



THE CLAY FIRM

NEWSLETTER

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CAPITOL REPORT

The 2023 Legislative Session continued its slow start this week as bills continued to trickle into the system. Wednesday was the deadline for general bills and constitutional amendments to be requested by legislators to be introduced. Monday, January 16, is the deadline for all those general bills and constitutional amendments to actually be introduced.

The Speaker and Lt. Governor will continue to refer those bills to committee over the next week or possibly two. Traditionally, we see around 1,700 House bills and 1,200 Senate bills referred to committee. At print time, 467 House bills have been referred to committee and 185 Senate



bills have been referred to committee.

Mississippi's general fund revenue continues to far outpace budget estimates. We are now half way through the

current fiscal year, and total revenue collections for FY 2023 through the month of December are currently \$334,180,589, which is 9.92% over the previous year collections and \$424,812,437, which is 12.96% above the sine die estimate

To date, seven of the eight statewide candidates have qualified to run for re-election. We're still waiting on Secretary of State Michael Watson to announce his decision.

The House and Senate have adjourned for the weekend and will return Monday at 4 P.M.

GOVERNOR REEVES LANDS FIRST 2023 CHALLENGER

Republican Governor Tate Reeves will have a Democrat challenger for Governor in November of 2023. Northern District Public Service Commissioner, Brandon Presley, announced on Thursday that he will run for the state's highest office. The 45-year-old Presley

was previously Mayor of Nettleton from 2001-2007 and has been Northern District Public Service Commissioner since 2008.

The beginning of this race sounds like it will be nasty. "I'm running for governor because I know Mississippi

can do better," Presley said in his announcement video. "We've got a state filled with good people but horrible politicians—and that includes our governor. Tate Reeves is a man of zero conviction and maximum corruption."



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QUICK HITTERS

1) Congressman Michael Guest (MS-03) has been recommended by the Republican Steering Committee to serve on the House Appropriations Committee for the 118th Congress. The Steering Committee recommendations will now go before the Republican Conference to be ratified. Congressman Guest noted the long-standing tradition of Mississippi Members serving on the committee.

2) Republican State Auditor, Shad White, filed to seek another term. White was first appointed to Auditor by then Governor Phil Bryant in 2018. He won election to the four-year term in 2019.

3) Democrat Shuaski Young announced this week his intentions to run for Secretary of State. Current Republican Secretary of State Michael

Watson has not announced yet if he will seek re-election or perhaps run for higher office.

4) Governor Tate Reeves issued a directive to Mississippi departments and agencies banning TikTok from all state-issued government devices and the state's network. The directive was announced in a letter from Governor Reeves to Mississippi department and agency heads. Governor Reeves issued the directive to better safeguard sensitive information and protect critical infrastructure from TikTok.

"It's no secret that the Chinese Communist Party is actively trying to steal U.S. intellectual property and Americans' personal information. It's a major threat to our national security and critical infrastructure, costs the U.S. economy hundreds of billions annually, and jeopardizes American

jobs," said Governor Tate Reeves. "Mississippi isn't going to sit around waiting for the Chinese Communist Party to steal our state government data, and that's why I issued this directive. It will help us better protect our state's sensitive information and critical infrastructure."

5) There was a special election on Tuesday to fill a vacancy in House District 23. Last year, Governor Reeves appointed Rep. Jim Beckett to executive director of the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff, creating the need for a special election. Independent pharmacist, Andy Stepp lead farmer Perry Van Bailey 48.49% to 38.05%. However, since no one got 50% plus 1, there will be a runoff election between the two on January 31.