

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS

**2026 Mid-Winter Conference
Legislative Update**

Presented By: Steve A. Gray

ORDER OF THE DAY

- Latest Information From the Legislative Budget Office
- Measures Moving Through The Legislative Process Impacting County Government
- Key Dates Make Aware
- Questions

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE (LBO)

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE LATEST NUMBERS

- Latest Information From the Legislative Budget Office
- FY 2027 State General Fund Appropriation Recommendations

2026 Amount	2027 Requested	2027 Recommended
• \$7,142,355,792.	\$7,891,619,818	\$7,101,784,287

- FY 2027 Homestead Exemption Reimbursement Recommendation

2026 Appropriation	2027 Recommended
• \$94,000,000.00	\$94,000,000.00

POLICY MEASURES MOVING THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

POLICY MEASURES MOVING THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Education Policy (School Choice)

- Both Senate Bill 2002 and House Bill 2 has passed their respective chambers. House Bill 2 currently resides in the Senate Education Committee and Senate Bill 2002 has yet to be assigned to a House Committee.

MUNICIPAL INMATES HOUSED IN COUNTY JAIL FACILITIES

- House Bill 1691: This measure revises the methods that counties and municipalities use to calculate costs for payment of housing municipal inmate. NOTE: The actual language strikes the current law that ties counties to what they are paid when counties are housing inmates for the Department of Corrections at the \$25.00 a day threshold.
- **This is a double referred measure, and it has currently passed out of the House County Affairs Committee.**

REVERSE AUCTION MEASURE

- House Bill 329 revises the method of receiving bids through for agencies and governing authorities for reverse auction.

**This measure currently resides on
the House Floor Calendar.**

PERS TIER 5 COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

- Senate Bill 2613: This bill requires the PERS Board of Trustees to open, maintain, and manage an account that shall be designated the PERS Tier 5 COLA Account. Beginning July 1, 2026 and on July 1 thereafter through and including July 1, 2035, the State Treasurer, in conjunction with the State Fiscal Officer shall transfer the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00)from the State General Fund to the PERS Tier 5 COLA Account.
- **This measure has passed the Senate Finance Committee and will now head to the Senate Floor Calendar for consideration**

MISSISSIPPI PERS STABILITY ACT

Senate Bill 2004: This bill establishes a new act address the funding needs of the Mississippi Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Beginning July 1, 2026, this proposed measure mandates a transfer of \$500 million from the State Capitol Expense Fund over to the PERS system. Beginning July 1, 2027 and on every July 1st thereafter through July 1st of 2036, the state will mandate a transfer of \$50 million from the State Capitol Expense Fund to the PERS system.

.

- This measure will now head to the House Chamber for consideration.

COUNTY RADAR

- House Bill 1042: This measure authorizes the sheriff and their deputies to use radar speed detection upon public streets, roads, and highways where a work zone or school zone is designated. **This measure now resides on the House Floor Calendar**
- Senate Bill 2614: This measure authorizes the sheriff to use radar based on population and prohibits speed traps. **This bill will now head to the Senate Floor Calendar for consideration**

51 owner who is adjacent to that portion of the road. The number of
52 radar speed detection equipment units authorized under this
53 subsection (1) (f) shall be based upon the population of the county
54 according to the latest federal decennial census and shall be as
55 follows:

- 56 (i) No more than one (1) unit in a county with a
57 population less than thirty thousand (30,000);
- 58 (ii) No more than two (2) units in a county with a
59 population more than thirty thousand (30,000) but less than fifty
60 thousand (50,000);
- 61 (iii) No more than three (3) units in a county
62 with a population more than fifty thousand (50,000) but a
63 population less than seventy thousand (70,000);
- 64 (iv) No more than five (5) units in a county with
65 a population more than seventy thousand (70,000) but less than
66 ninety thousand (90,000);
- 67 (v) No more than seven (7) units in a county with
68 a population of more than ninety thousand (90,000) but less than
69 one hundred and ten thousand (110,000);
- 70 (vi) No more than ten (10) units in a county with
71 a population more than one hundred and ten thousand (110,000).

72 (2) (a) It is unlawful for any person or peace officer or
73 law enforcement agency to operate radar speed detection equipment
74 at a speed trap.

86 (i) A "speed trap" is either 1. a particular
87 section of a highway with a prima facie speed limit established by
88 the local governing authority of the jurisdiction that is not
89 justified by an engineering and traffic survey conducted within
90 ten (10) years before the date of the alleged violation unless the
91 speed limit conforms to requirements established by state or
92 federal law; or 2. a particular section of a highway that does not
93 have adequate signage giving notice of an upcoming lower speed
94 limit.

Senate Bill 2614 Continuation



THE PEOPLE'S ACCESS ACT

- **Senate Bill 2259**: would require counties, cities, and other local public bodies to livestream their regular and special meetings online, with the video link clearly posted on the front page of the government's website along with a detailed agenda. If a local government fails to make a good-faith effort to livestream a meeting or properly post notice, any action taken at that meeting could be legally void, even if the decision itself was otherwise valid. The bill also requires local governments to record and post meetings if technical problems occur and sets phased compliance deadlines based on the size of the municipality, placing new technology, staffing, and legal-compliance responsibilities directly on local governments.
- **This measure has passed the Senate Government Structure Committee and currently resides on the Senate Floor Calendar.**

THE MISSISSIPPI VIDEO SERVICE ACT

- **House Bill 1664**: This measure creates a statewide franchise authority. This measure contains language that will strip various powers of county and municipal government.
 - Section 5: This section mandates that local governing authorities must allow Right-of-Way (ROW) access without any negotiation or permission. If the video provider ceases to provide video services the video provider shall have no obligation to remove its facilities in the right-of-way, so long as the facilities are being utilized to provide one or more service to the residents

THE MISSISSIPPI VIDEO SERVICE ACT

Cont'd

- Section 6: This section caps local fees at 5%.

If there is not an incumbent video service provider having a franchise agreement with the political subdivision or if a political subdivision has not previously established and assessed a fee to an incumbent video service provider, the political subdivision may establish the video service provider fee in an amount not in excess of five percent (5%) of the gross revenue. A video service provider **shall provide** the political subdivision with written notice of its intent to offer video services and request that the political subdivision provide written notice of the video service provider fee not in excess of five percent (5%). If the political subdivision fails to respond within thirty (30) days, the presumption **shall be a zero percent (0%) fee**.

THE MISSISSIPPI VIDEO SERVICE ACT

Cont'd

- Section 7: This section addresses installation and compliance.
 - (1) A video service provider shall not deny access to video service to any group of potential residential subscribers based on the income of the residents in the local area in which such a group resides. (2) A franchising authority or political subdivision shall not impose on a video service provider any build-out or other requirements for the construction, placement, or installation of facilities used to provide video services. (3) (a) If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the holder of a certificate of franchise authority is not in compliance with this subchapter, the court shall order the holder of the certificate of franchise authority to cure the noncompliance within a reasonable time. (b) If the holder of a certificate of franchise authority fails to cure the noncompliance as ordered by a court under subsection (3)(a) of this section, the court may remedy the noncompliance.

THE MISSISSIPPI VIDEO SERVICE ACT

Cont'd

- **Section 9**: This section discloses the removal of any permitting by a political subdivision .
- (4) The regulation of a person holding a certificate of franchise authority issued under this act **shall be exclusive to the Secretary of State** as provided under this act. (5) A person holding a certificate of franchise, with respect to any political subdivision identified by the video service provider in its application or modifications filed under this act, **shall not be required** to obtain any authorization, permit, franchise, or license from, or pay another fee or franchise tax to, or post bond in any political subdivision of this state to engage in the business or perform any service authorized under this act.
- **This measure has passed the House Public Utilities Committee, and now resides on the House Floor Calendar**

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT CLAW BACK MEASURE

- **House Bill 1652**: This measure requires the return of unexpended funds and earned interest for the Local Improvement Projects measure passed during the 2021 Regular Legislative Session.
 - **NOTE:** *If Local Improvement Project funds are unspent or misused, then 10% of State Aid and Use Tax diversion will be withheld until the unspent/misused funds are repaid.*
- **This measure has passed the House Appropriation A Committee currently resides on the House Floor Calendar.**

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION AUTHORITY ACT

- **Senate Bill 2650**: This measure brings forward the full code section for the MS Emergency Communication Authority Act. NOTE: MAS staff attended the committee meeting whereas committee members discussed the possibility of readdressing the governance committee that was created within this measure when it passed last year (MAS is represented on the committee). In addition, there was discussion about legislatively addressing the local Emergency Communication Districts (ECDs).
- **This measure has passed the Senate Technology Committee and currently resides on the Senate Floor Calendar .**

16TH SECTION LAND / SUPREME COURT

- **House Bill 1593:** This measure defines the rights of owners of land on which is located a body of water regarding Sixteenth Section Land. This measure is brought about due to a Supreme Court ruling that the public can openly utilize leased waters on 16th Section land. Because of this ruling, counties will lose revenue from not being able to establish lease agreements. This measure is intended to clarify and strengthen property and management rights over 16th Section Lands when bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, navigable streams, or oxbow lakes are located on or within those lands. The goal is to ensure the 16th Section School Trust Interest comes first and that the counties continue to receive the leasing revenue .
- **This measure has passed the House Judiciary B Committee and now resides on the House Floor Calendar.**

LOCAL FEE-IN-LIEU DISTRIBUTION

- **House Bill 1635**: This measure revises the distribution of, for certain projects, regarding the fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes. In essence, this measure changes Mississippi's fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes process for mega-projects (capital investment over \$1 billion) starting July 1, 2026. For the portion of the project above \$1 billion, the bill requires that the fee-in-lieu money be split so that only 20% stays local (county/municipal) and 80% is sent to a new state fund (Mississippi Strategic Development Fund) to be used by MDA for statewide infrastructure, economic development, and quality-of-life projects.
- **This measure DIED on yesterday's deadline**

ELIMINATION OF PROPERTY TAX STUDY COMMITTEE

- **Senate Bill 2837**: This measure creates a temporary study committee to explore eliminating property taxes (ad valorem taxes) and how the state could replace the lost money that currently funds counties, cities, and school districts. This committee would deliver a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2026 and the committee would dissolve by January 1, 2027.
- **This measure DIED on yesterday's deadline.**

LIMITATION ON INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES

- **House Bill 830**: This measure revises Mississippi's "growth cap" rules that limit how much ad valorem tax revenues can increase from year to year for counties, cities, and certain special-purpose levies, keeping the general limit at **2%** above the best year in the prior three years (with common exclusions like new property added to the rolls, reappraisal costs, bond debt service, and certain mandated programs).
- **This measure DIED on yesterday's deadline.**

KEY DATES

- **February 12th** : Deadline for Original Floor Action on General Bills and Constitutional Amendments originating in Own House
- **February 23rd**: Deadline for making Requests for Appropriation and Revenue Bills to be drafted
- **February 25th**: Deadline for Original Floor Action on Appropriation and Revenue Bills originating in Own House
- **March 3rd**: Deadline for Committees to Report General Bills and Constitutional Amendments originating Other House.

QUESTIONS?

