

Mississippi Association of Supervisors

Weekly Legislative Update

2016 Regular Legislative Session
January 22, 2016

Contested Elections Resolved

Both the House and Senate chamber resolved the election challenges of Melanie Sojourner v. Bob Dearing and Blaine “Bo” Eaton v. Mark Tullos. The Senate chamber voted to seat Bob Dearing for Senate District 37 (*Adams, Amite, Franklin, & Pike counties*). The House chamber voted to seat Mark Tullos for House District 79 (Jasper and Smith counties).

Governor Bryant Orders Budget Cuts

Gov. Bryant is cutting \$39.8 million in spending and taking \$35.2 million from the rainy day fund to cover the revenue shortfalls. Most state agencies will face 1.5 percent cuts for the last half of the fiscal year that ends in June. By law, Gov. Bryant can make discretionary cuts up to 5 percent, but can't cut any agency or department by more than 5 percent until all have been cut by 5 percent. The state's sales tax collections have been particularly weak, and roughly \$350 million in tax cuts and credits for businesses or developments has affected State revenue. A phased-in reduction in the business inventory tax is reducing revenue for the coming year by \$126 million.

MAS Weekly Grassroots Initiative

The third of ten PDD County Capitol visits convenes next week with the East Central PDD on Tuesday, January 26. Supervisors will meet MAS staff on the first floor of the Capitol by 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.

House and Senate reconvene Monday, January 25 at 4:00 p.m.



WEEK IN REVIEW

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

NEW HOUSE COMMITTEES

On Thursday January 21st, House Speaker Phillip Gunn announced the formation of three new select committees. Those committees are as follows: Drug Policy Committee; Performance Based Budgeting Committee; & General Appropriation and Revenue Bill Committee.

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.

East Central PDD Tuesday, January 26

Three Rivers PDD Tuesday, February 2

Southern PDD Wednesday, February 3

Executive Director
Derrick Surrette
dsurrette@massup.org

Director of Governmental Affairs
Steve Gray
sgray@massup.org

Mississippi Association of Supervisors

793 North President Street
Jackson, MS 39202

Phone: 601.353.2741
Fax: 601.353.2749
www.mssupervisors.org

