cannabis; provided, however, that the business is located in the city.

(b) Violation of this section shall be fined as provided by state law.

State law reference(s)—Authority of municipality to tax, MCA 1972, §§ 41-137-1, et seq.

Sec. 114-45. Penalty for violation of article.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this article, unless otherwise stated, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, shall be punished according to the provisions of section 1-10. Such fine and imprisonment shall be in addition to any other penalty imposed by any particular section of this article or applicable provision of state law. Any persons failing to pay the privilege

taxes imposed by this article, and to obtain a license as required, but pursuing the business for which a privilege tax is imposed without procuring such license, may be proceeded against by suit, in addition to being dealt with criminally. The director of revenues and assessments may seize and sell any property of such person liable for such tax and penalty, in the same manner as he may distrain and sell property of other taxpayers delinquent for the payment of ad valorem taxes due on personal property.

(Code 1971, § 17-25)

Sec. 114-46. Exemptions.

Any person exempt under state law from the payment of the tax and license required by this article shall be exempt from such tax to the city. Such exemptions may be claimed for the reasons and in the manner in such cases provided by state law. When an exemptionist thus establishes his exemption from such tax, the director of revenues and assessments shall issue an exemption certificate to him, which shall be renewed each year and entitle such person individually to exercise such privilege within the city for the current period of such certificate without paying such license tax. Such exemption certificate, however, shall not entitle any other person to enjoy the benefit of such certificate, directly or indirectly, without paying such license tax.

(Code 1971, § 17-26)

Sec. 114-47. Planning and development department director to collect privilege taxes on work to be done on property held by tax exempt owners.

The planning and development department director shall collect license and permit fees on all construction and other work to be performed on property whose owners hold a tax exempt status, the same as though such property was owned by a person who did not hold such status.

(Code 1971, § 17-27)

Secs. 114-48—114-80. Reserved.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, is hereby amended to reflect the amendment of the aforementioned ordinance, and the City Clerk is authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate this repeal and codification.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption as provided by law.

Council Member Parkinson moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

Yeas – Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson.
Nays – None.
Absent – Stokes.

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 February 24, 2026 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 1132-1135".

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

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

5/28/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI AMENDING CHAPTER 114, ARTICLE V OF THE CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2025, the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, adopted an ordinance creating Chapter 114, Article V of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances, entitled "Medical Cannabis," governing the regulation of medical cannabis business activities within the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 41-137-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code, the City Council has the authority to establish reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on medical cannabis activities; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the City Attorney recommends amending the ordinance to reduce the regulatory enforcement burden on the Department of Planning and avoid duplication of state regulations promulgated by the Department of Revenue and the Department of Health pursuant to Mississippi Code 41-137-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 21-19-1 et seq., Mississippi Code Annotated, the City Council has the authority to enact, amend, and repeal ordinances in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Jackson to amend Chapter 114, Article V of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, that Chapter 114, Article V of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances, entitled "Medical Cannabis," including Sections 114-135 through 114-149, and all provisions, requirements, regulations, fees, penalties, and enforcement mechanisms contained therein, be amended as follows:

Sec. 114-135. Legislative intent.

These adopted regulations are intended to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare of residents of the city, persons engaged in medical cannabis activities, including their employees, neighboring property owners, and end users of medicinal cannabis. To this end, these regulations identify criteria and regulations of medical cannabis activities in supplementation to such other laws, requirements, and regulations that may be adopted by the State of Mississippi and the governing authority applicable to the medical cannabis activities.

(Ord. No. 2025-8(9), 3-18-25)

Sec. 114-136. Hours of operation.

Allowed hours of active operation for facilities engaged in medical cannabis activities will be limited to the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.

(Ord. No. 2025-8(9), 3-18-25)

Sec. 114-137. Applicability.

All requirements of all state and local laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations must be met, and licenses for operation must be obtained from the Mississippi Department of Health or Mississippi Department of Revenue as applicable and maintained in good standing at all times. To the extent state law or regulations are more restrictive and/or in direct conflict with the provisions herein, state law will control.

Expressly incorporated herein are the following state regulations which are made a part of this article:

(1) Dispensary regulations—MS Department of Revenue (DOR).

(2) Work permit regulations—MS Department of Health (DOH).

(3) Testing facility regulations—MS Department of Health (DOH).

(4) Advertising and marketing regulations—MS Department of Health (DOH).

(5) Cultivation regulations—MS Department of Health (DOH).

(6) Processing facility regulations—MS Department of Health (DOH).

(7) Commercial transportation regulations—MS Department of Health (DOH).

(8) Disposal regulations—MS Department of Health (DOH).

(Ord. No. 2025-8(9), 3-18-25)

Sec. 114-138. Enforcement.

A violation of any provision of this article or any state or local laws, regulations, ordinances, or codes applicable to medical cannabis activities will be deemed to be a public nuisance and subject to enforcement as set forth herein.

Any person violating any provision of this article, for which no penalty is otherwise specifically provided, will be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$250.00 for a first offense. For any second offense occurring within a two year period of time, a fine in the amount of not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$500.00, and/or a period of incarceration not to exceed 30 days may be imposed. For any third or subsequent offense occurring within a two year period of time, there may be assessed a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 and/or a period of incarceration not to exceed 180 days. Each violation of any provision of this article may be deemed a separate offense. Each day of violation is a separate, continuing offense. The court, in addition to the penalties provided herein, may order the person violating this article to pay restitution to any person suffering damages resulting from the violation.

The city may seek to abate the violation of this article or any state or local laws, regulations, ordinances, or codes applicable to medical cannabis activities by the prosecution of a civil action, including an action for injunctive relief. Such injunctive relief may take the form of a court order prohibiting ongoing violations and/or requiring compliance with this article. The city may also proceed as necessary under Miss. Code Ann. § 21-19-11. In the event the city is the prevailing party, in addition to the penalties provided herein, the city will be entitled to the recovery of the cost of prosecuting the civil action, including, but not limited to, the administrative costs of the city to inspect, investigate, and pursue compliance with this article, court filing fees, expert witness expenses and reasonable attorney fees.

The remedies and penalties above are cumulative to all other remedies available to the city by law.

(Ord. No. 2025-8(9), 3-18-25)

Sec. 114-139. Business license.

Unless otherwise provided, it is unlawful for any person to engage in any business within the city without first having obtained a business license pursuant to section 114-36 and section 114-44 of the city's privilege tax ordinance. A separate license is required for each business location. Each day of non-compliance will constitute a separate violation.

(Ord. No. 2025-8(9), 3-18-25)

Sec. 114-140. Adherence.

This article is retroactive. All businesses currently engaging in medical cannabis business activity are required to adhere to all provisions herein.

(Ord. No. 2025-8(9), 3-18-25)

Sec. 114-141. Effective date.

This article will be in force and effect 30 days from and after its adoption by the city council. It will remain in effect until such time as it is properly repealed or amended.

(Ord. No. 2025-8(9), 3-18-25)

Sec. 114-142. Severability.

If any provision of this article is ruled illegal, unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions will continue in full force and effect.

(Ord. No. 2025-8(9), 3-18-25)

Sec. 114-143. Conflict.

Any other ordinances of the city which are conflicting or inconsistent with this article are hereby repealed to the extent of any inconsistencies or conflicts.

(Ord. No. 2025-8(9), 3-18-25)

Sec. 114-144. Ordinance cumulative.

This article will be cumulative and in addition to any other laws in force.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, is hereby amended to reflect the repeal and amendment of certain sections of Chapter 114, Article V, as set forth above, and the City Clerk is authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate this repeal and codification.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption as provided by law.

Vice President Hartley moved adoption; Council Member Brown-Thomas seconded.

Yeas – Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson.
Nays – None.
Absent – Stokes.

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 February 24, 2026 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 1135-1138".

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

ngela Harris, Municipal Clerk

5/28/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE ORDINANCE APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IN ORDER TO PROVE FOR AND ESTABLISH A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR EVALUATING DATA CENTERS.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING: ORDINANCE APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IN ORDER TO PROVE FOR AND ESTABLISH

5/28/2026, 6/4/2026

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REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR

LEGAL

ORDINANCE APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXT OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JACKSON mississippi and RESPECTIVELY ADOPTED ON MAY 29, 1974 WITH SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR AND ESTABLISH MORE EFFECTIVE ZONING REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY OF JACKSON mississippi

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MS:

That Article II, Section 202 of the Zoning Ordinance of Jackson, Mississippi, is hereby amended to read as follows:

202.15 Bar (Lounge/Tavern): A commercial establishment having as its principal uses the serving of alcoholic beverages or liquor for consumption on the premises and providing for its patrons a space for social interaction with limited entertainment. The entertainment shall be limited to low volume background music, low volume amplified music, televisions or occasional live music. Dance floors shall not be allowed. Food may be served an accessory use. All activities shall be consistent with state law.

202.71(a) Heated Tobacco Product means a product containing tobacco that produces an inhalable aerosol by heating the tobacco without combustion of the tobacco or heat generated from a combustion source that only or primarily heats rather than burns the tobacco.

202.71 (b) Heated Tobacco Kiosk: A structure no greater than 350 square feet that will used as an accessory use for the marketing and selling of heated tobacco products.

202.71 (c) Height (See Building Height):

202.106 Nightclub. A place of entertainment offering alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, provides on-site entertainment in the form of live performances, dancing, comedic performances, or other entertainment activities. Performances related to the display of specified anatomical areas are classified as regulated business uses and prohibited within nightclubs. All activities shall be consistent with state law.

202.125(a) Personal and Commercial Service: a business that engages in the provision of services directly to the consumer at the site of the business or which receives from/returns to the customer goods that have been treated or processed at another location. This use shall include, but shall not be limited to, barber shops, beauty parlors, currency exchanges, domestic pet grooming, financial institutions, interior design studios, laundry and dry cleaning establishments (plant off-premises), martial arts or dance studios, medical cannabis dispensary, heated tobacco kiosk, commercial package or mailing services (distribution off-site), photography processing, self-service laundries, shoe repair shops, tanning or toning salons, tailoring shops, travel agencies and massage therapists. Any similar service is allowed unless a determination is made by the Zoning Administrator that the use is similar to a separately listed use within this Ordinance.

202.143 Restaurant, General: An establishment that is engaged in the preparation and retail sale of food and beverages and includes the sale and on premises consumption of alcoholic beverages and entertainment as accessory uses. Entertainment shall be limited background music or occasional live music.

202.171(a) Tobacco Paraphernalia means all equipment and materials designed for the smoking, preparation, storing or consumption of tobacco product. This includes but is not limited to hookahs, water pipes, pipes, cigarette rolling machines, and holders of smoking materials of all types. Heated Tobacco Paraphernalia Products are excluded from this definition.

202.171(b) Tobacco Product means any product made or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, including any component part, or accessory of a tobacco product. This includes any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco, smokeless tobacco, cigars, pipe tobacco, hookah tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, nicotine gels and nicotine dissolvable or any other preparation of tobacco; and any product or formulation of matter containing biologically active amounts of nicotine that is manufactured, sold, offered for sale, or otherwise distributed with the expectation that the product or matter will be introduced into the human body, but does not include any cessation product specifically approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use in treating nicotine or tobacco dependence. This definition does not include Heated Tobacco Products.

202.175 (a) Travel Center: A facility on a property of not less than five (5) acres that provides services to the trucking industry, including but not limited to the dispensing of fuel, repair shops, sale of accessories or equipment for trucks and similar commercial vehicles, automated and self-serve automotive wash facilities, restaurants, gift shops, sale of convenience goods, business service centers, restrooms and shower facilities, scales, and overnight parking facilities.

202.175(b) Use Permit: A use which is not permitted by right but which is allowed in certain zoning districts, usually subject to conditions, and with the approval of a site plan, as regulated by the provisions of this Ordinance.

Proposed zoning districts amendments

That Article VI-A, Section 602.02.3 for uses permitted as Use Permits in the R-1 (Single-family) Residential District is hereby amended to read as follows:

Churches or schools on sites of less than one (1) acre but greater than ten thousand (10,000) square feet. Regulations for alterations of existing structures or for new construction of churches and schools shall be the same as for the Special Use District.

That Article VII-A, Section 702.04.1(a) for uses permitted as Use Permits in the C-2 (Limited) Commercial District is hereby amended to read as follows:

Any and all Use Permits provided in the C-2 (Limited) Commercial District.

Amusement Arcades
Amusement parks
Amusement Rides

Automobile and truck wrecker and recovery businesses, when all vehicles are stored in a completely enclosed building.
Bail Bonding Business
Billboards
Bingo Parlors
Body Piercing Business
Boarding Houses
Check Cashing Business
Commercial Communication Towers
Community Recreational Center
Electric Vehicle Charging Station
Emergency Shelter/Mission
Extended Stay Hotels
Golf Driving Ranges and Pitch-n-putt
Gun Shops
Heated Tobacco Kiosk

Liquor Store where part of a neighborhood shopping center and not in combination with a convenience type grocery store or service station.

Mobile/Manufactured Home Sales
Pawn Shops
Recreational Vehicle Park
Recycling Center
Recycling Collection Points
Single-room occupancy hotels (SRO)

Title Pledge Office - Any such uses lawfully operating prior to March 11, 1998, shall be treated as non-conforming uses under this Ordinance, and shall be subject to the requirements of Article XIII-A of this Ordinance, entitled "Non-conforming Use of Lands and/or Structures."

Tobacco Paraphernalia Retail Business

Automobile Sales – Used

The minimum lot size is twenty-two thousand (22,000) square feet

All service doors, buildings, structures, inoperable vehicles, outdoor storage and automobile repair uses shall be screened by a solid wall or opaque fence with a minimum height of six feet and no more than ten feet, in addition to any required landscape buffer yard.

Inoperable vehicles, outdoor storage and automobile repair activities shall be located to the rear or side yard and shall not be visible from any public right-of-way.

Solar Energy Production Facility

That Article VII-A, Section 702.04.2 for regulations in the C-2 (Limited) Commercial District is hereby amended to read as follows:

13. Use Permits for a tobacco paraphernalia retail business shall be issued to the owner of the store. The Use Permit will not run with the land and the subsequent owners of a tobacco paraphernalia retail business at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit. The Use Permit shall be renewed annually. A tobacco paraphernalia business cannot be located within five hundred (500) feet of a daycare, kindergarten -12th grade school, church or within one thousand (1000) feet of another tobacco paraphernalia business or heated tobacco kiosk.

Use Permits for a heated tobacco kiosk shall be issued to the owner of the kiosk. The Use Permit will not run with the land and the subsequent owners of a heated tobacco kiosk at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit. The Use Permit shall be renewed annually. A heated tobacco kiosk cannot be located within five hundred (500) feet of a daycare, kindergarten -12th grade school, church or within one thousand (1000) feet of a tobacco paraphernalia business or another heated tobacco kiosk.

No bar or nightclub shall be located within two hundred fifty (250) feet of any other such use, or located within five hundred (500) feet of any residentially or mixed use zoned property, church, school, park, playground or public library.

Outdoor seating areas for serving food and beverages such as plazas, courtyards, patios and decks when such areas are owned and maintained by the restaurant, bar or other establishment providing food or drink to patrons in these outdoor areas. Outdoor seating areas shall not have outsider speakers and shall operate between the hours of 9:00 am and 10:00 pm.

That Article VII-A, Section 702.05.02 for regulations in the C-3 (General) Commercial District is hereby amended to read as follows:

Use Permits for a tobacco paraphernalia retail business shall be issued to the owner of the store. The Use Permit will not run with the land and the subsequent owners of a tobacco paraphernalia retail business at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit. The Use Permit shall be renewed annually. A tobacco paraphernalia business cannot be located within five hundred (500) feet of a daycare, kindergarten -12th grade school, church or within one thousand (1000) feet of another tobacco paraphernalia business or heated tobacco kiosk.

Use Permits for a heated tobacco kiosk shall be issued to the owner of the kiosk. The Use Permit will not run with the land and the subsequent owners of a heated tobacco kiosk at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit. The Use Permit shall be renewed annually. A heated tobacco kiosk cannot be located within five hundred (500) feet of a daycare, kindergarten -12th grade school, church or within one thousand (1000) feet of a tobacco paraphernalia business or another heated tobacco kiosk.

No bar or nightclub shall be located within two hundred fifty (250) feet of any other such use, or located within five hundred (500) feet of any residentially or mixed use zoned property, church, school, park, playground or public library.

Outdoor seating areas for serving food and beverages such as plazas, courtyards, patios and decks when such areas are owned and maintained by the restaurant, bar or other establishment providing food or drink to patrons in these outdoor areas. Outdoor seating areas shall not have outsider speakers and shall operate between the hours of 9:00 am and 10:00 pm.

That Article VII-A, Section 702.01-A (3&6) for commercial uses in the NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

(3) Restaurants (Neighborhood) or Restaurants including accessory outdoor seating area, provided that the outdoor seating area only operates between 9:00 am and 10:00 pm.

(6) Bars, taverns, cocktail lounges or small craft brewery, including accessory outdoor seating area, provided that the outdoor seating area only is operating between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm.

(7) Cottage Industry and shall be clearly incidental to the residential use of the dwelling and shall not change the essential residential character of the dwelling.

That Article VII-A, Section 706.02.1-B for uses permitted in the C80-RE (Residential Estate) Subdistrict for uses permitted is hereby amended to read as follows:

Single-family detached dwellings and accessory structures.

Agricultural uses as defined by this Ordinance. Animal and poultry husbandry is excluded. Personal Care Facilities for six (6) or fewer residents, excluding staff

Transitional Housing for six (6) or fewer residents

That Article VII-A, Section 706.02.2-B for uses permitted in the C80-RE (Residential Estate) Subdistrict for uses permitted as special exceptions is hereby amended to read as follows:

Adult and Child Care Centers/Residential.

Professional non-retail offices, including but not limited to, architects, attorneys, engineers, doctors, real estate, and insurance.

Dairying and animal husbandry on sites less than 21,780 square feet (1/2 acre) and greater than 10,000 square feet provided such use is not for hire or sale and does not constitute a nuisance or health hazard. The maximum number of animals shall be three (3) and when:

the indoor and/or outdoor enclosures are located at the rear of residential structures with minimum setback of one hundred (100) ft. from all adjacent property lines;

upon the granting of the Special Exception, all types of enclosures, bufferings and the plan for the removal of wastes must be approved through the Site Plan Review process; and

prior to the granting and renewal of the Special Exception, a notarized letter from a licensed veterinarian verifying the health status and current shot record of the animal(s) is submitted

Kennel for Household Pets provided such use does not constitute a nuisance or health hazard and when:

the indoor and/or outdoor enclosures are located at the rear of residential structures with a minimum setback of fifty (50) ft. from all adjacent property lines;

upon the granting of the Special Exception, all types of enclosures, bufferings and the plan for the removal of wastes must be approved through the Site Plan Review process;

prior to the granting and renewal of the Special Exception, a notarized letter from a licensed veterinarian verifying the health status and current shot record of the animal(s) is submitted; and

Private stables on sites: less than 21,780 (1/2 acre) square feet

and greater than 10,000 square feet provided such use does not constitute a nuisance or health hazard and is not for hire or sale. The maximum number of animals shall be three (3) and when:

the indoor and/or outdoor enclosures are located at the rear of residential structures with minimum setback of 100 ft. from all adjacent property lines;

upon the granting of the Special Exception, all types of enclosures, bufferings and the plan for the removal of wastes must be approved through the Site Plan Review process; and

prior to the granting and renewal of the Special Exception, a notarized letter from a licensed veterinarian verifying the health status and current shot record of the animal(s) is submitted

Art, dance, music, photography, or swimming instruction.

Catering Service, where they are a part of the owner/operator's residence.

One-chair beauty salons, nail salons, and barber shops, where they are part of the owner/operator's residence.

That Article VII-A, Section 706.08.1-B for uses permitted in the C80-I1 (Light) Industrial Subdistrict is hereby amended to read as follows:

Light or limited manufacturing conducted within fully-enclosed buildings, except that the temporary storage of articles, materials, or other matter to be processed, assembled, or otherwise changed may be permitted outdoors if adequately screened or buffered. The manufacturing activities conducted in C80-I1 subdistrict shall, in general, be dependent upon raw materials refined elsewhere. The manufacturing uses shall not be offensive to neighboring land uses due to the emission of dust, gas, smoke, noise, fumes, odors, vibrations, fire hazards, or other objectionable influences.

Recreational Vehicle Park
Travel Center

Warehousing and storage, provided that all storage is within enclosed structures; such warehousing may include the storage of goods manufactured on the premises as well as goods manufactured off the site. This shall include climate-controlled warehouses.

Research and laboratory facilities and business incubator facilities.
Private colleges, vocational-technical schools and trade schools.
Vendor Park
Wireless Communication Facility

That Article VII-A, Section 706.10-B for uses permitted outright in the C80-MU Subdistrict is hereby amended to read as follows:

All uses allowed in C80-C1 Subdistrict, subject to other requirements of this Ordinance.

All uses allowed in C80-C2 Subdistrict
Bowling Centers
Brewpub
Colleges
Dwellings in mixed use buildings.
Health Clubs/Fitness Centers
Ice & Roller Skating Rinks
Multifamily dwellings.
Restaurants, Fast Food & General
Shopping Centers
Single family attached dwellings including condominiums and townhouses
Single-family dwellings.
Specialty Retail
Theaters
Two-family dwellings.
Hotels

Mobile Food Vendor (In accordance with the City of Jackson Mobile Food Vending Ordinance)

That Article VII-A, Section 706.10(a)-B for uses permitted as Use Permits in the C80-MU Subdistrict is hereby amended to read as follows:
Community Recreational Center
Electric Vehicle Charging Station
Extended Stay Hotels

Nightclubs, and bars, as defined by this Ordinance. In accordance with the 67-1-51 Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated, as amended, no bar selling intoxicating liquor as defined by the Mississippi Code shall be located not less than five hundred (500) feet from any church, school, kindergarten or funeral home, provided, however, that within an area zoned commercial, mixed use or industrial, such minimum distance shall not be less than 100 feet.

Pop-up Retail

Outdoor seating areas for serving food and beverages such as plazas, courtyards, patios and decks when such areas are owned and maintained by the restaurant, bar or other establishment providing food or drink to patrons in these outdoor areas. The hours of operation for these areas shall be between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Outdoor seating areas may be permitted on public sidewalks subject to approval by the Site Plan Review committee.

Short Term Rentals
Tattoo Parlors

No person shall control, operate, conduct or manage any tattoo parlor or body piercing business, without first obtaining approval from the MS State Department of Health in accordance with the regulations governing the registration of individuals performing body piercings and tattooing.

Evidence of such approval shall be provided to and kept on file by the City of Jackson Zoning Division.

Annual renewal of Use Permit:
Non- operation hours shall be between 11:00 pm – 9:00 am
Cannot be located within five hundred (500) feet of a daycare, kindergarten -12th grade school, church; and
Cannot be located within one thousand (1000) feet of another tattoo parlor

Liquor Store when located in a neighborhood shopping center and not in combination with a convenience type grocery store or service station. In accordance with the 67-1-51 (3) (Permits; distance regulations) Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated, as amended, no bar selling intoxicating liquor as defined by the Mississippi Code shall be located not less than five hundred (500) feet from any church, school, kindergarten or funeral home.

Travel Center

That Article VII-A, Section 706.02 for uses permitted as Use Permits in the C-4 Central Business District is hereby amended to read as follows:

Bail Bonding Businesses
Bar
Commercial Car Washes
Commercial Communication Towers
Distillery
Drive-in facilities for banks and restaurants
Electric Vehicle Charging Station
Gaming Casinos
Heated Tobacco Kiosk

Liquor Store when located in a mixed-use building and not in combination with a convenience type grocery store or service station

Live/Work Units
Motels
Night Clubs
Parking Garages
Service Stations
Small Craft Brewery

Surface Parking Lots as principal use except on E. Capitol St.

and that portion of W. Capitol Street on the east side of Gallatin St.

Residential Uses including single-family detached and zero-lot line detached units

Vendor Park
Warehouse and Distribution Facilities

That Article VII-A, Section 707.07-A for regulations in the C-4 Central Business District is hereby amended to read as follows:

Use Permits for a heated tobacco kiosk shall be issued to the owner of the kiosk. The Use Permit will not run with the land and the subsequent owners of a heated tobacco kiosk at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit. The Use Permit shall be renewed annually. A heated tobacco kiosk cannot be located within five hundred (500) feet of a daycare, kindergarten -12th grade school, church or within one thousand (1000) feet of a tobacco paraphernalia business or another heated tobacco kiosk.

That Article VII-A, Section 708-A for the title of the Old Capitol Green Mixed Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

708-1 Old Capitol Warehouse Mixed Use District

That Article VII-A, Section 708.01-A for the purpose of the Old Capitol Green Mixed Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

708.01-A Purpose of OCG- MU District - The purpose and intent of the Old Capitol Warehouse Mixed Use District (hereinafter referred to as OCWH-MUD) is to develop within the Central Business District of the City of Jackson an area unique with sustainable, and environmentally friendly technologies that creates a sense of place where people will live, work, and play. The Mixed-Use District will be a mixed-use area with an improved pedestrian environment that creates supportive green public spaces, promotes healthy physical activities and supports creative arts. The intent of the OCWH-MUD is to encourage the integration of residential, commercial, recreational, arts and retail markets in Downtown.

That Article VII-A, Section 708.02-A for the goals and objectives of the Old Capitol Warehouse Mixed-Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

Foster development in downtown Jackson by improving the working and living environments – promoting healthier lifestyles and a green live, work and play environment

Create stronger Neighborhood and Business District – Old Capitol Green's Mixed-Use District will encourage within the context of a new community, a return to the traditional town center.

Mixed income residential development that includes affordable and market rate housing to serve a wide cross of the City of Jackson.

Institutional development, retail development, and integrated new urbanist community.

Establish Street and Sidewalk widths, planting and landscaping requirements, and parking requirements.

Improve the quality of new developments in the OCG-WH Mixed Use District by requiring the provision of specified public amenities in appropriate locations.

Define permitted uses throughout the site.

Increase Diversity within Downtown Jackson using a mix-use neighborhood approach.

Promote the most desirable use of land, thus conserve and enhance the value of land and buildings, thereby, protecting and growing the City of Jackson's tax revenue. And to ensure consistency the City of Jackson's Comprehensive Plan.

Define maximum and minimum building heights and densities

Establish and define requirements to connect to new sustainable infrastructure being developed in the OCG WH

Reduce visual impact of surface parking lots and parking garages.

Create pedestrian linkages from the Old Capital Warehouse Mixed Use District to other downtown sub districts within the CBD and

Create gateway elements at important entrances.

That Article VII-A, Section 708.03-A for the general regulations of the Old Capitol Green Mixed-Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

These are the guidelines defining the Old Capitol Warehouse Mixed Use District relative to site design, vehicular bulk and additional regulations.

That Article VII-A, Section 708.03.01-A for site design guidelines in the Old Capitol Green Mixed-Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

All streets shall have sidewalks. The OCG community is intended to maximize the use of sidewalks in creating a walkable community. Sidewalks shall consist of a minimum of two zones: (a) an amenity zone of not less than three (3) feet in width, (b) an open walkway or pedestrian zone.

Building heights, building setbacks and yard requirements will be regulated by these guidelines.

Sidewalks, lighting, street trees and street furniture shall comply with Section 707-07-A (2) of the Zoning Ordinance.

In addition to requirements set forth in 707.09-A, all standards to be imposed by an entity not affiliated with the City of Jackson shall not conflict with any requirement of the Zoning Ordinance, Sign Ordinance, or any other adopted standard of the City of Jackson.

That Article VII-A, Section 708.03.03-A for bulk regulations and additional regulations in the Old Capitol Green Mixed-Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

Lot area – Not regulated
Lot width – all lot widths are regulated by specific minimums detailed under the guidelines for each specific overlay district. Lot coverage may be regulated by rear yard requirements. Front yard – Front yards are strictly regulated. Accessory Building – Regulated. Accessory Buildings must be approved by the City of Planning and Development Department. Side yard – Side yards are regulated by specific minimums detailed under the guidelines for each specific sub district. Rear yard- Rear yards are regulated by specific minimums detailed under the guidelines for each specific sub district.

Building height – Building heights are strictly regulated. No building shall be higher than 200 feet to the top of the roof. Specific maximum building height limitations are detailed in the guidelines for each specific sub district. Electrical-Mechanical equipment, elevator and stair bulkheads, antennas, microwave towers may extend above the maximum heights defined in these. Building heights are regulated to create streets in character with the Districts described in the Master Plan. Building Heights ranges are indicated in each district.

All buildings shall have the primary entrance visible and accessible from the street, courtyard or plaza.

No first floor shall be less than 15 feet from the top of the finished floor to the underside of structure except in districts zoned for townhouse development.

Driveways from the primary street shall be no more than twenty-four (24) feet wide, shared access points are encouraged.

A minimum of seventy-five (75) feet must be provided between each driveway on the same side of the street for all buildings.

LEGAL

Drives through windows are prohibited throughout the district. Drive through driveways may be permitted at hotel or residential porte-cocheres as specifically defined in sub districts in OCG.

Parking Garages shall be required to have non-parking commercial uses on the street level except for those parking garages that are surrounded by other buildings.

All new construction in OCG-MUD shall require Site Plan Review as outlined in this Ordinance.

Use permits for liquor stores are issued to the owner of the liquor store rather than the owner of the land, they do no run with land but will allow the store to remain at a specific location until such time as the ownership of the liquor store changes. Subsequent owners of the liquor at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit.

Use Permits for a heated tobacco kiosk shall be issued to the owner of the kiosk. The Use Permit will not run with the land and the subsequent owners of a heated tobacco kiosk at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit. The Use Permit shall be renewed annually. A heated tobacco kiosk cannot be located within five hundred (500) feet of a daycare, kindergarten -12th grade school, church or within one thousand (1000) feet of a tobacco paraphernalia business or another heated tobacco kiosk.

Use Permits for a tobacco paraphernalia retail business shall be issued to the owner of the store. The Use Permit will not run with the land and the subsequent owners of a tobacco paraphernalia retail business at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit. The Use Permit shall be renewed annually. A tobacco paraphernalia business cannot be located within five hundred (500) feet of a daycare, kindergarten -12th grade school, church or within one thousand (1000) feet of another tobacco paraphernalia business or heated tobacco kiosk.

That Article VII-A, Section 708.03.04-A for the Business Improvement District (BID) is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Downtown Business Improvement District will be expanded subject to property owners' approval to include all properties within the confines of the Old Capitol Green Mixed-Use District. Property owners will be subject to an annual assessment fee as established by the Downtown Jackson Partners. All new developments, enlargements, alterations or demolitions of existing buildings within the OCT-MUD must have an informal meeting with and between the Zoning Administrator, Planning Director, Downtown Partners, and others as required. Documentation of such a meeting must be provided with each application relative to the proposed project.

That Article VII-A, Section 708.03.06-A for uses permitted in the Old Capitol Green Mixed-Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

The following uses shall be permitted in the OCG Mixed Use District.

- Art galleries, museums, artists' studios
- Banks, savings institutions and credit unions only
- Bar
- Brewpub
- Broadcast Facilities
- Community Recreational Center
- Computer Data and Call Centers
- Day spas, barber shops, hairdressers, & health clubs
- Department Stores
- Dry cleaner and dry cleaner pick up stations
- Drug Stores
- Educational facilities, colleges, universities, business schools, training facilities, libraries
- Cottage Industry and shall be clearly incidental to the residential use of the dwelling and shall not change the essential residential character of the dwelling.
- Hotels and Inns

- Live/Work Housing Units
- Multifamily dwellings
- Nightclub
- Office uses – other than medical
- Open space as included within the overall site plan
- Outdoor seating areas for serving food and beverages such as plazas, courtyards, patios and sidewalks when such areas are owned and/or maintained by the restaurant, bar or other establishment providing food or drink to patrons in these outdoor areas
- Parking garages
- Philanthropic Institutions
- Private Security Services
- Professional services
- Private monitoring facilities throughout the District
- Public and governmental offices
- Recreation facilities including bowling alleys, pool halls, skating rinks
- Restaurants, Fast Food & General
- Retail Stores
- Single-family detached and attached dwellings including condominiums and townhouses
- Small Craft Brewery
- Theaters – movie and performance indoor/outdoor with seating
- Two-family dwellings, accessory dwelling units
- Wireless broadcast stations (Wi-Fi)
- Medical offices, ambulatory clinics, veterinary clinics, medical diagnostics offices
- Mobile Food Vendor (In accordance with the City of Jackson Mobile Food Vending Ordinance)

That Article VII-A, Section 708.03.06.01-A for uses permitted as Use Permits in the Old Capitol Green Mixed-Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

708.03.06.01-A Uses Which May Be Permitted as Use Permits

The following Use Permits are permitted provided they are established in accordance with the procedures and provisions of this Ordinance.

- Commercial Day Care Centers
- Heated Tobacco Kiosk
- Liquor Store when located in a neighborhood shopping center and not in combination with a convenience type grocery store or service station.
- Service Station/Convenience Store
- Tobacco Paraphernalia Retail Business
- Vendor Park

That Article VII-A, Section 712.09.01-A for uses permitted in the FSA-Residential Mixed-Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

- Single-family detached and attached dwellings including patio homes & zero –lot line homes
- Two- family dwellings
- Personal & Commercial Services
- Short Term Rentals
- Specialty Retail
- Residential Child Care Center

That Article VII-A, Section 712.09.01-A for uses permitted in the FSA-Residential Limited Mixed-Use District is hereby amended to read as follows:

- Convenience Type Grocery Store
- Cottage Industry
- Commercial Daycare Center
- Neighborhood Restaurant
- Short Term Rentals
- Pop up Retail
- Personal & Commercial Services
- Retail Store
- Single & Two Family Residential Dwelling Units
- Specialty Retail Shops

That Article VII-A, Section 712.10.02-A (2) & 712.11.02-A (3) for uses permitted as Use Permits in the FSA-General Commercial

District is hereby amended to read as follows:

Liquor Store when located in a mixed-use building

That Article VIII, Section 802.01.1 Uses Permitted in the I-1 (Light) Industrial District is hereby amended to read as follows:

- Light manufacturing industries
- Uses as permitted in Commercial "C" Districts, including trade and driving schools but excluding public, private, and parochial, elementary, and secondary schools, hospitals, convalescent homes and all residential uses and retail stands which are listed separately in the relevant commercial zoning districts.
- Truck terminals, warehouses, and storage buildings
- Wholesale and supply houses, including building material suppliers requiring outdoor storage
- Bulk storage and wholesale dispensing of products and materials with the exception of those products and materials that by their nature are considered explosive or otherwise hazardous to other industrial uses as determined by the Zoning Administrator
- Recycling centers
- Correctional facilities
- Adult arcades, adult bookstores, adult cabarets, adult entertainment establishments, adult motels, and adult motion picture theaters
- Amusement parks
- Bingo parlors
- Body Piercing Business
- Check Cashing Business
- Emergency shelter/mission
- Golf driving ranges and pitch-n-putt
- Liquor Stores
- Medical Cannabis Cultivation Facility
- Medical Cannabis Disposal Entity
- Pawn shops
- Recreational Vehicle Park
- Retail Stand
- Small Cell Wireless Facility (ies)
- Single-room occupancy hotels (SRO)
- Title Pledge Office - Any such uses lawfully operating prior to March 11, 1998, shall be treated as non-conforming uses under this Ordinance, and shall be subject to the requirements of Article XIII-A of this Ordinance, entitled "Non-conforming Use of Lands and/or Structures."
- Tobacco Paraphernalia Retail Business
- Automobile Sales–Used
- Used Tire Sales
- Billboards
- Bail Bonding Business
- Mobile/Manufactured Home Sales
- Tattoo Parlors
- Transient Vendors – Sales from vehicles will be allowed only in the absence of a permanent building. Outdoor display of goods is permitted.

That Article VIII, Section 802.02.1 Uses Permitted in the I-2 (Heavy) Industrial District is hereby amended to read as follows:

- Any use permitted in I-1 Light Industrial District, except adult arcades, adult bookstores, adult cabarets, adult entertainment establishments, adult motels, or adult motion picture theaters
- Animal Shelters
- Commercial Communication Towers
- Distillery
- Heavy manufacturing and processing plants, provided however, that these plants are not dangerous to other industrial uses by virtue of explosion and fire hazards, and have not been declared a nuisance in any court of record
- Heavy industrial uses that possess a hazard potential, but not necessary in support of other industrial activities, may be permitted, following review of site plan to ensure that maximum measures were taken to protect other industries that may be located in the area and land uses adjacent to the industrial district. Such determination shall be made by the Site Plan Review Committee, assisted by other departments and agencies of the City as required.
- Mining, quarrying, and other extractive industries
- Recycling plants

- Small craft brewery
- Solar Energy Production Facility (Regulations shall be the same as the C3 Regulations)
- Wrecker services, auto recovery storage lots, and junk yard

That Article XII, Section 1203-A for items requiring a Site Plan is hereby amended to read as follows:

- Adult entertainment establishments
- All development to be located within C-4, Central Business District; Old Capitol Green, OCG; UV, Urban Village District; UTC, Urban Town Center District; NMU-1, Neighborhood Mixed Use, Pedestrian Oriented; CMU-1, Community Mixed Use, Pedestrian Oriented; High Street Overlay District; Fondren/North State St. Overlay District; the Corridor 80 (C80) District and Zoo/West Capital Street Overlay District.
- All Uses requiring a Use Permit
- Banks with drive-through windows
- Bars
- Brewpub
- Commercial Communications Towers
- Convenience Type Grocery Stores
- Dairying and animal husbandry on sites of not less than one (1) acre
- Demolitions and redevelopment within C-1A Districts
- Developments of five (5) acres or more
- Distillery
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- Kennel for Household Pets
- Medical Cannabis Related Businesses
- Modular Commercial Buildings
- Multi-family development including condominiums
- Other special cases and projects that may be brought to the Committee's attention by the City Council, the Planning Director, Zoning Administrator, or Planning Board
- Nightclubs
- Planned Unit Developments
- Private Stables
- Produce Stands
- Public utilities facilities and structures required to provide essential public services
- Residential subdivisions or re-subdivisions of property
- Restaurants
- Small Craft Brewery
- Service Stations
- Solar Energy Production Facility
- Retail Stand
- Structures in excess of forty-five (45) feet in height
- Substantial remodeling or additions that:
 - affect existing off-street parking;
 - change the land use of the building(s) involved; or
 - increase the square footage of existing non-residential structures fifteen (15) percent or more.
- Vendor Park

That this Ordinance shall be in force and effect thirty (30) days after passage and after publication of the same by the petitioner.

- Yeas – Clay, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson.
- Nays – None.
- Absent – Brown-Thomas, Foote and Stokes.

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 Zoning Council Meeting March 16, 2026 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 1283-1295".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 26th day of May 2026.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

5/28/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026 AT 11:00am IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

NEW BUSINESS

CASE NO. HPNC-26-14
LOCATION: 421 W PORTER ST (PARCEL 171-90)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: LOCAL LANDMARK APPLICANT: AARON JENKINS
REQUEST: REHAB FIRE STATION. (REPLACE & REPAIR WINDOWS)

CASE NO. HPNC-26-15
LOCATION: 1846 ST MARY ST (PARCEL 9-66)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: MARY WOODWARD
AMENDED REQUEST: REPLACE FIVE (5) WINDOWS WITH ALUMNINUM CLAD DOUBLE HUNG 6/6 WINDOWS.

CASE NO. HPNC-26-16
LOCATION: 1332 BELVOIR PL (PARCEL 10-30)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: PAUL PURSER
AMENDED REQUEST: REHAB HOUSE.

CITY OF JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEXT AMENDMENTS
PETITIONER: CITY OF JACKSON/ DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT/ ZONING DIVISION/ HISTORIC PRESERVATION
REQUEST: TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE OFFICIAL CITY OF JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND ESTABLISH MORE EFFECTIVE REGULATIONS FOR HISTOIRC RESOURCES LIN THE CITY OF JACKSON.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
CASE nO. hpnc-26-13 (BURNED STRUCTURE)
OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

5/21/2026, 5/28/2026

LEGAL

Legal Advertisement Notice:

RFP#2026-01

The City of Jackson is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to provide comprehensive landscaping and grounds maintenance services for its transit facilities. Proposals must be received by 3:30 PM on June 2, 2026.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope or via the City's electronic procurement system at www.jacksonsbids.com and clearly marked with RFP Number #2026-01.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, at 2:00 PM CST at JTRAN Administrative and Maintenance Facility (JAMF) located at 1785 Highway 80W, Jackson, MS 39209.

Documents can be viewed and obtained by visiting www.jacksonsbids.com. Documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. For questions regarding website registration or the bid process, please contact PH Bidding Group at 662-407-0193.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive informalities or irregularities, and award the contract in the best interest of the City.

This notice was published in accordance with the City of Jackson's professional service procurement policy.Shape

4/30/2026, 5/7/2026, 5/14/2026, 5/21/2026, 5/28/2026

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Exercise and your brain

By Vince Faust MA
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

Strength training might look like it starts with your muscles. After all, when you lift weights, push a heavy door or carry groceries, it's your arms, legs and core doing the work. But the real truth is this: every rep, every lift, and every bit of progress begins in one powerful place, your brain.

Your brain is the command center for your entire body. It tells your muscles when to move, how hard to work and when to stop. Before you ever pick up a dumbbell or do a push-up, your brain is already training. Understanding this connection can help you get stronger, stay safer, and feel more confident about your fitness journey.

Your muscles cannot move on their own. They don't think, plan, or make decisions. They wait for instructions from your brain.

Here's how it works:

- Your brain sends electrical signals through your nerves.
- These signals travel to your muscles.
- Your muscles contract, relax or hold tension based on the message.

This system is called the mind-muscle connection and it's one of the most important parts of strength training.

When you first start exercising, your brain is learning how to fire the right signals. It's almost like learning a new language. At first, the messages might be slow or not very strong, but the more you practice, the better your brain gets at sending clear, powerful signals.



nals.

This is why beginners often get stronger in the first few weeks even before their muscles grow. Their brain is learning how to "talk" to their muscles more effectively.

Think about the first time you tried something new like riding a bike, typing on a keyboard, or learning a dance move. You probably felt awkward at first. But with practice, your brain built new pathways that made the movement easier.

Strength training works the same way.

When you do a squat, your

brain is learning:

- How far to bend your knees
- How to keep your back straight
- How to balance your weight
- Which muscles to activate

At first, your body might shake or feel unsteady. That's normal. Your brain is building a map of the movement. The more you repeat the exercise with good form, the stronger that map becomes.

This process is called neuromuscular adaptation. It means your brain and muscles are learning to work together more efficiently.

You might think strength comes only from big muscles, but your brain plays a huge role in how strong you feel.

Here are three ways your brain boosts your strength:

1. **Better Muscle Activation:** Your brain learns to "turn on" more muscle fibers during a lift. The more fibers you activate, the stronger the movement.

2. **Improved Coordination:** Strength isn't just about power. It's also about control. Your brain helps your muscles work together smoothly so you can lift safely and effectively.

3. **Increased Confidence:** When your brain believes you can do something, your body follows. Confidence reduces hesitation and helps you use your full strength.

This is why athletes visualize their movements before performing them. They are training their brain to send strong, confident signals.

Your brain is always watching out for danger. If it senses that a movement is unsafe, it will stop you by making your muscles tighten or weaken.

For example:

- If your form is bad, your brain may limit your strength to protect your joints.
- If you are tired, your brain may slow your movements to prevent injury.
- If you lift too heavy too soon, your brain may send a "stop" signal.

This is why listening to your body is so important. When something feels wrong, your brain is trying to warn you.

Good strength training teaches your brain safe pat-

terns. When your brain trusts your movements, it allows your muscles to work harder and grow stronger.

Your brain doesn't just control your muscles, it also controls your mindset. And your mindset can make a big difference in your performance.

Here are some examples:

- Positive thinking can help you push through a tough workout.
- Stress can make your muscles tense and reduce your strength.
- Focus helps your brain send stronger signals to the right muscles.
- Motivation keeps you consistent, which is the key to progress.

This is why many trainers say, "Your body achieves what your mind believes." When your brain is in the right place, your workouts feel easier and more enjoyable.

If strength training starts in your brain, then training your brain is just as important as training your muscles. Here are simple ways to do that:

1. **Focus on Form:** When you pay attention to how your body moves, your brain builds stronger connections.

Try this: Move slowly; keep your core tight; and think about the muscle you're working.

2. The following will help your brain send clearer signals: "Visualize the Movement

Before you Lift"; picture yourself doing the exercise with perfect form. Athletes use this technique because it activates the same brain pathways as real movement.

3. **Start Light and Build Up:**

Your brain needs time to learn. Lifting too heavy too soon can confuse your brain and increase your risk of injury.

4. **Practice Consistently:** Repetition strengthens your brain-muscle pathways. Even short workouts help your brain learn.

5. **Stay Positive:** A strong mindset leads to a strong body. Celebrate small wins. Encourage yourself. Believe in your progress.

Strength training is not just about building muscle. It's about building a partnership between your brain and your body. When they work together, amazing things happen, for example:

- You move with more confidence
- You lift more weight
- You feel more balanced
- You reduce your risk of injury
- You improve your overall health

Every time you train, you are teaching your brain and your muscles to work as a team. Understanding the brain-muscle connection can help people of all ages, especially older adults stay strong and independent.

When your brain stays active and your muscles stay engaged, you support your balance, mobility and overall well-being. Strength training is not just physical exercise. It is brain exercise. And the more you use your brain, the healthier it stays.

So the next time you do a push-up, lift a weight or climb a set of stairs, remember this, your brain is your strongest muscle. Treat it well, train it often and let it lead you toward a healthier, stronger life.

Feeling gassy and bloated? Get relief with these tips

StatePoint

If you've ever experienced gas or bloating, you know just how uncomfortable and potentially embarrassing it can be.

To help you feel like yourself again, the makers of Pepto Bismol have launched a Pepto just for gas (Pepto Gas + Bloating) and are sharing some fast facts about what causes gas, how to prevent it, and how to find relief:

Why Am I Gassy?

Gas builds up in the digestive system when you swallow air and when the large intestine breaks down undigested carbohydrates. Hormone changes around your menstrual cycle can also upset your digestive balance and cause gas.

How Can I Prevent Gas?

- **Avoid swallowing air:** Did you know that eating or drinking too fast can cause you to swallow extra air? Slow down and eat mindfully. If you have a smoking, gum-chewing or hard candy habit, consider quitting, as these can also contribute to swallowing air.

- **Mind your diet:** While beans, peas, lentils, cabbage, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, and other similar veggies are nutritious and good for digestion, they can unfortunately cause bloating for some.

Introduce foods that cause gas into your diet gradually, and opt for cooking them instead of eating them raw to make them easier for your body to handle. It's also a good idea to avoid overeating, as large meals can increase the likelihood of bothersome gas.

- **Drink more water:** Staying hydrated keeps foods moving through your gut, helps prevent constipation, and keeps your stools soft. Just be sure to choose still water, not sparkling. The fizz of soda and other carbonated drinks puts a lot of extra gas into your stomach.

How Can I Deloat Fast?

- **Let it out:** Bloating is often linked to trapped gas. Allowing your body to release it can help you feel more comfortable.

- **Exercise for bloating relief:** Get active! A short walk or bike ride, stretch-



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) DEAGREEZ / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

ing or even playing outside with the kids will help gas pass through your system so it doesn't stay trapped. Make a habit of going on a short walk after meals. Even just 10 minutes – around 1,000 steps – has been shown to reduce gas and bloating.

- **Try over-the-counter remedies:** Choosing the right product for your situation is important. For fast, targeted relief, try an over-the-counter medication like Pepto Gas + Bloating (Simethicone), which is formulated to start breaking down gas bubbles in minutes.

This new Pepto product is specifically made for gas, and is available in two forms: easy-to-swallow maximum strength Softgels (250 milligrams Simethicone) and mint-flavored Chewable Tablets (125 milligrams Simethicone).

It's also a good idea to stock your medicine cabinet and daily bag with Pepto Bismol (Bismuth Subsalicylate), which provides 5-in-1 stomach relief from diarrhea and an upset stomach due to overindulgence in food or drink.

"Having the right relief when you need it can help you ease bloating, discomfort and pressure, so you can feel like yourself in no time," says Teresa Achumba, brand director, Pepto.

For more tips and information, visit pepto-bismol.com.

Discomfort from gas can put a damper on your day. Fortunately, you can beat bloating by making a few small tweaks to your lifestyle, and by having the right relief on hand.

Everything you need to know about Generic Medicines

StatePoint

At a time when many basic living expenses are rising, generic medicines play a critical role in expanding access to safe, effective and affordable treatments, helping patients avoid difficult tradeoffs between their health and other basic needs.

In fact, generic drugs account for over 90% of all U.S. prescriptions, saving patients and the U.S. healthcare system hundreds of billions annually, according to the Association for Accessible Medicines.

Despite their prevalence, patients often have questions about how generic medicines work and how they differ from compounded medicines.

Amneal, a U.S. based global biopharmaceutical company focused on expanding access to high-quality medicines, is providing answers to commonly asked questions:

Do the medications advertised on television as "generics" work as well as brand-name medicines? Sometimes a patient will see an advertisement online or get a telehealth prescription for a "generic" that turns out to be a compounded medication.

Generics are equivalent versions of brand-name medicines, which means that the generic medicines have the same active ingredients, dosages, strengths, routes of administration,

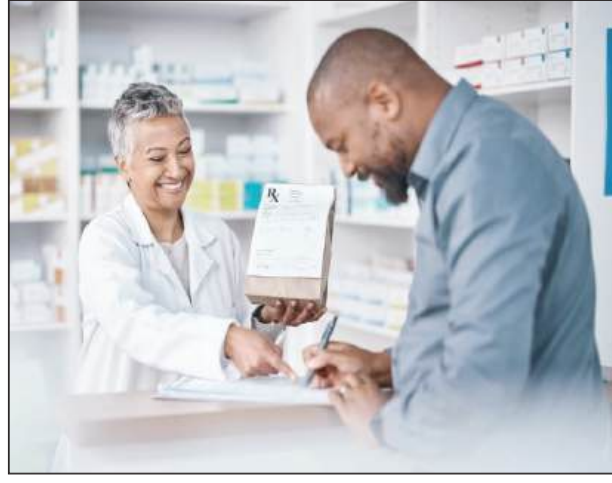


PHOTO SOURCE: (C) PEOPLEIMAGES / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

conditions of use and labeling. Often the television advertisements are compounded or "pharmacy-made" medications.

Unlike a compounded medicine, an FDA-approved generic must demonstrate bioequivalence, this ensures the product's identity, strength, quality and purity. These rigorous standards mean that generic medicine works in the same way and provides the same clinical benefit as the brand-name medicine.

Put simply, patients can expect the same safety and effectiveness from FDA-approved generics medicine as they would from their brand-name counterparts.

What types of medicines have generic equivalents? Generic equivalents encompass a wide range of medications made possible by continued innovation and investment in complex drug development and manufacturing.

The number of U.S. facilities manufacturing generic medicines declined by 27% since 2013. By contrast, Amneal continues to invest in its New York, New Jersey and Kentucky-based manufacturing and distribution capacity to deliver a reliable supply of complex oral solids, injectables, ophthalmics, liquids, topicals, softgels, inhalation products and transdermals across a broad range of therapeutic categories.

The consistent supply of complex and high barrier generic medicines that are more difficult to manufacture, yet still more affordable, is critical for patients and providers.

"At Amneal, we're focused on expanding access to essential medicines by taking on complex products others may not, because every dose matters. The manufacturing engine of our generics — or affordable medicines as we call them — is built for re-

liability and trust, delivering high-quality medicines when and where patients need them most and helping create a more sustainable healthcare system," says Chirag Patel, Amneal's co-founder and co-chief executive officer.

Are generic medicines safe? FDA-approved generics can give doctors and patient confidence that they have undergone strict regulatory review and ongoing quality oversight. Patients can also reduce exposure to potential counterfeit or unsafe products by looking for the "FDA Approved" label, which can be verified using trusted resources such as [FDA.gov](https://www.fda.gov) and [DailyMed.com](https://www.DailyMed.com), and by watching for these possible signs:

- Does the medicine or packaging look different than what you normally receive?

- Have you experienced a new or unusual side effect after using the medicine?

- Did you buy the medicine from an online pharmacy?

To learn more about generic medicines, talk with your doctor or pharmacist or visit <https://amneal.com>.

Continued investment in complex generics and U.S.-based manufacturing is helping make medicines more affordable and reliable, resulting in healthier patients, stronger communities, and a more sustainable healthcare system.

Veterans of Foreign Wars and Its Auxiliary District 5 present Scholarship and Awards Banquet

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

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary District 5 hosted a socially conscious and thought-provoking experience at the Brandon Municipal Complex (1000 Municipal Dr, Brandon, MS 39042) on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 4 p.m. Its first Annual Scholarship & Awards Banquet featured students in grades 6-8 and 9-12.

District Commander Tara Rivers and District 5 VFW Auxiliary President Aletta Butler served as cohosts, while sharing information about the participating youth, along with the educational and Patriotic Art scholarship programs offered to the youth by the VFW and Its Auxiliary.

The VFW annually holds an essay contest for students in grades 6-8. Close to 900,000 students across America compete to win their share of more than \$1 million in local, state and national awards. The 2025-2026 participants opined about a patriotic theme, "How are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

This theme was chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. The competitors wrote 300-400-word essays based upon their examination of the country's history and their lived experiences. Ian Heatherly - District 5 Scholarship Chairman - read excerpts from each Patriot Pen participant and Voice of Democracy.

Patriot Pen award recipients were: Carter O'Neal District 5 VFW of Magee, 1st place winner; Kayden Guise, VFW Post 9832 of Jackson, 1st Runner up; Tiwalola Odubanjo, VFW Post 12172 of Brandon, 2nd place; Harmoni Ray, VFW Post 3685 of Clinton, 3rd place; Taylor Jones, VFW Post 6809 of Ridgeland, 4th place; Lucy Maddox, VFW Post 5048 of Florence, 5th



London McKenzie, (center) 1st place winner, received a \$3,000 scholarship from the Department of Mississippi and a \$1,000 scholarship from VFW National Award. McKenzie stands with Dave Pettys (left) and Jeff Barne. (right)



Voice of Democracy winners and leaders. At podium is VFW Auxiliary President Aletta Butler; (standing L-R) Ian Heatherly - District 5 Scholarship Chairman; Isaiah Hughes, 5th place; Sawyer Shanks, 3rd place; London McKenzie, 1st place; Kacey Gladney, 2nd place; and District Commander Tara Rivers.

place; and Mary Smith, VFW Post 2572 of Vicksburg, 6th place.

Carter O'Neal is an 8th grader at Magee Academy in Magee. Sponsored by VFW Post 9122 Mendenhall, he competed at the national level and received \$1,000.

The VFW established Voice of Democracy audio-essay program, where high schoolers are afforded the opportunity to opine about a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Yearly, nearly 28,000 9th through 12th graders throughout the country compete for their share of more than \$1.6 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

District 5 Voice of Democracy 2025-2026 theme was "How are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?" Award recipients included: London McKenzie, VFW Post 9832 of Jackson, 1st place; Kacey Gladney, VFW Post 3685 of Clinton, 2nd place; Sawyer Shanks, VFW Post 12172 of

Brandon, 3rd place; Kamryn Shelton, VFW Post 6809 of Ridgeland, 4th place; Isaiah Hughes, VFW Post 9122 of Mendenhall, 5th place; Kyleigh Williams, VFW Post 5048 of Florence, 6th place; and Alfred Stokes, VFW Post 2572 of Vicksburg, 7th place.

First place winner McKenzie is a senior at Clinton High School. He received a \$3,000 scholarship from the Department of Mississippi and received a \$1,000 scholarship from VFW National Award.

Chairman Heatherly disclosed the money awarded for District 5's Posts, adding, "The seven Posts in District 5 had 11 Patriot's Pen entries with over \$1,150 awarded at the Post level. The district is awarding over \$450 in cash and prizes for the Voice of Democracy program."

Artwork was another award entity. President Butler explained that each year, more than 4,000 students in America from 9th-12th grades desiring to further their education beyond art studies, participate in

the VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.

"Entries are judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique and total impact of work," said Butler.

Nadia King, an 11th grader at Callaway High School in Jackson was encouraged by VFW 9832 Auxiliary member Dorothy Lewis to enter. King often uses art to communicate her thoughts and feelings, thereby having a sense of peace amidst life's challenges. Her artwork - entered into the two-dimensional art - will be competing for a share of \$37,000, with 1st place taking \$15,000 in higher education.

Students commented about their opportunities for participation. Patriot Pen awardees noted the following: Smith indicated that she was excited to discuss the opportunity to demonstrate her patriotism because both her great grandfather and her father

are veterans. She said further, "I am excited to do it next year." Maddox voiced, "Patriotism makes me feel happy and thankful to be in a great country. Being an American citizen is an honor."

Encouraged by his parents and brother to participate, O'Neal exclaimed, "This is a great way to get scholarship money for college. It is also a great way to have my voice heard in my community. This platform is also a great way to honor the veterans who have served before me."

Ray and Odubanjo learned at their churches about the scholarship competition. For them, dissemination of information was well-received. "I am ecstatic that I got this opportunity and have the opportunity to do it again next year, and the next," said Odubanjo.

VFW Voice of Democracy District 5 winners made their comments: "After writing my essay on patriotism, I learned that it is not just about saying you love your country. It is about showing it through your

everyday actions. I realized that I already demonstrate patriotism through sports, leadership, service, and even the way I treat others. I also learned that my voice and my choices matter, especially as I become an adult and prepare to contribute more to my community and country," McKenzie replied.

Shelton viewed patriotism modestly: "I learned that I am a patriot in the simplest way and that my patriotism is quiet but still meaningful. My major contribution to the U.S. is my respect for the government system."

According to Shanks, patriotism comes in numerous forms. Some actions include service, standing for the flag, helping others, and learning the country's history. "Writing my paper also made me realize how much my great grandfather's service in Vietnam has influenced the way I think about freedom and gratitude," Shanks added.

Williams believes that while patriotism is loving your country, it also means "being willing to stand up for what you believe in, even when it's difficult... Whether through leadership, helping others, or simply encouraging respectful discussion and different viewpoints, I want to make a positive impact by bringing people together and reminding others that every voice matters."

The respondent noted further that the essay reminded her that she cares deeply about leadership, freedom, and encouraging others in her generation to speak up instead of staying silent.

Replete with honors and comments, the Scholarship and Awards Banquet receives high marks. It denotes respect for service, leadership, and dignity for humanity. Further, it demonstrates the adult populace's recognition of the young in a deliberate, positive light.

New Stage Theatre presents Ragtime the Musical May 26 - June 7

Mississippi Link Newswire

New Stage Theatre is proud to present Ragtime The Musical in Jackson, Mississippi. Performances are May 26-30, June 2, 4-6, 2026, at 7 p.m.; May 31 and June 7, 2026, at 2 p.m.; and June 3, 2026, at 1 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$50 with discounts available for students, senior citizens, military, and groups. Tickets can be purchased at the box office, charged by phone by calling the theatre at (601) 948-3533 Ext 223, or ordered online at www.newstagetheatre.com. This production is sponsored by Atmos Energy and The Dorsey J. Barefield Charitable Trust. Security provided and patrols during performances.

It's the dawn of the 20th century, and New York City is alive with change, innovation, and the vibrant rhythms of ragtime. This Tony Award-winning musical brings to life the intertwining stories of three families - a white, upper-middle-class family in New Rochelle, an African-American musician and his girlfriend in Harlem, and a Jewish immigrant and his daughter on the Lower East Side.

Their journeys are shaped by the towering figures of the era, including the daring Harry Houdini, the visionary Booker T. Washington, the powerful J.P. Morgan, and the industrial titan Henry Ford. As their lives cross paths, Rag-



Hillary S. Watkins (Sarah) & John Christopher Adams (Coalhouse Walker, Jr.)

time delves into issues of race, class, identity, and the American Dream, delivering a stirring, intimate production that speaks as profoundly to today's world as it did a century ago. Recommended for ages 12+ for coarse language.

"We were deeply disappointed when we had to cancel Ragtime, originally scheduled for 2020, because of COVID," says Artistic Director Francine Thomas Reynolds. "But this extraordinary musical has absolutely been worth the wait. Audiences are going to be swept away by its thrilling soaring score and the emotional power of its storytelling."

Reynolds continued, "The remarkable company assembled for this production brings exceptional talent, heart, and pas-

sion to what many consider one of America's most ambitious musicals.

"With its explosive and still deeply relevant portrait of a nation wrestling with social upheaval, Ragtime feels timelier than ever and especially meaningful as part of an America year 250 celebration. It is a musical that beautifully captures both the glory and the flaws of the American story."

Outstanding performances featured by: Jamie Ferguson (Clinton), Andrew Fehrenbacher* (NYC), Sam Lovorn (Philadelphia, MS), John Christopher Adams (Fannin), Hillary S. Watkins (Chicago), Tyler Bellmon* (New York City), Laura Dixon (Jackson), Lauren Parkinson (Brandon), Rick Brooks (Jackson), Erick Weeks (Pearl), Eric Eaton (Ridgeland), Darren Dale (Jackson), Carmen Washington (Ridgeland), Delvin Kelly (Brandon), Tarvorius K. House (Jackson), Vershaune Stamps (Jackson), Hosea Griffith (Jackson), Mandy Kate Myers (Pearl), Hannah Beth Rollman (Jackson), Slade Haney (Oxford, AL), Jayla Lomax (Jackson), Caleb Gilliam (Clinton), Mary Alden Ratcliff (Jackson), Jasir Turner (Dallas, TX), Emily Schulte (Jackson), Tanner Davis (Terry), Taijha Hackett (Clinton), Kathlyn Arcemont (Madison), Jaylsa Jones (Jackson), Rene Young (New Orleans, LA), Xerron X Mingo (Jackson), Allie Vandiver (Jackson), and Jackson

Parkinson (Jackson). *Actors' Equity Association Member

Event Details:

Location: New Stage Theatre 1100 Carlisle St. Jackson, MS 39202

Dates: May 26 - 30, June 2, 4-6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

May 31 & June 7, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$50; \$45 Seniors/Students/Military Available at 601-948-3533 Ext. 223 & www.newstagetheatre.com

Student Rush Discount: One hour prior to curtain for any performance, students with a current academic ID may purchase an available seat for \$10. (Limit one ticket per ID.)





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Thaddeus Fairley to lead National Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University

Alcorn State University Newswire

Dr. Tracy M. Cook, president of Alcorn State University, has appointed Thaddeus Fairley as interim Executive Director of the National Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University. The Policy Center was formerly known as the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center.

“Mr. Fairley has spent his career as a public servant and changemaker dedicated to community development and federal policy, which are assets that will serve him and the institution well in this role,” said Cook.

“His appointment positions NPRC to make a greater impact on the agricultural community, primarily our underserved farmers and rural communities in Mississippi and beyond.”

Fairley brings a record that moves across federal agriculture policy, community banking, nonprofit leadership and HBCU administration. He most recently served as special assistant to the dean at Alcorn State University’s College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (CAAS).

While in CAAS, he led initiatives to expand the college’s agricultural programs and operations. And in 2021, he was appointed state executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency in Mississippi. Fairley was the first African American to hold that post.

In that role, he oversaw more than 60 service centers, managed a workforce of more than 200 employees and directed an annual budget exceeding \$10 million. He was responsible for the distribution of \$1 billion in federal funding to support Mississippi’s agricultural sector.

Fairley launched the first cohort of the USDA 1890 National Scholars Program in more than 20 years. This initiative created a direct pipeline from historically Black colleges and universities into full-time federal roles.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he reformed agency operations to improve efficiency and access for farmers statewide. Fairley also served as a field representative for U.S. Rep. Bennie G. Thompson. His work

focused on broadband access and constituent services.

Fairley has more than seven years of experience in community and economic development banking from his roles at Hope Credit Union and Regions Bank.

And earlier this year, he was selected for the Obama Foundation Leaders USA Program, joining 101 participants from across the country in a six month cohort focused on leadership development and civic engagement.

Now in its third year, the program draws on the Obama Foundation’s Hope to Action curriculum and centers themes of democratic culture, public health, climate sustainability, and arts and civic life.

“I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to lead the National Policy Research Center,” said Fairley. “Every chapter of my career has pointed toward this work, and I believe purpose and preparation have aligned in this moment to serve the farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners whose labor sustains our nation.”

He added, “I look forward to advancing rigorous, evidence-based analysis that strengthens American agriculture and the people who power it.”

In his new role at the Policy Center, Fairley will direct strategic planning, research initiatives and stakeholder engagement. The center’s primary focus will be on agricultural innovation and policy solutions.

A native of Sunflower, Miss., Fairley holds a bachelor’s degree in computer science and mathematics from Mississippi Valley State University and a master’s degree in nonprofit administration from Louisiana State University Shreveport.

He has served on the board of the Sunflower County Freedom Project. It is a nonprofit dedicated to developing young leaders in the Mississippi Delta.

He received the 2020 Higher Purpose Award for his contributions to regional business development.

Fairley resides in Indianola, Miss., with his wife, Felicia, and their three children.

Eaton Surprises Callaway High School with \$10,000 Donation to Support STEM Education



(L-R) Mia Randle, Eaton; Dr. Shemeka McClung, Principal of Callaway High School; and Dr. Errick L. Greene, Superintendent of Jackson Public Schools received a surprise \$10,000 donation from Eaton to support STEM Education.

JPS Newswire

Jackson Public Schools (JPS) is celebrating a powerful moment of partnership and generosity following a surprise \$10,000 donation from Eaton to Callaway High School through AdoptAClassroom.org.

The donation will directly support classroom instruction by providing teachers with funding to purchase essential

supplies and instructional resources designed to strengthen STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education.

These resources will help better prepare scholars for future careers in high-demand, innovation-driven fields.

The “surprise announcement” was made during a school celebration, on May

20, bringing excitement and appreciation from scholars, educators, and school leaders as the donation was revealed. The moment underscored the importance of community partnerships in expanding opportunities for teaching and learning.

“Partnerships like this make a meaningful difference in our schools,” said Sherwin

Johnson, executive director of Public Engagement. “We are grateful to Eaton for investing in our scholars and supporting the future of STEM education in Jackson Public Schools.”

JPS extends its sincere appreciation to Eaton for its continued commitment to education and for helping create brighter futures for Callaway High School scholars.

Green Elementary Educators to present at Mississippi Whole Schools Teacher Institute

JPS Newswire

Jackson Public Schools proudly congratulates Erin Anderson and Alexis Anderson, sisters and dedicated educators at Green Elementary School, on their selection to present a model lesson at the Mississippi Whole School Teacher Institute this July.

This outstanding achievement reflects their commitment to engaging, high-quality instruction, and innovative teaching practices. Their presentation on effective arts integration strategies will provide educators across the state with meaningful approaches to increase scholar engagement and achievement.

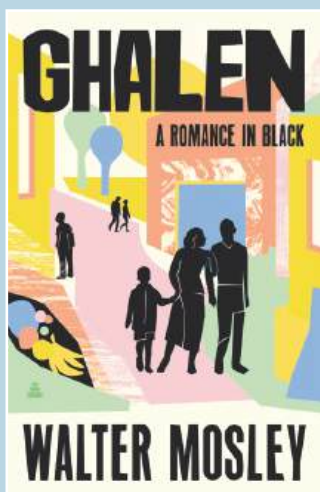
JPS is proud to have them represent Green Elementary and Jackson Public Schools at this prestigious event.



Alexis Anderson



Erin Anderson



BOOK REVIEW: GHALEN: A ROMANCE IN BLACK

BY WALTER MOSLEY
C.2026, AMISTAD
\$30.00 • 360 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Take care. What a nice thing for someone to say as they take their leave! Be well. Stay safe. Be careful, watch where you walk, be mindful so you can see one another again. Take care – and, as in the new novel, “Ghalen” by Walter Mosley, take care of others, too. It was raining the day Jamilah Fenestra and Robert Horton finally met, but the romance that sprang from there was often sunny for years to come.

Jammy was a scientist; Robert worked as an assistant chef at a restaurant. She took care of him when a policeman pushed him down on the cement, hitting his head and causing slight brain damage. He taught her to think slowly and carefully. They balanced one another well – and when she gave birth to their only son, it was the pinnacle of their lives.

Ghalen was the best of both his parents. His mother said he was “the smartest person” she’d ever encountered. His fa-

ther taught him to think smart, to be kind, and that no job was beneath him. The boy grew up to be handsome and popular, a natural leader at a young age, a son who was willing to take care of his parents, even when he was just a schoolboy. He loved, and was loved deeply by those who knew him – and that included many women.

But as Ghalen grew and matured, he began to realize that he needed to make his own way in the world. His father would need even more help in the future, his

grandmothers were not aging well, but life was an adventure to seize. Was college necessary, when so many people would require his assistance later, or were Ghalen’s talents needed closer to home now, with his father and his best friend, who was in and out of jail?

How would Ghalen ever become a man of his own?

Chances are, if you picked up a copy of this book, you’d be looking for either “a Romance in Black” or you’d expect another fast-paced novel from author

Walter Mosley. The problem is, you might not get either.

“Ghalen” is messy. It’s not a romance in the usual sense; there’s a lot of sex, including an uncomfortably explicit assault scene, but not a lot of love-and-flowers stuff. Really, it’s more Forrest-Gump-ish, as the fifteen-year-old title character bounces through many, many adult-like events over the course of a few months.

Fans, though, they won’t mind. This book is written in the usual Mosley style, with

long conversations, tiny details, psychology in characterization and plenty of grit, with a bit of his signature detective plotting thrown in for good measure. Readers will also have good reason to wonder if you’ll see Ghalen again in another book.

Whether you view that as a good thing or not is another matter. This isn’t a bad book, but it may take some patience for readers unused to Mosley’s pleasantly-rambling style. You may like “Ghalen” a lot – or you might not care for it.

ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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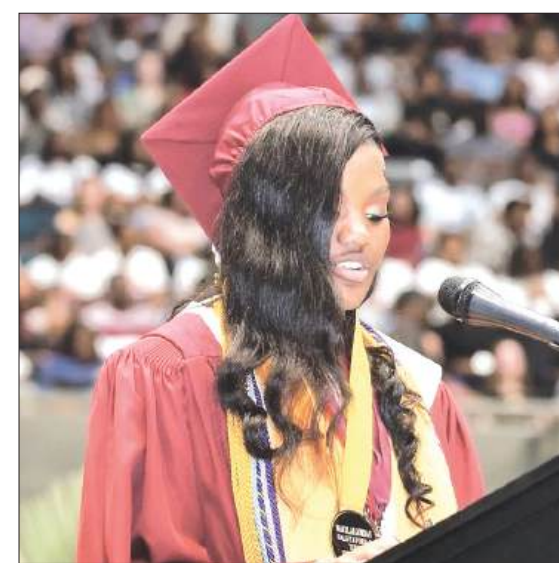
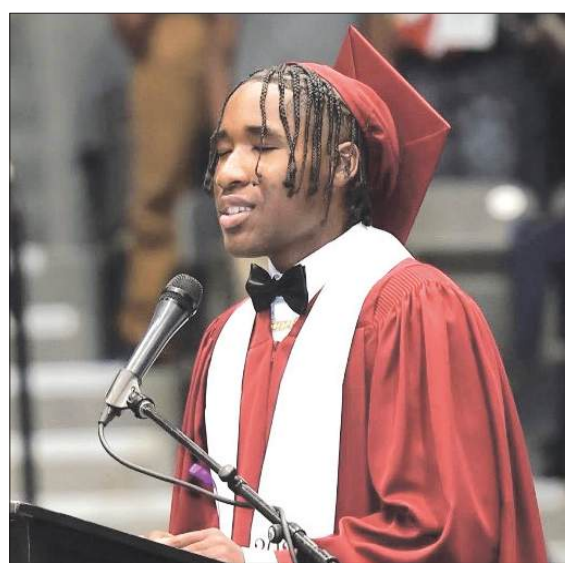
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HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

Terry High School Class of 2026

The Terry High School Class of 2026 walked across the stage and into a new season of life. We are proud of all they have accomplished and excited for all that is ahead of them. Congratulations, Bulldogs!



Stepping Out on Faith: Leaving the fold to lead the flock - Pastoral installation of Pastor Calvin Peoples



Pastor Chauncy L. Jordan, Sr. of College Hill Baptist Church gives Installation Message



Pastor Calvin C. Peoples was installed as the new pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church



First Lady Dr. LaShanda Jordan introduces her husband, Pastor Chauncy Jordan, Sr., who gives the Installation Message



First Lady Sandra Peoples expresses thanks and appreciation for the love and support she and her family have been given by Mount Olive Baptist Church and College Hill Baptist Church

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Pastor Calvin Peoples was an Associate Minister at College Hill Baptist Church in Jackson for over 20 years but was recently called to serve as a first-time pastor.

Stepping out on faith, Peoples accepted the call by leaving the fold of a membership he loved at College Hill in order to lead the flock at Mt. Olive M. B. Church, located at 2020 Atkins Road, in Millport, Ala.

Pastor Peoples was known by College Hill Church members for his down-to-earth spiritual preaching style that always stirred the congregation. His wife, Sandra Peoples and children, Timothy and Jas-

mine Peoples, have been faithful members of College Hill as well and according to members, "the entire family will be greatly missed."

Pastor Chauncy L. Jordan, Sr. of College Hill Baptist Church in Jackson, along with approximately 80 members of his congregation, traveled to Millport, Ala., on Sunday, May 17, 2026, for the installation service of Pastor Peoples.

The installation service was held at 3 PM, with the Pulpit Conductor as Rev. Erick Logan, Pastor of Wilson Chapel Baptist Church in Pontotoc, Miss. Pastor Jordan gave the installation message, after being introduced by his wife, First Lady Lashanda Jordan.

Prior to introducing her husband, Lady Jordan said, "We are so grateful that we can share in this glorious occasion. Mt. Olive, you all have gained two treasures, two jewels so please, be good to them." Jordan was referring to both Pastor Peoples and his wife, Sandra Peoples.

Jordan described her husband as a humble servant whose heart's desire is to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ. In his message, Pastor Jordan first spoke on how supportive Pastor Peoples was as an Associate Minister of College Hill and how much he will be missed.

His installation message centered around what it takes to be a good leader, as Pastor Jordan

referenced the biblical promise found in Jeremiah 3:15, where God promised to provide spiritual leaders who will guide and feed His people with knowledge and understanding.

He made several points to Mt. Olive's new pastor and the listening audience in describing what it takes to be a good Shepard of a flock. Pastor Jordan said, "First you must be 'Mindful of your ministry' by feeding them nourishment for their soul." He referred to this as a mandate for pastors.

He also said, "The leader of a flock must be 'Mindful of their Motivation,'" adding that pastors must serve willingly for the glory of God and not for prestige or power for themselves.

He emphasized the importance of setting a good example by being the role model of "a servant willing to lead." From one pastor to the other, Jordan said to Peoples, "Stay the course and finish the race - Keep preaching and teaching."

After the message by Pastor Jordan, the installation began with The Charge to the Congregation, given by Rev. Christopher Wriley, Sr., pastor of New Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Miss.

Next, the Charge to Pastor Peoples was given by Rev. Thurman Cunningham, pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Columbus, Miss. The Act of Installation included a prayer with the Laying on of Hands on

Pastor Peoples by the ministers present.

In Pastor Peoples' remarks, he thanked Pastor Jordan for the inspiring message. He seemed quite emotional at times, as he thanked the College Hill family for coming to the service in such big numbers.

He thanked all the individuals who participated in the service, i.e., the Mt. Olive Mass Choir, the pastoral support ministry, deacons, and trustees, as well as the pastors that assisted in the installation service.

He also thanked the hostess ministry for the delicious meal they provided for everyone in attendance. He also recognized his family and thanked them for their love and support.

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON AND DEBRA MAGEE

