

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS

Weekly Legislative Update

2016 Regular Legislative Session

January 8, 2016

2016 Regular Legislative Session Opens

The 2016 Regular Legislative Session gavelled in at 12:00 noon on January 5, 2016. Being the first of a new term, this session is scheduled to last 125 days instead of the usual 90 days. Legislative leaders are said to be working on ways to shorten the number of days of the full Legislature. This could save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Funding Challenges for 2016

With a sluggish economy and the push for more tax cuts from Mississippi's legislative leadership, the ability to adequately fulfill the 2017 budget requests may prove to be more challenging than in previous years. The current 2016 operating budget may receive an across-the-board cut, in addition to deficit funding due to recent tax cuts and low revenue growth. Recent estimates show that the revenue growth projections budgeted for the current fiscal year ending June 30th will come up \$64 million short. On top of that, the Mississippi Department of Medicaid is also suffering from a \$70 million shortfall. Expectations for revenue growth for fiscal year 2017 is at 1.9 percent (\$106 Million). The recently adopted \$6.2 Billion Legislative Budget Recommendation for fiscal year 2017 called for small cuts to most of the state's largest agencies. It kept K-12 public education funding level at \$2.5 billion.

MAS Weekly Grassroots Initiative

The first of ten Planning and Development District (PDD) Capitol visits begins next week with the Golden Triangle PDD on Tuesday, January 12, 2016. Supervisors will meet MAS staff on the first floor of the Capitol at 9:00 a.m. to receive handouts (talking points). PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- Once you receive your handouts, identify committee meetings you would like to attend. If there are issues discussed that will impact your county, find your legislator after the meeting and inform them of your concern.
- After speaking with your legislative delegation, please invite them back to the MAS office for lunch. At that time, MAS will provide a legislative briefing.
- Remember to go into the gallery to be recognized by either the Senate or House Chamber, or both.

Special Thanks

The Mississippi Association of Supervisors would like to say a special thank you to all of the participants of the 2016 Mid-Winter Legislative Conference. Over 500 county officials attended the Conference.



WEEK IN REVIEW

Week One of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session has ended. The deadline for requests for general bills and constitutional amendments to be drafted is February 18, 2016.

House and Senate reconvene on Monday, January 11, 2016.

STAY IN THE KNOW

Check MAS' website at www.mssupervisors.org for news and information important to counties.

Want to receive this update by email? Send a request to join the distribution list - sspangler@massup.org.

Up Next

- Golden Triangle PDD Capitol Visit—Jan. 12
- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday—Jan. 18

Upcoming Events

Mississippi Association of Supervisors

The Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit support association for Mississippi's 82 counties. Since its inception in 1908, MAS has been committed to the improvement of county government across our State. MAS members have been instrumental in implementing efficient and effective grassroots government that serves the general welfare not only of the counties themselves, but of the entire State. www.mssupervisors.org

PDD Capitol Visits

Supervisors will meet MAS staff on the first floor of the Capitol at 9:00 a.m. to receive the day's schedule and talking points. Supervisors are encouraged to invite their legislators to a luncheon at the MAS office at 12:00 noon to continue discussion of bills important to counties.

Golden Triangle PDD .. Tuesday, January 12

Southwest PDD Wednesday, January 20

East Central PDD Tuesday, January 26

Three Rivers PDD Tuesday, February 2

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