

March to the Polls at Hinds Circuit Clerk's Office

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

A solid one hundred people rallied under the leadership of the Poor People's Campaign, Repairers of the Breach, and Mississippi Black Voters Matter on Thurs., Oct. 8, 2026, at 11 a.m., to march up Pascagoula Street from the Jackson Convention Center to the Hinds County Circuit Clerk's Office and right in the door to vote absentee in-person, ahead of the Nov. 3, 2026, elections.

Energy, enthusiasm, and determination filled the streets as part of Reverend Dr. William J. Barber, II's call for 1000 Marches to the Polls to mobilize voter support. The marches are nationwide, non-violent, and non-partisan. The goal is 1000 marches in 100 days, starting from July 27, 2026, to November 3, 2026.

Organizers Danielle Holmes of Mississippi Poor People's Campaign and Repairers of the Breach and Carol Blackmon, Mississippi State Director of Black Voters Matter, joined forces and provided leadership for the march where citizens of Hinds County exercised their right to vote. They are keenly aware that we need to continue to build on the 2020 national voter turnout, which was the highest in a century, despite 90 million eligible voters staying home.

This initiative emphasizes that "across the South, if just 15-20 percent more of our poor and low-wage brothers and sisters



Black Voters Matter bus accompanies marchers on Thursday, October 8, 2026.



Repairers of the Breach Senior National Social Justice Organizer Danielle Holmes leads the march.



Marchers proceed up Pascagoula Street from Jackson Convention Center to Hinds County Circuit Clerk's Office to vote in-person absentee.

Polls

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More Than a March

Jackson State Students Raise Their Voices for Justice and Accountability

By Rasheda Bell, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 7, 2026, the message outside Jackson State University's Athletic Assembly Center was unmistakable: dressed in black and united in purpose, students had come not simply to march, but to demand answers. Their Blackout Rally and on-campus march brought students and community members together in remembrance of young Black lives lost under troubling circumstances and in a collective call for justice.

For some, it was a peaceful protest; for others, it marked the beginning of a broader movement to confront unanswered questions, demand transparency, and challenge the silence surrounding these tragedies. Demartravion Reed, Nolan Wells, Tasia Fortune, Kohen Wiley, and Jaylen Lewis



The march begins at JSU's Athletic Assembly Center, Blackout Rally.

PHOTOS BY RASHEDA BELL

were among the young Black people whose deaths and the facts surrounding them have incited questions that, according to organizers, remain unresolved. Participants were encouraged to bring a sign, bring a friend, and, most importantly, bring their voices. The message was explicit: when calls for accountability go unanswered, silence is not an option.

The march culminated at the COFO Civil Rights Education Center, a fitting destination given its connection to the organizing efforts that helped advance the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. The loca-

tion reminded everyone that meaningful change often begins when ordinary people come together in response to institutions that have failed to meet their responsibilities.

For Jakari Holland, founder of the Mississippi Access Project and rally organizer, the turnout was both overwhelming and encouraging. As participants cheered and celebrated their collective efforts, Holland made one thing clear: this was only the beginning. Chants rang through the streets: "That could have been me!"

Holland added, "I think people need to understand that this

march was about more than bringing students together for a day. We attend Jackson State University, a publicly funded institution with a history deeply rooted in the Civil Rights Movement. And decades later, here we are, another generation of young Black Mississippians having to ask questions about the safety of our communities and whether our lives are being treated with the seriousness they deserve. There is a constant narrative that young people are socially apathetic, but I think what happened on

March

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State of the City: Mayor John Horhn says Jackson is turning a corner

Mayor vows to spur development, clear blight and fill over 100 potholes a day



Jackson Mayor John Horhn delivers his State of the City address at the Jackson Convention Complex on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026. Credit: Eric Shelton/Mississippi Today

By Molly Minta
Mississippi Today

About a year after Jackson Mayor John Horhn began declaring that "Jackson is rising," he unveiled a new catchphrase Tuesday at his State of the City address.

"Comebacks don't get announced," he told a jubilant audience at the Jackson Convention Center. "They get built. They get repaired. They get paved. And Jackson is rolling."

Horhn, a Democrat who took office July 1, 2025, returned to the catchphrase repeatedly throughout his speech to remind Jacksonians that his administration is following through on at least some of its promises.

New business permits are being approved faster than before, Horhn said, citing data from the Planning and Development Department. A much-anticipated bid to redevelop the dilapidated Jackson Zoo has been posted. And Thalia Mara Hall was reopened.

"Broadway is back in Jackson," Horhn said to whoops and cheers.

While Jackson still lacks up-to-date annual financial reports, the city made progress by completing its 2023 audit last year, Horhn said. Working with the Jackson City Council, he asserted that his administration erased a \$25 million deficit in the city budget.

"You deserve to know where your money goes," Horhn said. "And anyone thinking about investing in Jackson deserves confidence that our financial house is in order."

The development-minded mayor praised the private

investment underway in Jackson, shouting out affordable housing developments planned for Robinson Road in west Jackson and Raymond Road in south Jackson, as well as apartment complexes that developer Gabriel Prado is constructing in north Fondren.

Horhn also repeatedly applauded recent steps to nab what many view as Jackson's economic white whale: a developed riverfront on the flood-controlled banks of the Pearl River.

Some influential Jacksonians backing these efforts joined the mayor on stage, including Horhn's key supporters Bishop Ronnie Crudup Sr. of New Horizon Church International, lawyer-developer Robert Graham, and local restaurateur Jeff Good.

Horhn depicted Jackson as a place where concrete is pouring into new developments and asphalt is rolling on roads.

In partnership with Hinds County, the mayor said the city is now filling over 100 potholes a day – up from 38 potholes a day during his State of the City address last year.

"This is the biggest year of paving Jackson has seen in 40 years," he said.

Horhn added the city will ramp up efforts later this month to resurface some 600 streets and fix drainage problems over the next year. And he promised Jackson would finally smooth bumpy Medgar Evers Boulevard – an estimated \$40 million project that began under his predecessor, Chokwe Antar Lumumba.

Pete Perry, a member of the

Jackson

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Members of the Jackson City Council listen as Jackson Mayor John Horhn delivers his State of the City address at the Jackson Convention Complex on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026. CREDIT: ERIC SHELTON/MISSISSIPPI TODAY

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson Visits CSLC Locations in Holmes County



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By Stephen Helper & Bobby Rush
Mississippi Link Newswire

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Polls

Continued from page 1

who have not voted regularly came out, they could fundamentally shift the power, purpose, and potential of our elections.” The shift is significant, away from marching in the streets for issues, but rather to march straight to the polls.

Blackmon stated, just outside the Clerk’s Office, “I’m just so happy that people know that this is the time to demonstrate their voice in democracy and that we all need to be out here voting and tell everybody else we know to come to vote as well. I think this process for absentee in-person, where we are using the machine rather than the envelopes – where people wouldn’t always get their signature correct – is a much better process.”

It would be difficult to find a more experienced Circuit Clerk than Hinds County’s Zach Wallace. He has served as Clerk for over ten years and held other positions in the office for eighteen years prior. When asked by this writer about the reported backlog of voter registrations that his office is seeing, he shared, “we have had so many voter registration drives, and a lot of people drop them off on the deadline. We have so many and some from a month ago and people are concerned that they do not have a voter card yet.” He asked for patience.

Jackson

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1% Sales Tax Commission which pays for infrastructure projects in Jackson, questioned if the city will be able to repave Medgar Evers Boulevard without putting up more local funding. “I would be shocked if it gets done,” he said.

Perry added that 2026 may be a notable year in terms of miles repaved in Jackson, but he added the claim needs context. In previous years, he said the commission spent millions more to completely rebuild roads, such as Riverside Drive in Belhaven, setting the stage for paving projects now happening under Horhn.

Toward the end of his speech, Horhn remarked that Jackson has more ideas than resources to address its considerable challenges.

Acknowledging Jackson’s ongoing battle with blight, the mayor said the city has invested \$900,000 to demolish or clean up 40 properties. But that is just a tiny fraction of the tens of millions of dollars that city officials say will be needed to clear more than 3,200 blighted properties.

And some challenges will be self-imposed. In the speech, Horhn made new pledges for the city.

He said his administration would publish quarterly data on permitting timelines, code enforcement, and housing investments. And, finally, Horhn committed to redeveloping Farish Street.

“Yeah, I said that, too,” Horhn said. “We’re gonna get it done this time.”

He was asked if his concern is limited to the volume of applications versus the amount of resources to process the applications.

Wallace responded, “It’s the amount and the actual data that’s on the application. I have a great staff, they plan on working on Saturday, which is not required but I plan to pay them overtime so we can get through them all. We have a lot of applications that are not filled out completely. Some just have a printed name and a signature, no address, no contact information, so those will be set to the side – we really can’t do anything with them. When people do voter drives, they need to turn the information in as soon as possible, so we can process them. A deadline is a deadline, but that also means things happening at the last minute.”

Jo Ella Kelly was beaming as she exhaled after casting her ballot and took a seat to take it all in. “I still do what I’m supposed to do, but guess what, I’m supposed to be having knee surgery and shoulder surgery, but I refuse to let ya’ll down.” When asked what it was like to be here today with the marchers and voting, she said, “I love it. I thank God for today. It makes me so I don’t have to worry now while I’m out there working. My voting is done. I love working with Miss Danielle and the

other groups, just love it. It’s behind me now, I don’t have to worry.”

The success of this event, and every other step that is taken to ensure eligible voters the right to cast their vote, becomes highly significant. Efforts to undermine the right to vote have surged in states under Republican leadership, especially after President Trump falsely claimed widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election when he lost to President Biden. Years later, Trump has never let up, and his base, which certainly includes the majority white and Republican Mississippi legislature, does whatever they can to marginalize voters who don’t look and act like them.

Mississippi’s SHEILD Act took effect on July 1, 2026, and focuses on voter registration. It is an effort to mimic parts of the national SAVE Act that has not been passed by the US Senate. Voter identification is critical for registration, but also at the polls. For most, having a Mississippi Driver’s License with the Real Id Gold Star, will serve you well on Election Day. Birth Certificates and Passports can also be used as voter identification. In the event there is a question about your status or eligibility, it is your right under federal law to cast your vote by “Affidavit Ballot.”

March

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Jakari Holland addresses the crowd and states the importance of this movement

October 7th challenges that.

“We brought students and community members together because these losses are personal to us. They could have been our classmates,

friends, or family members. We cannot continue waiting for another tragedy before recognizing our collective responsibility to one another. As part of a public institution, we have every right to make these demands. Young people are constantly being told that we are the future, but we are living with the consequences of decisions made for our future right now. We should not have to wait until we are older, hold public office, or experience another tragedy before our voices are taken seriously.”

Despite reported concerns about road and pathway closures due to construction along the planned route, organizers and participants pressed on, taking less-traveled roads rather than abandoning the march. Their determination reflected the very spirit of the rally: obstacles might alter the route, but they would not erase the reason for marching. The crowd’s response was captured in a defiant declaration: “No blocked streets will stop our cause!” Another sign carried its own message: “No Title, Position, or Advisor Can Silence a Movement That Has Already Found Its Voice!”

The rally also raised questions about institutional leadership and the public’s duty. When an audience member asked how the campus community viewed Jackson State University’s president, appearing in photo opportunities with Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, Holland reiterated that the Mississippi Access Project is nonpartisan and declined to comment on the political question.

Instead, he redirected attention to the movement’s stated purpose and its next steps. “Marching was never the end goal,” Holland emphasized.

Organizers outlined two key demands: an independent investigation into the Mississippi State Medical Examiner’s Office and a public town hall with Jackson Mayor John Horhn and relevant public officials to address safety concerns affecting local communities. They are seeking more than an opportunity to speak. They want meaningful engagement in the democratic process, transparent answers to their questions, and concrete commitments from elected and appointed officials to protect and serve the public.

The significance of the October 7th rally will ultimately be measured not by the number of signs held high, the chants that echoed through the streets, or the distance participants traveled. Its significance will be measured by what happens next: whether the questions raised receive serious attention, whether people pursue the requested answerability, and whether the voices of young Black Mississippians are met with action rather than silence.

At an institution whose history is intertwined with the struggle for civil rights, the march reminded everyone that each generation inherits both the promise of progress and the responsibility to keep pursuing it. The students raised their voices. Now the question is whether those with the power to respond will listen – and whether listening will finally lead to answers.

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Building a future at home

Jonestown's youngest mayor focuses on opportunity for youth

By Keitashaonna Kennedy
Delta Devils Gazette Intern

At 24 years old, Columbus Russell Jr. became the youngest mayor in Jonestown's history when he took office July 1, 2025. Published reports also have identified him as Mississippi's youngest active mayor.

For Russell, creating opportunities in his hometown means addressing a question familiar to many young people in small communities: Must they leave home to build a future? His priorities include improving infrastructure, expanding housing opportunities and attracting businesses to help make Jonestown a place where people want to stay and invest.

"I understand some of the concerns of our older residents, but I also understand what our young people are facing and why so many feel like they have to leave small towns like ours to find opportunities," Russell said.

His decision to pursue the mayor's office grew from his connection to the town and a desire to help shape its future. "Jonestown is home for me," he said. "I'm from here, I know the people, I know the challenges, and I also know the potential our community has."

Turning that potential into progress requires addressing basic needs. Russell identified infrastructure, housing, abandoned properties and economic development as some of the town's biggest challenges. "In a small town, resources



Jonestown Mayor Columbus Russell Jr. (center), joined by area youth, participates in a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the renovation of a local basketball court. The renovated court provides recreational space for residents and young people. COURTESY PHOTO

can be limited, so you have to build partnerships and be creative about how you move things forward," he said.

According to Russell, the town has been working to clean up the community, address nuisance properties, improve infrastructure and expand housing opportunities. He said developing relationships with organizations that can bring additional resources to Jonestown is another part of that effort.

"We are also focused on attracting businesses and creating a community where people want to live, raise their families, and invest," Russell said. "I know everything will not happen overnight, but my goal is to make sure we are consistently moving forward."

Community perspectives on young leadership

Demetrius Stevenson, property manager of Summit Garden Apartments, described Russell as a determined young leader who wants to see his hometown succeed. "I would describe Mayor Russell as a young, determined, and ambitious leader who wants to see his community succeed," Stevenson said.

Stevenson said she was proud to see someone so young take on the responsibility of leading a community. Drawing from her experience in property management, she emphasized the importance of communication, dedication and making decisions that benefit others.

"I believe age doesn't determine your ability to lead. It's about your mindset, dedication, and willingness to make a difference," she said. However, while expressing optimism about Russell's leadership, Stevenson acknowledged the challenges asso-

ciated with meeting community expectations.

"Everybody has different opinions about what needs to be done," Stevenson said. "Being in management myself, I know you cannot please everybody, but you can always do your best to make fair decisions and put the people first."

Stevenson said she hopes to see continued improvements in housing, neighborhood conditions, community safety and opportunities for young residents.

"I would love to see more improvements in housing, street conditions, community safety, and opportunities for our youth," she said. "As a property manager, I know how important it is for families to live in a safe, clean, and welcoming environment."

Investing in Jonestown's future

Beyond housing and infrastructure, recreational opportunities for young people are another part of Jonestown's community development efforts. A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the renovation of a local basketball court, an improved space for residents to gather and participate in recreational activities.

Russell said growing up in Jonestown shaped his approach to leadership, emphasizing accessibility, listening and showing up for residents. His message to other young people is that they can contribute to their hometowns before they have all the answers or hold an elected position.

"I became mayor at 24, and I definitely did not know everything," Russell said. "I am still learning every day."

When asked what advice he would give students at Mississip-

pi Valley State University, Russell encouraged them to embrace opportunities, remain willing to learn and recognize the value they can bring to their communities.

His remarks about MVSU came in response to the interviewer's question, not as a claim that he attended the university. He urged students to consider how their talents could benefit the places that raised them.

Starting a business, mentoring a young person, volunteering or serving on a board are among the ways he said they can make a difference. "Sometimes we grow up thinking success means leaving home and never coming back, but our communities need our talent too," Russell said.

As Mississippi's youngest active mayor and the youngest mayor in Jonestown's history, Russell is navigating the responsibilities of local government while encouraging younger generations to take an active role in shaping their communities.

For Russell, building a stronger hometown is not simply about attracting development. It is also about giving young people a reason to believe their future can begin right where they are.

Keitashaonna Kennedy is an MVSU Department of Mass Communication graduate student pursuing her Master of Arts degree in Convergent Media. For more information about the department's M.A. in Convergent Media, email masscomm@mvsu.edu or call (662) 254-3630.

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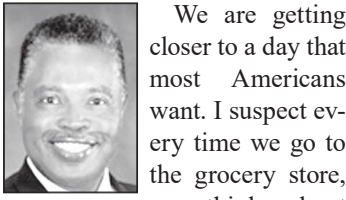


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November 3rd will be a Defining Moment in your voting life

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



We are getting closer to a day that most Americans want. I suspect every time we go to the grocery store, we think about what might be. Each experience we have at the gas pumps, we want the day to come sooner.

Well citizens of our beloved nation, election day is close! Can you feel it? The anticipation of it almost rivals a holiday. Our excitement is boiling over!

We are talking with our family and friends as if there will be some type of gift exchange. In a strange way, there will be an exchange. Americans are ex-

changing chaos for calm. We are exchanging extremism for rational thinking. Lastly, we are exchanging hopelessness for hope.

Having hope each day is important for us to have. If we are honest, hope has been in short supply for us recently. Every day there is something else to drain us. It could be argued that we are just going through life's motions. And that's sad.

There are only a small percentage of Americans who believe that our country is faring well. Trying to convince them otherwise is unwise. I truly think that America is sick and tired of going through this misery and strife. Frustration has set in and has been the call of the day for way too long.

Answers that we have been

receiving to important questions are inadequate and just amount to word salad without the oil and vinegar.

Reporters and news organizations were asked to leave the White House press room last month. How could that be? It was because the administration believed they were giving fake news to the American people. The courts have now ruled that they are able to return.

With all that is taking place now, the November 3rd mid term elections are looming large. Almost every voting prognosticator is saying this will be an extremely important election.

Polling suggests the Democrats will win back the House of Representatives. According to NBC News, "National polling

averages show Democrats leading with roughly 52% of the congressional preference compared to 43% for the Republicans."

If you look at this poll as an example of what's to come, then the Democrats may win. However, do you remember what the polls said about Kamala Harris winning the presidency?

Democratic leadership must work hard and not take anything for granted. If they do, then the outcome will not be to their liking.

Some political experts are suggesting that the GOP might lose the Senate as well. It is my opinion that's a longshot. Too much must happen to make that become a reality.

Reports from the New York Times and Siena University sug-

gest that the Democratic Senate candidates are leading or tied in several states. Some of these states include Texas and Alaska. It looks hopeful but cast a suspicious eye.

Fox News is saying that in Texas, Democrat James Talarico is holding a slight edge (2 points) over Republican Ken Paxton. These numbers in my opinion will change several times before it is time to cast your ballot.

There is another senate race that bears watching between Maine Republican incumbent Susan Collins and Democratic challenger Troy Jackson. An AARP poll shows Jackson leading while a New York Times poll shows Collins leading. Right now, it is just too close to call.

It's important to note that

Senator Collins has been in some other tight races, and she has always won. She has been a United States Senator for over 29 years.

Politicians in Washington are paying attention to these races. For example, Democratic Representative Joe Morelle (NY) said, "We're working every day to make sure we're prepared. You should have confidence that the system works."

On the Senate side, Senator Chuck Schumer has expressed similar sentiments. Everyone wants a fair and trouble-free election. The American people want to feel like their votes count and aren't subject to recalls.

So, in the coming weeks, like the song lyrics from Archie Bell and The Drells go, "There's gonna be a showdown."

Shhh ... Have you silently divorced your spouse?

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



One of my favorite historical topics to lecture about as a Historian is about marriage and divorce practices in early ancient civilizations. One of the early civilizations/religions marital and divorce practices that fascinates me the most is early Islamic culture.

In the early pre-Islamic/Arabia culture if a husband wanted to divorce his wife – he didn't have to pursue or adhere to special divorce filings or proceedings; the process was very simple. The husbands were only required to repeat, "I want a divorce," three times before a witness and their divorce was granted, which is referred to as, Triple Talaq.

Although, men were granted this special process of dissolving their marriage – many rarely divorced because they would also have to return the dowry (property like land, animals, etc.) to their wives or her family which was given to him upon marriage.

Typically, when I give this lecture, my students find it hilarious especially when I asks, "how many couples would divorce today if it was that simple?" And of course, everyone exclaims, "all of them!" And they really laugh when I confess that both my husband would possibly be a part of the "all group," (don't judge me – I only do it to make them laugh and it works every time darling).

Unfortunately, the idea of silently divorcing a spouse is becoming more common. What does it mean to silently or quietly divorce your spouse? It means that a couple is legally married on paper, but they are living independent lives outside of their marriage. And based on recent research, women, especially women in their 40's are pursuing silent divorces.

Why Are Couples Silently Divorcing Each Other?

Like normal divorce proceedings, silent divorces does not occur overnight – it sometimes involves years of the following: dis-appointment, lack of communication, not able to live your dream – soon discover that you are only living the dream of your spouse – yes you are ONE but the two of you must make decisions that supports each other's aspirations/dreams, unresolved hurts/offenses, mentally and emotionally drain – iron eventually wears out, spouse neglect/abandonment (will be surprised how phones, social media is destroying marriages – put up the Technology), UNHAPPY/MISERABLE-THE THRILL IS SIMPLY GONE, lack of affection/intimacy – where there is no touch, the marriage WILL perish; it's just a matter of time! God never intended for marriage to be platonic or for a spouse to earn and/or buy intimacy.

And yes, I agree that spouses as God desires them to, should treat their spouses in a way that will help make it easier for intimacy to occur – foreplay starts before the bedroom.

What Are the Signs That You Have Silently Divorced Your Spouse?

QUIET – nothing is happening between you two except for maybe discussing important stuff like children, bills, business matters, etc. for the most part, you are roommates – living your own lives.

Why Do Couples opt to Silently Divorce Rather Than Go Through the Legal Divorce Process?

As Johnny Taylor sang, "It's Cheaper to Keep Her!" Many stay due to wanting to avoid the financial pitfalls, avoid the entanglements of assets/property division, and many stay for the sake of the children, for status, but probably mostly due to dowries - money!

What Can Couples Do to Help Prevent Silent/Legal Divorces?

- Pray for each other and together daily
- Be intentional and con-

sistent about loving each other

- Invest in the health of your marriage – get routine check up's – seek Godly/professional Marriage Counseling/join and actively participate in a Marriage Ministry even when you think things are going well

- Keep ALL outsiders of out your marriage – there are only two names on your Marriage License

- Work together as a team in EVERYTHING

- Empathize

- Support each other's ambitions – you not the only one with a vision and dream

- Spend quality time together

- Communicate about EVERYTHING!

- Hold each other accountable – do not enable

- Forgive quickly

- Confess your faults to each other especially if you have caused the hurt/offense

- Make amends – redeem the time

- Treat each other the way you want to be treated

Many have failed to prevent divorce resulting in silent/legal divorces. This is truly sad because it can be prevented if BOTH spouses commit to investing in having a healthy, happy, and loving home!

In conclusion, shhh ... have you silently divorced your spouse? Life is too short to be miserable, therefore either legally divorce or fight for your marriage as you promised to in your vows! Shhh ... Let not man put asunder what God has joined together!

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 Rd., Suite H, Jackson, MS 39206; follow on Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert), Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert, Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com or via contact# 601-596-2528.

The First Columbus Day was declared in the shadow of a lynching

In the Windy City, Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells spotlighted what Washington wanted forgotten

By Ben Jealous

People For the American Way



This month, we mark Columbus Day. The first one was a Chicago story. In the fall of 1892, the nation celebrated four hundred years since Columbus reached the Americas. Chicago was its grandest stage. The city dedicated the grounds of the World's Columbian Exposition.

When the world arrived the next spring, Frederick Douglass was there. He was the most photographed American of his century. At seventy-five, he ran the Haitian Pavilion for the government of Haiti.

Ida B. Wells worked beside him, putting a pamphlet into the hands of foreign visitors. She sent out 10,000 copies. When hecklers jeered one of his speeches, Douglass threw aside his notes and spoke right over them.

The pamphlet asked why African Americans had been left out of the fair's exhibits and planning. Douglass had a place there only because Haiti gave him one.

He wrote the pamphlet's opening as a wish list. Every item on it was something he could not honestly tell the world. He wished he could say the national government "is not a rope of sand." A rope of sand looks strong. It holds nothing. Douglass meant a government too weak to protect "American citizens of whatever color, at home."

He wished he could say it would send warships to punish "the murder of its citizens in New Orleans." Washington sent warships when Americans were harmed overseas. Douglass knew. He had been America's top diplomat in Haiti. At home, the government did nothing.

Everyone who received their message knew what had happened in New Orleans. Two years earlier, the city saw one of the largest mass lynchings in American history. The victims were Italians and Italian Ameri-

cans.

On March 14, 1891, a lynch mob broke into the jail. It killed eleven men accused in the murder of the city's police chief. Three had just been found not guilty. Three had a trial end with no verdict. Five had never been tried. No one was ever punished for their murders.

Italy's top diplomat in Washington said only three or four of the dead were Italian citizens. The rest were Americans, or on their way to becoming Americans. Italy wanted the killers tried. It wanted payment for the victims' families.

Secretary of State James G. Blaine said Washington could not promise a trial. Murder was Louisiana's business. Italy called its diplomat home. However, President Benjamin Harrison admitted the problem to Congress. He asked Congress to let federal courts try crimes against foreigners.

Congress did nothing. So the government paid instead. In April 1892, the United States gave Italy 125,000 francs, about \$25,000, for the victims' families.

Blaine wrote that the President hoped the money would "efface all memory of the unhappy tragedy." In other words, forget it. Italy said the two nations were friends again.

Three months later, Harrison proclaimed a national holiday for Columbus. That fall, Washington sent two warships to Genoa for Italy's own Columbus celebration.

The same government that could not protect eleven men in a New Orleans jail sent warships to honor Italy. So the first Columbus Day was declared in the shadow of the lynching. Italy had a king and a navy. The families of its citizens got paid. The families of the Italian Americans killed beside them got nothing.

When a lynch mob turned on these European immigrants, smeared as criminals, the world took notice. African Americans lived with that danger every day. In 1891 alone, the Chicago

Tribune counted 169 African Americans killed by lynch mobs. Their families got nothing. No foreign power spoke for them. No warship sailed.

Congress waited 131 years to make lynching a federal crime. The Emmett Till Antilynching Act became law in 2022. Until then, the rope was sand.

The first Columbus Day asked Americans to look away from a lynch mob and toward a hero. In one sense, it worked. Italian Americans are safe today in ways their great-grandparents were not.

But the terror did not end. It moved. In time, the Ku Klux Klan would come for Catholic immigrants of every kind. For African Americans, the danger changed shape. It did not end. Too often, the killers had friends in government.

Douglass refused to let the world look away. He said what the government would not. Black Americans were being "tortured, shot, hanged or burned to death," he wrote. They died "without ever seeing a judge, a jury or advocate."

In the same breath, he named New Orleans, reminding all that Black Americans were not the only ones whose rights and lives were put at risk by a weak federal response to lynch mobs.

He also held out something better. Douglass asked whether America was "the better or the worse" for being made of many peoples. His answer was "better."

Every nation has a mission, he said, rooted in its "character and composition." America's was plain. It was to become the most perfect "national illustration of the unity and dignity of the human family that the world has ever seen."

That is still our mission. This Columbus Day, let us remember the context of the first one. And let us reflect on how far we have come, or not, since then.

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



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

To all interested parties, known and unknown,Pursuant to the MS State Code of 1972, Section 21-39-21, the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will sell at Public Auction, the impounded, abandoned, lost, stolen, or misplaced motor vehicles and equipment listed on the attached schedule. Unclaimed motor vehicles and equipment may be sold after the expiration of ninety (90) days from their receipt or recovery by the City of Jackson. The auction will be held online at <https://marketplace.ventura.com/auctions/jac-ms/> on October 27 at 10:00 am

A list and description of abandoned/unclaimed vehicles will be posted pursuant to statutory requirements in the following locations:

Hinds County Court House
Hinds Country Chancery Court Building
Jackson City Hall/
City Clerk's Office”
(10/1/2026)

8841296 • 1984/
FORD/F150/TAN •
1FTCF15F4ELA02323

8843633 • 2012/FORD/
FUSION/WHITE •
3FAHP0HA0CR177881

8847294 • 2001/
KAWASAKI/OTHER/RED •
JKAZXB0101B513198

8847319 • 2006/SUZUKI/
OTHER/BLACK •
JS1GT76A462113164

8847322 • 2016/YAMAHA/
OTHER/SILVER •
JYARM06E6GA009963

8847348 • 1992/YAMAHA/
OTHER/PURPLE •
JYA3HHE05NA039838

8847459 • 2012/FORD/
FUSION/BLACK •
3FAHP0HG8CR188129

8847480 • 2017/HYUNDAI/
SONATA/WHITE •
5NPE34AF3HH481206

8847543 • -/OTHER-NOT
FOUND/OTHER/BLUE •
3NSNAE994LH848120

8847559 • 2009/FORD/
FUSION/SILVER •
3FAHP06Z59R205174

8847610 • 2007/NISSAN/
VERSA/WHITE •
3N1BC11E47L441596

8847650 • 2023/NISSAN/
MAXIMA/BLACK •

1N4AA6EV0PC508329

8847659 • 2010/DODGE/
CHALLENGER/SILVER •
2B3CJ4DV5AH320498

8847702 • 2008/DODGE/
AVENGER/WHITE •
1B3LC56K88N183125

8847717 • 2011/KIA/
OPTIMA/BLACK •
KNAGM4A76B5056548

8847737 • 2015/FORD/
FIESTA/WHITE •
3FADP4AJ6FM214448

8847827 • 2009/
DODGE/RAM/BLACK •
3D7KS28T99G514182

8847889 • 2006/NISSAN/
MURANO/SILVER •
JN8AZ08T66W405959

8848171 • 2016/NISSAN/
ALTIMA/BLACK •
1N4AL3AP4GC287284

8848279 • 1998/
MERCEDES/M
CLASS/SILVER •
4JGAB54E1WA045772

8848343 • 2018/KIA/
SEDONA/SILVER •
KNDMA5C15J6393993

8848449 • 2004/GMC/
SIERRA/WHITE •
1GTEK19T84Z239798

8848472 • 2005/TOYOTA/
CAMRY/SILVER •
4T1BF32K85U102374

8848493 • 1993/TOYOTA/
OTHER/BLACK •
4TARN81AXPZ098910

8848551 • 2018/
HYUNDAI/IONIQ/BLACK •
KMHC75LC6JU103179

8848645 • 2016/FORD/
FUSION/SILVER •
3FA6P0H76GR263021

8848650 • 2014/NISSAN/
SENTRA/BLACK •
3N1AB7AP6EY220181

8850960 • 2022/
FORD/F150/WHITE •
1FTEW1C58NKD27033

8851016 • 2017/
FORD/F150/WHITE •
1FTEW1EP4HFB05715

8851224 • 2019/HYUNDAI/
ELANTRA/SILVER •
5NPD74LF3KH470615

8851451 • 2015/KIA/
FORTE/WHITE •
KNAFK4A67F5291412

8851509 • 2015/FORD/
TAURUS/GRAY •
1FAHP2J86FG183182

8851685 • 2017/
HONDA/CRV/WHITE •
5J6RW5H36HL004446

8851816 • 2016/KIA/
OPTIMA/WHITE •
5XXGT4L34GG001146

8851938 • 2015/
KIA/RIO/RED •
KNADM4A30F6464138

8852007 • 2007/
CADILLAC/
ESCALADE/GOLD •
1GYFK66897R302472

8852154 • 2005/HONDA/
ACCORD/GOLD •
1HGCM56775A075526

8852277 • 2015/
HYUNDAI/ACCENT/RED •
KMHCT4AE4FU834498

8854857 • 1991/BUICK/
REGAL/MULTI-COLOR •
2G4WB54L0M1427593

8855007 • CHEVROLET/
OTHER/YELLOW •
F1L4769J287329

8855060 • 1983/BUICK/
LESABRE/SILVER •
1G4AN69Y9DH455322

8855223 • 1987/
HONDA/CIVIC/RED •
1HGEC4533HA040863

8855255 • 1993/
HONDA/CIVIC/RED •
2HGEJ2148PH513231

8855260 • 1978/
CHEVROLET/CHEYENNE/
WHITE • CKL148Z122214

8855565 • 1998/FORD/
CROWN VICT/WHITE •
2FAFP73W5WX158767

8855640 • 2013/
CHRYSLER/200/BLACK •
1C3CCBCG6DN737001

8855907 • 2017/
FORD/F250/WHITE •
1FT7W2BT0HEB80353

8855918 • 2017/HYUNDAI/
SONATA/BLACK •
5NPE24AF1HH570498

8855930 • 2019/NISSAN/
SENTRA/BLACK •
3N1AB7AP8KY333710

8858529 • 2015/KIA/
OPTIMA/SILVER •
5XXGM4A73FG402740

8858694 • 2015/
TOYOTA/RAV4/SILVER •
JTMBFREV2FJ043368

8858830 • 2018/HYUNDAI/
SONATA/BLACK •
5NPE24AFXJH598676

8858842 • 2015/KTM/
OTHER/MULTI-COLOR •
MD2JYJ401FC221895

8859092 • 2014/NISSAN/
ALTIMA/BLACK •
1N4AL3APXEC297539

8859275 • 2006/JEEP/
COMMANDER/SILVER •
1J8HH48N46C248383

8859339 • 2012/HYUNDAI/
SONATA/WHITE •
5NPEB4AC1CH372180

8859360 • 2019/HYUNDAI/
TUCSON/BLUE •
KM8J23A41KU045165

8861500 • 2018/DODGE/
GRAND CARAVAN/WHITE •
2C4RDGBG0JR288480

8861606 • 2013/HYUNDAI/
ELANTRA/GOLD •
5NPDH4AE3DH380861

8861618 • 2013/KIA/
OPTIMA/BLACK •
5XXGM4A72DG103513

8861669 • 2018/
CHEVROLET/
SPARK/WHITE •
KL8CB6SA1JC474371

8861896 • 2011/
FORD/F350/WHITE •
1FT8W3BT3BEC96244

8862034 • 2007/
CHRYSLER/
PACIFICA/SILVER •
2A8GM68X47R256190

8862037 • 2000/DODGE/
DURANGO/SILVER •
1B4HR28Y9YF123655

8862081 • 2013/
HYUNDAI/SONATA/RED •
5NPEB4AC5DH793921

8862099 • 2015/KIA/
OPTIMA/BLACK •
5XXGM4A7XFG504178

8862244 • 2007/HONDA/
ACCORD/WHITE •
1HGCM56897A061834

8864253 • 2008/
PONTIAC/G6/WHITE •
1G2ZF57B784112040

8864285 • 2011/NISSAN/
SENTRA/SILVER •
3N1AB6AP5BL623930

8864294 • 2007/
PONTIAC/G6/BLACK •
1G2ZG58B074121382

8864320 • 2013/HYUNDAI/
ELANTRA/BLUE •
5NPDH4AE1DH233292

8864331 • CHEVROLET/
CORVETTE/BLUE •
1Z67J3S430798

8864510 • 2016/
KIA/RIO/WHITE •
KNADM4A38G6639060

8864624 • 2009/NISSAN/
MURANO/RED •
JN8AZ18U29W006999

8864652 • 2011/NISSAN/
ALTIMA/SILVER •
1N4AL2AP7BN484831

8864685 • 2013/FORD/
FOCUS/BLACK •
1FADP3F22DL375406

8868348 • 2016/FORD/
FUSION/MULTI-COLOR •
3FA6P0HDXGR192959

8872177 • 2011/
INFINITI/G37/SILVER •
JN1CV6APXBM500565

8912422 • 2003/SUZUKI/
OTHER/WHITE •
1S1GN7BA732101733

8912537 • 2006/HONDA/
MC - CBR-SERIES/BLUE •
JH2PC37046M309184

8912552 • 2002/SUZUKI/
OTHER/BLACK •
JS1GN7BA322102473

8912578 • 2008/
YAMAHA/YZFR6/BLUE •
JYARJ06E38A036709

8915152 • 1992/
CHEVROLET/
GMT-400/GRAY •
2GCEC19K5N1211195

8930233 • -/OTHER-NOT
FOUND/OTHER/GREEN •
L6ZSCKLA9P1001238

8936757 • 2006/
KAWASAKI/OTHER/BLUE •
JKAEXMF166DA18252

9091762 • 2008/LAND
ROVER/RANGE ROVER
SPORT/BLACK •
SALSH23418A162908

9154072 • 1986/
NISSAN/300ZX/GRAY •
JN1HZ14S0GX148227

9392699 • 2011/HYUNDAI/
SONATA/SILVER •
5NPEB4AC3BH248507

9392746 • 1998/
CHEVROLET/MONTE
CARLO/BLACK •
2G1WW12M0W9321901

9398325 • 2026/
MITSUBISHI/
OUTLANDER/GRAY •
JA4J4VAB3TZ011462

9412844 • 2013/JEEP/
GRAND CHER/WHITE •
1C4RJFCT1DC599931

9481177 • 2012/HONDA/
ACCORD/GRAY •
1HGCP2F36CA075078

9483944 • 2009/TOYOTA/
OTHER/WHITE •
4T3ZE11A69U016685

9492338 • 2000/
FORD/F250/WHITE •
1FTNF20L0YEB78287

9492894 • 2005/
CHEVROLET/TAHOE/RED •
1GNEC13T55J170520

9495687 • 2012/
NISSAN/ALTIMA/RED •

1N4AL2AP6CC212204

9495696 • 1996/
CHEVROLET/
GMT-400/WHITE •
2GCEC19M2T1100800

9496069 • 2003/FORD/
TAURUS/SILVER •
1FAFP53U43A131955

9496106 • 2006/
HYUNDAI/AZERA/GOLD •
KMHFC46F56A085730

9503600 • 2013/KIA/
SOUL/BROWN •
KNDJT2A66D7535079

9515329 • 2012/
CADILLAC/SRX/BLACK •
3GYFNBE35CS588107

9518710 • 2011/
ACURA/TSX/GRAY •
JH4CU2F63BC015701

9526890 • 2014/JEEP/
GRAND CHER/WHITE •
1C4RJFCG8EC121767

9538608 • 2000/FORD/
MUSTANG/GREEN •
1FAFP4448YF120086

9538628 • 1999/
TOYOTA/CAMRY/RED •
4T1BG28K9XU551287

9538654 • 2006/HONDA/
CIVIC/BROWN •
1HGFA16526L116812

9545542 • 1968/DODGE/
CHALLENGER/MULTI-
COLOR • WL21C3A231934

9545554 • 2010/INFINITI/
FX35/MULTI-COLOR •
JN8AS1MU4AM802678

• 9546519 • 2014/
NISSAN/ALTIMA/WHITE •
1N4AL3AP5EN249242

9561650 • 2015/
RAM/1500/GRAY •
1C6RR6GT5FS691899

9569419 • 2007/
CHEVROLET/
SILVERADO/WHITE •
3GCEC14V17G175419

9584774 • 2005/BUICK/
LESABRE/TAN •
1G4HP54K05U155621

9584787 • 2007/
MERCEDES/E
CLASS/WHITE •
WDBUF56XX7B157713

9588206 • 2009/
ACURA/TSX/GRAY •
JH4CU26639C022528

9596399 • 2006/HONDA/
ACCORD/BLACK •
1HGCM56796A150941

9596416 • 2011/
MAZDA/CX-9/BLACK •
JM3TB2CA8B0304355

10/08/2026, 10/15/2026

LEGAL

RESOLUTION DECLARING INTENTION TO INCREASE THE LEVY OF THE TOURIST AND CONVENTION TAX CURRENTLY LEVIED ON HOTELS AND MOTELS BY ONE PERCENT (1%) AND ON RESTAURANTS BY ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT (.5%) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS TO THE JACKSON CONVENTION AND VISITOR’S BUREAU, AS AUTHORIZED BY SENATE BILL 3328, ENACTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE DURING ITS 2026 REGULAR SESSION, AND SETTING AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER SUCH TAX SHOULD BE LEVIED.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3328 authorizes the City Council to adopt a resolution declaring its intention to levy the increased tourist and convention tax, setting forth the amount of the tax to be levied, the date upon which the tax shall become effective, and calling for an election to be held on the question of whether the tax should be levied; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature, during its 2026 Regular Session, passed Senate Bill 3328, and Governor Tate Reeves signed Senate Bill 3328 into law on April 8, 2026. Senate Bill 3328 extends the repeal date of the local and private law that created the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau until 2030; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3328 further authorizes an increase in the current tourism and convention tax levied on the gross proceeds of room rentals of hotels and motels by one percent (1%) and on the gross proceeds of sales at restaurants, including but not limited to the sale of beer and alcoholic beverages sold to be consumed on the premises, by one-half of one percent (.5%); and

WHEREAS, before any tax authorized under Section 7(2)(b) of 2026 Senate Bill 3328, the governing authorities of the City of Jackson, Mississippi must adopt a resolution declaring their intention to levy an increase on the tourist and convention tax on the gross proceeds of room rentals of hotels and motels from 1% to 2% and on the gross proceeds of sales at restaurants from 1% to 1.5.%; and

WHEREAS, the taxes authorized by Senate Bill 3328 are levied for the purpose of providing funds to the Jackson Convention and Visitor’s Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau was created by local and private legislation in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the participation of the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau is vital to advancing the economic vitality of the City of Jackson and strengthening the City’s competitive advantage in recruiting events, meetings, conventions, and activities for current and future years; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau require adequate funding to support its endeavors; and

WHEREAS, increasing the current tourism tax levied on hotels and motels by 1% and on restaurants by one-half of one percent (.5%) is reasonable as following the increased levy, the total tourist and convention tax levied on the gross proceeds of room rentals of hotels and motels will be two percent (2%), and the total tourist and convention tax levied on the gross proceeds of sales at restaurants, including but not limited to the sale of beer and alcoholic beverages sold to be consumed on the premises, will be one and one-half percent (1.5%); and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3328 authorizes the City Council to set a date for the election on the question of whether the tax should be levied.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Bill 3328, enacted during the 2026 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature, the City of Jackson intends to increase the levy of the tourist and convention tax levied on the gross proceeds of room rentals of hotels and motels by one percent (1%) and on the gross proceeds of sales at restaurants, including but not limited to the sale of beer and alcoholic beverages sold to be consumed on the premises, by one-half of one percent (.5%).

Following the increased levy, the total tourist and convention tax levied on hotels and motels will be two percent (2%), and the total tourist and convention tax levied on restaurants, including but not limited to the sale of beer and alcoholic beverages sold to be consumed on the premises, will be one and one-half percent (1.5%).

An election shall be held on November 3, 2026, on the question of whether the additional tax should be levied, where all qualified electors of the City of Jackson may vote.

The ballot used in such election will include the following brief statement of the amount and purposes of the proposed tax levy, the language of which has been approved by the Mississippi Secretary of State:

Shall the City of Jackson increase the tourism tax to support efforts to attract more visitors, conventions, sporting events, cultural events, and tourism-related economic activity to Jackson by:

- Increasing the restaurant and prepared food tax by 0.5%; and
- Increasing the hotel, lodging, and vacation rental tax by 1%;

With the additional revenue dedicated solely to Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau d/b/a Visit Jackson for destination marketing, convention sales, tourism promotion, visitor services, and economic development initiatives that generate visitor spending, jobs, and tax revenue for the City of Jackson.

_____ “FOR THE TAX” - YES

_____ “AGAINST THE TAX” - NO

The ballot shall also include the words “FOR THE TAX” and, on a separate line, “AGAINST THE TAX” and the voters shall vote by placing a cross (x) or check (?) opposite their choice on the proposition.

Upon canvass and certification of the election results, if at least sixty percent (60%) of the qualified electors voting in the election vote in favor of the tax, the increased levy shall become effective thirty (30) days after the date on which the election results are officially certified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of Council is directed to publish the notice of intention and election once each week for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation and the publication of the notice must not be made less than twenty-one (21) days before the date of the election, as set forth below, and not more than seven (7) days before the election.

BE IT, FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of Council is directed to furnish a certified copy of the resolution evidencing the tax to the Mississippi Department of Revenue at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of the tax.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Parkinson seconded.

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

ATTTEST:

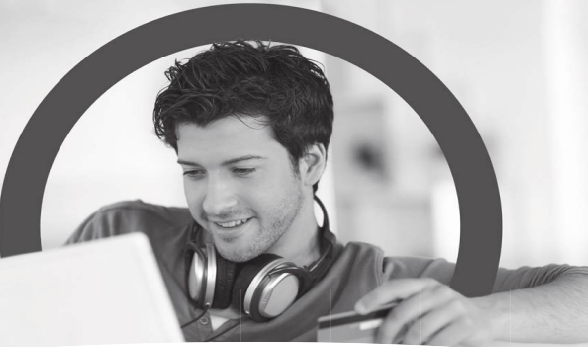
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

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 August 25, 2026 and recorded in Minute Book “7D, Pgs. 1235-1237”.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 25th day of September 2026.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

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People Over Politics

Stop Data Centers Workshop Calls for Jackson's Community Voices to be Heard

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

MSJW (Mississippi for a Just World) strives to be “a living, breathing movement for human rights, deeply rooted in the enduring legacy of Mississippi’s human liberation struggle.” The Mississippi based organization “fights for a world where every individual is empowered, where justice prevails, and where human dignity is non-negotiable.” Hence, building a more just world from the Deep South to the Global South through collective action while inspiring positive change, is a push by MSJW.

Hurricane warnings may have deterred many Jackson residents from attending MSJW’s workshop at Medgar Evers Library on Sat., Oct. 10, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nevertheless, MSJW members shared pertinent information about data centers, pushed to halt the proposed data center for Jackson’s residents, and welcomed feedback from persons who were present. From facilitators to large group discussions to small group discussions, a wealth of knowledge was disseminated and recorded.

Facilitators pointed out that data centers are concentrated near major metro areas and get priority over the residents. They are disproportionately built in low-income neighborhoods, communities of color, and areas with limited political power. This harms communities in a number



MSJW calls for Jackson residents to understand how the proposed data center can be detrimental to them (L-R) A'laa Alsomadi; Tamilya Thomas; Sabir Abdul-Haqq; Faridah Abdul-Tawwab; Sydney Armstrong; and Margaret Lawson.

of ways. Data Centers are entering communities already overly exposed to pollutants and waste. Many low-income communities and communities of color are already impacted by a lack of healthcare resources; data centers exacerbate these issues.

People in oppressed and underserved areas are unlikely to receive any of the potential marginal benefits of data center construction, whether economic or vocational. Across the country, reports show that the utility costs many data centers promised to save have been pushed onto residents, many of whom are struggling to afford it.

Emphasis was placed on the Trump Administration and its investment in accelerating AI (computer systems that perform tasks requiring human-like reasoning) and data expansion. AI

is harmful in that bias in decision-making, privacy risks, and energy consumption exist. AI is transforming how data centers are built. Large tech corporations like Amazon and Facebook, investors, and the State are working in partnership to manufacture AI. These corporations use their economic and monopolizing power to drive their latest extractions and profits.

A number of handouts were circulated among attendants: “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” reminded them of the worthiness and dignity of humanity. “Model Ordinance: Data Centers” was specified as the “Data Center Land Use Ordinance.”

The Jackson City Council’s “Ordinance Approving Amendments to the Official Zoning Ordinance of the City of Jackson,



Workshop Participants: (L-R) Barbara Sharp; Sahar Brown; Khaylah Scott; Claudia Robinson; Amaru Nicholson; and Delores Scott. PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

Mississippi in Order to Prove for and Establish a Regulatory Framework for Evaluating Data Centers,” states that data centers will only be built if they are in full compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

“Ordinance of the Jackson City Council Establishing a Temporary Moratorium and Regulatory Framework on the Development and Expansion of Data Centers Within the City of Jackson” is aimed to protect Jackson’s water, sewer, and electrical infrastructure, to have land use compatibility with surrounding communities, to prevent environmental burdens, and to be a beacon for future data center development.

Calling for “justice for the people,” discussants asserted that it is crucial for Jackson’s residents to understand how they may be impacted by data cen-

ters and speak out against them. The residents are prone to have health challenges because of data centers. For instance, data centers require diesel generators for backup, which release pollutants that cause cancer, asthma, heart attacks, lung disease, and other diseases.

Discussants further noted that data centers create very few jobs, with the most jobs being construction jobs. The general consensus reflected the need for elected officials to be accountable for decisions they make on behalf of the residents.

Deloris Lee commented, “We need to elect people that will pass laws to protect communities. Also, pass laws that will punish those that don’t follow those laws. A mere slap on the wrist carries no consequence. The power is in the hands of the people. The

power is in the ballot box.”

Faridah Abdul-Tawwab, Chief Officer of Research, Education and Culture @ MSJW said, “We have a duty to hold elected officials accountable for reading and fully understanding the legislation for which they vote. They abdicated this responsibility in 2024 when they voted for SB 2001 in the state legislature. This was a bill coauthored by John Hohn, who is now the mayor of Jackson. SB 2001 paved the way for hyperscale data centers to come to Jackson.”

According to Claudia Robinson, “To witness elected officials being slow to acknowledge the dangers of data centers in Jackson is worrisome. There is more emphasis on ‘economic’ influence, yet the theory of economic benefit from data centers can easily be debunked. We must be bitterly honest and accountable of the people who are elected, as many of them are incumbents... They know the daily struggles of Jacksonians. Why not hear us out and acknowledge this?”

MSJW facilitators announced that they would be attending the upcoming City Council’s meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6 p.m., and plan to share the highlights of Saturday’s workshop. They invited workshop participants to attend. In closing, they quoted civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, “We’re on our way now. But we can’t stop. We’ve got to keep going.”

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Mississippi Link Newswire

Enjoy every moment of your visit to the Mississippi State Fair by avoiding sudden unexpected illness and injury, start to finish. That's the message from American Medical Response, which has provided paramedics and EMTs at the fair for many years.

"Lack of forethought and risky behavior lead to dozens of medical and trauma emergencies at the fair every year," said Ryan Wilson, operations manager for AMR Central Mississippi. "AMR is there to help injured or seriously ill fairgoers right away."

Consider the Elements

By a wide margin, AMR medics treat more fairgoers for heat illness than for any other condition. With temperatures still reaching the 90s, it is imperative to prevent heat illness, recognize it and then seek help from AMR right away.

While elders, small children, chronically ill individuals, obese people, substance conditions and pregnant women are



at greatest risk of heat illness, anyone can suffer heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

To stay cool and hydrated, Wilson advises:

• Beware of dehydration:

Starting a couple of days prior to your visit, start drinking plenty of water or sport drinks and continue doing so at the fair and afterward. Avoid alcohol and large quantities of caffeine because they cause the body to lose fluids.

• **Dress appropriately for the weather.** Sunburn is possible even in cooler weather, so use sunscreen and wear loose, light-colored clothing that "breathes" (such as cotton) and a broad-brimmed, loose-weave hat.

• **Stay in the shade as much as you can.**

• **Suspect heat exhaustion** if someone is sweating profusely sometimes with cool clammy skin or feeling lightheaded, fatigued or nauseated. Call 911 right then; don't wait.

Don't Stumble or Trip

When excited, many people pay less attention to their surroundings. Injuries from stumbling and tripping are common at the fair. To avoid fall injuries:

• Wear shoes providing strong support for your ankles: Reduce the odds of falling, twisting an ankle and getting cut on the feet by wearing flat shoes with closed toes and good tread. Flip-flops and sandals that are mainly open are not adequate protection. Bring a few bandages for foot blisters and small scrapes.

• Walk, don't run. Always watch where you're walking. On arrival and while leaving the fairgrounds, cross streets only at crosswalks or other places where law enforcement officers are directing traffic. Getting on and off rides, take your time on ramps and stairs

Follow Fairground Rules

• Stand on the pavement or sit on the benches provided. Don't sit on the back of benches, railings or other places not meant to serve as seats. A "perch" can be hazardous.

• In the livestock barns, don't extend your hand and arm between the rails of a stall to pet an animal. An animal can forcefully raise its head and crush your fingers, hand or arm against a rail.

• On all rides, keep your

hands on the grip bar and follow the operator's safety instructions.

Be Mindful of Your Medical Conditions

• Amusement rides can aggravate certain health ailments such as heart conditions, problems with breathing, severe allergies, high blood pressure, back or neck issues, pregnancy or a history of seizures.

• If you take medications, stay on your prescription. Don't leave your medicine at home and don't skip doses.

• For any breathing condition, stay out of livestock barns and smoke-filled areas.

• If you are asthmatic, bring your inhaler. If you have severe allergies, bring your epinephrine auto-injector.

• If you have food allergies, check the ingredients for fair food before you eat it.

• Wear medical ID bracelets so first responders can help you quickly in an emergency.

Have a Plan for Emergencies

Continuously watch your

children at the fair. Teach them, "If we are separated and you can't find me, go directly to a police officer or EMT for help."

For added peace of mind, add a child-tracker app to your cell phones.

Emergency Medical Services at the Fair

AMR provides on-site emergency medical care every hour the fair is open. To reach patients swiftly, AMR teams use an enclosed, air-conditioned mini-ambulance, golf carts equipped for emergency treatment and transport, and medics on bicycles carrying essential equipment.

In case of injury or sudden illness, call 911 immediately. Tell the 911 call-taker exactly where you are. Look for a number on the nearest tent, booth or ride and give it to the 911 call-taker. That number works like a street address for your rescuers.

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MVSU welcomes a new chapter in campus health care with G.A. Carmichael Family Health

By Jeriah King
Student Journalist

Mississippi Valley State University and the G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center celebrated a new partnership on Oct. 5 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Student Health Center.

This partnership will expand access to quality health care for students and the surrounding community.

MVSU's Student Health Services hosted the ceremony, which highlighted the services and opportunities the G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center will bring to campus. The ceremony drew university administrators, students, health care professionals, and community leaders.

Dr. Jacqueline Gibson, vice president for enrollment management and student affairs, welcomed the crowd and said the opening was a historic milestone in the University's commitment to student health, wellness and success.

"With this center, right here on our campus, we're bringing vital, quality health care to the

doorsteps of our students," said Gibson.

Through the partnership, students will have access to primary, acute and chronic care services. G.A. Carmichael also provides behavioral health care, diabetes education and prevention, HIV prevention services, maternal health support, telehealth nutrition counseling, cancer prevention and other community health programs.

G. A. Carmichael's chief medical officer, Dr. Yvette McLaurin, announced the clinical team members who will be providing care at the campus location. "We don't just want to offer programs," said Tasha Brown, deputy director of grants and programs.

"Our goal is to identify the needs, eliminate barriers to care and develop services that improve health outcomes across the communities we serve," said Brown.

G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center CEO Dr. James Coleman said the organization also plans to provide internship, volunteer and educational opportunities for MVSU stu-

dents.

Coleman said in an interview following the ceremony that bringing a federally qualified community health center to MVSU creates an opportunity to offer more comprehensive services and expose students interested in health-related careers to practical experience.

"I expect to see a real difference on campus over the next few years in terms of improved health outcomes and better management of chronic conditions and expanded services," said Coleman.

"When you have a better quality of health care, your academics should increase because you're not worried about your health care," Coleman said.

Coleman, a public health professional who's worked with organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Morehouse School of Medicine, said serving communities through health care is one of his passions.

MVSU President Dr. Jerry Briggs urged students to use the new resources and ensure

other students know the services are available. "Partnerships like this demonstrate the university's dedication to providing students the assistance they need to succeed," Briggs said.

Coleman and Briggs then officially cut the ribbon. The ceremony also included remarks from local leaders and representatives of G.A. Carmichael.

For MVSU, the new center is more than just another service on campus. It ties student wellness to academic success and improves the university's relationship with the surrounding Mississippi Delta community.

As the doors officially opened, university and health center leaders stressed a shared goal: to increase access to quality health care in the Valley and equip students with the resources they need to learn, lead, and thrive.

Jeriah King is a senior Mass Communication major at MVSU. Her concentration is Broadcasting. In addition to serving as a staff writer for the campus newspaper, the Delta Devils' Gazette, she also serves as SGA Vice President.



MVSU President Dr. Jerry Briggs cuts the ribbon at G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center as CEO Dr. James Coleman, looks on.

JPS Honored with National Literacy Champion Award

Jackson Public Schools Newswire

Jackson Public Schools officially received national recognition Tuesday evening as Scholastic representatives presented the district with the Richard M. Robinson Literacy Champion Award during the Board of Trustees meeting Monday, October 5.

Presented in partnership with the Council of the Great City Schools, the annual award honors a school district that has demonstrated progress in advancing reading achievement and expanding access to books and literacy resources for scholars. JPS was announced as the 2025 recipient earlier this year, becoming the fifth district na-

tionwide to receive the honor.

During Tuesday's meeting, representatives from Scholastic formally presented the award and celebrated the district's commitment to literacy. The award recognizes Jackson Public Schools' continued efforts to strengthen literacy outcomes and create opportunities for scholars to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene said reading remains one of the most powerful tools for opening doors and expanding possibilities for scholars. The district's literacy gains and commitment to increasing access to books helped earn national recognition, while the in-

vestment in Shirley Elementary will provide even more opportunities for scholars to explore, learn and grow through reading.

As part of the award, Shirley Elementary School was selected to receive a library transformation that includes thousands of new books and access to literacy resources designed to support scholars both inside and outside the classroom.

Shirley Elementary Principal Dr. Kimberly Tate expressed gratitude for the recognition and the partnership behind it. "We are so happy to accept this honor," Tate said. "You all have become a part of our family."



(L-R) Ronald Stevens, Scholastic Mississippi Account Executive; Todd Zorros, Scholastic RVP, West Region; Shanieca Adams, Shirley Elementary School Teacher; Principal Elana Tate; Tai Chapman; Scholastic Vice President, National Head of Education Partnerships and Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene



BOOK REVIEW: FOR CUSTOMERS ONLY: PUBLIC BATHROOMS AND THE MAKING OF AMERICAN INEQUALITY BY BRYANT SIMON C.2026, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS \$32.50 • 376 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

That fourth cup of coffee this morning was a really bad idea.

It smelled great and tasted even better but now, two hours later, you have regrets. You'll need to deal with that liquid, and soon, and there are facilities for that somewhere nearby. But as you'll see in "For Customers Only" by Bryant Simon, getting there wasn't always a "go."

Ever since America's first public restroom was built in the mid-1800s, someone has tried to use restrooms for power grabs. Be-

fore then, says Simon, relieving one's self was a matter of finding a place outdoors.

As cities grew, however, elimination as such was perceived as uncouth so taverns, bars, and places men might frequent added rooms for bodily functions.

Women, conversely, were often out of luck until a few decades later when stores that catered to ladies established formal restrooms. By then, women had more freedom to leave their homes and to shop alone.

And that was what public restrooms were all about: freedom,

and because of racial laws then, Black citizens, shoppers or travelers were not free to use the facilities.

Men who were perceived to be effeminate were also policed, lest they use a restroom for something it wasn't originally intended for. At various times in history, in fact, having someone monitoring a restroom was common, and sometimes humiliating.

Post-World War II, Black travelers literally needed a book to find permissible restrooms, and they "mapped" where facilities could be found, which was more

humiliation; Simon quotes singer Smokey Robinson as saying, "They would just as soon kill us as let us use a bathroom."

The Civil Rights Movement saw some movement on the issue, but in many instances, sneaking into a "Whites Only" restroom was the only viable (and dangerous) solution.

And as time passed, doing the same with a gendered restroom could be similarly dangerous for trans users, personally and, in modern times, politically....

Chances are, the only time you think of a toilet is when you need

to clean one or use one.

You probably even know the closest one right now, but you'll see it differently when you read "For Customers Only," a unique history of freedom and facilities.

While it's true that this book may sometimes make you cringe with harsh language and there are anecdotes that you'll agree are very definitely in the Absolutely-Didn't-Need-to-Know-That zone, author Bryant Simon peers through decades and into stalls and outhouses to bring readers a mostly-fascinating peek at the "politics of potties."

Those who walk into bathrooms blithely and without thought today will be astounded at what they'll find here and some facts are frustrating, once you learn them. Readers who pay attention may be even more angry that bathroom issues are far from over in modern America.

Just be warned about the profanity in this book and prepare to be uncomfortable sometimes. If you steel yourself for it, "For Customers Only" is a intriguing book that niche-history lovers will want to read – and if that's you, find it. Go on, go.

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Congressman Bennie G. Thompson Visits CSLC Locations in Holmes County

By Aaliyah Greer
Youth Writer

Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) proudly welcomed Congressman Bennie G. Thompson during his district tour on Friday, October 9, 2026. The visit highlighted key community projects in Holmes County that Congressman Thompson has supported and helped fund through federal appropriations.

The Congressman's planned tour included three major CSLCconnected sites:

- Community Students Learning Center – 333 Yazoo Street
- The EDGE Business Incubator – 43 Arenia C. Mallory Road
- Faith Hill Subdivision Housing Project

Although time did not permit a full tour of the Faith Hill Subdivision, Congressman Thompson's visit underscored his longstanding commitment to strengthening community development, education, workforce training, and housing opportunities throughout the 2nd Congressional District.

First Stop: Community Students Learning Center

Congressman Thompson arrived at CSLC's main office to an enthusiastic welcome from community supporters, local officials, and CSLC leadership. Founders Leslie and Beulah Greer greeted the Congressman alongside staff, volunteers, and community part-



A group of community members gather outside the EDGE Business Incubator to greet Congressman Thompson and show appreciation for his continued support of local workforce and business development initiatives. PHOTOS BY AALIYAH GREER

ners who have witnessed the center's growth and impact over the years.

CSLC has benefited from Congressman Thompson's advocacy and federal support, enabling the organization to expand programs in education, workforce development, youth services, and community revitalization.

Second Stop: The EDGE Business Incubator

The Congressman then toured the EDGE Incubator, a CSLC-supported initiative designed to foster entrepreneurship, workforce training, and small business development. He met with tenants Tabitha Horne, Director of Essential Health Career and Demetrice Ball, Co-Director.

Essential Health Career provides CNA and CPR training, equipping residents with high-demand healthcare skills. Con-

gressman Thompson spoke with instructors about the importance of expanding workforce pathways in rural communities.

A group of community members gathered outside the incubator to welcome the Congressman and express appreciation for his continued support.

Faith Hill Subdivision Update

Although the Congressman was unable to tour the Faith Hill Subdivision due to time constraints, CSLC proudly announced that the project has been awarded \$500,000 in congressional funding to expand affordable housing in the community. This investment will support new homes, infrastructure improvements, and longterm neighborhood revitalization.

Community Voices

Throughout the visit, several local leaders shared their reflec-

tions:

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson

"I like Lexington. It's a good place with warm people. We need to build more programs so it can be even better. I plan to work with the supervisors, the mayor, and the community — whether it's housing, recreation, or education. We'll do it all."

Yasmine Brown, Communications Director & Press Secretary

"Being from Indianola and now working in Washington, D.C., it's a blessing to come home and see the community projects the Congressman is partnering on with Ms. Beulah. It's eyeopening to see how legislative work translates into real impact."

Supervisor Debra Mabry, District 3

"Lexington is a wonderful

town — our county seat — and it should be the best place for citizens to visit. We must all work together, not just elected officials, to make Holmes County the best it can be. I want to see better education, new schools, and more jobs."

Leslie Greer, Board President, CSLC

"Congressman Thompson has been a steadfast partner to CSLC, supporting our efforts in housing, education, and workforce training year after year. His commitment to Holmes County empowers us to serve more families and build stronger communities."

A Community United

The visit brought together local leaders including:

- Representative Bryant Clark
- Sheriff March
- Supervisor Mabry

- Supervisor Johnson
- Supervisor Young
- Supervisor Steven McClellan
- Community supporters
- CSLC staff and volunteers

Congressman Thompson's visit reaffirmed the strong partnership between CSLC and federal leadership. His continued support has helped advance critical projects in education, workforce development, housing, and community revitalization — strengthening opportunities for families across Holmes County.

"CSLC remains committed to serving the community and looks forward to continued collaboration with Congressman Thompson and local leaders to build a stronger, more vibrant future for Holmes County," stated Beulah Greer, CSLC Executive Director.



Congressman Thompson (right) visits the EDGE Business Incubator and meets with Tabitha Horne, Director of Essential Health Career, and Co-Director Demetrice Ball.



Congressman Bennie G. Thompson shares a moment with Pastor Walter Eskridge, Jr. during his tour.

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

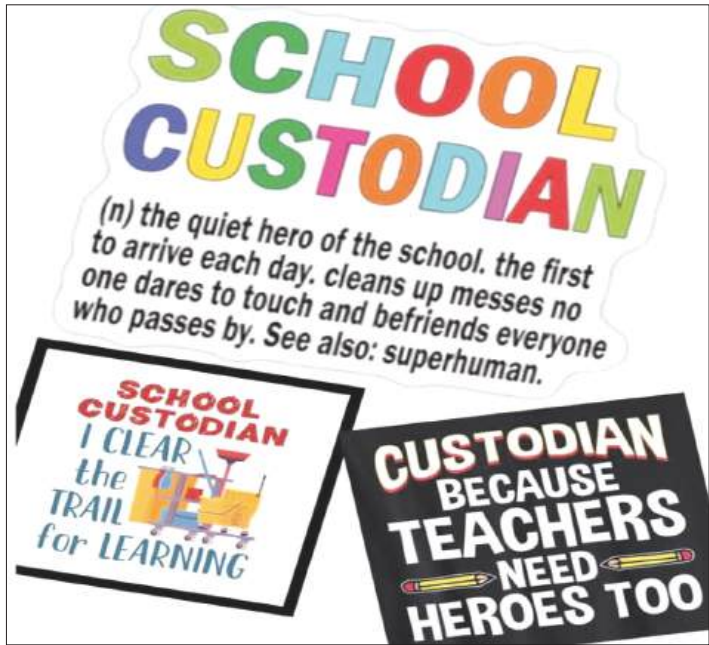
Gary Road Intermediate School Celebrates National Custodians' Day

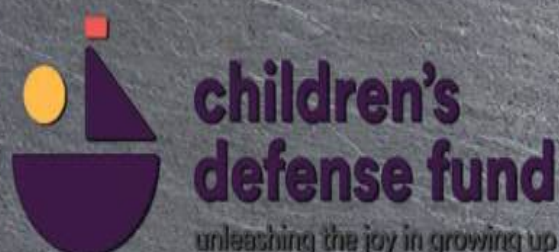
Gary Road Intermediate School recently celebrated **National Custodians' Day** by recognizing the dedicated custodial staff members who work tirelessly to keep the school clean, safe, and welcoming each day.

The school proudly honored its custodial "superheroes," **Mrs. J. White, Mr. Dave, and Ms. Toya**, for their hard work, commitment, and service to the students, faculty, and staff.

From keeping classrooms and hallways sparkling clean to helping ensure a pleasant learning environment, these dedicated team members play an important role in the daily success of Gary Road Intermediate School.

Happy National Custodians' Day to Mrs. J. White, Mr. Dave, and Ms. Toya! Thank you for all you do to keep Gary Road Intermediate School sparkling and bright!





NOW THE URGENCY IS NOW



THE ECONOMY

- Wages are **stagnant** for the working class.
- Taxes are **reduced** for the ultra-wealthy.
- The expanded **Child Tax Credit** will benefit the wealthy more than the working class.



RACE AND EQUITY

- The Supreme Court decision in Louisiana vs Callais has opened the door to redistricting up and down the ballot. Lines can be drawn to eliminate majority Black districts. This includes congressional, legislative, supervisors, alderpersons, city council, school boards, judges, ...



EDUCATION

- Childcare centers are closing.
- School districts are having a difficult time recruiting and retaining teachers.
- The cost of postsecondary education is skyrocketing.



HEALTHCARE

- People are dying because of a lack of doctors and hospitals.



If YOU want a different REALITY,
VOTE, NOVEMBER 3