



MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY

FREEDOM AGENDA for Mississippi

Mississippi faces major social and economic challenges. The Magnolia state is often ranked near the bottom in terms of prosperity, growth and education outcomes.

Our state has been losing population with many young Mississippians leaving. For too long Mississippi has depended on federal handouts. Our leaders have often measured their success not in terms of extending opportunity, but by seeking to hose ever more federal money around.

Too many entrenched interests that have been able to protect their own industries and pocketbooks. Our taxes are too high and our regulations too burdensome.

We believe it is time for a different approach.

A PLAN TO ELEVATE OUR STATE

The Mississippi Center for Public Policy exists to defend and expand freedom. Our job is to stand up for limited government and free markets. That is why we have put together this bold and ambitious agenda for the 2022 legislative session.

We aim to shake up the education system, ensuring education choice to raise standards. We seek reforms that will make our economy more competitive and make healthcare more affordable.

We have also published a detailed proposal to combat the radical leftist takeover of our education system, which rather than equipping young people with the skills they need to flourish, is imbuing them with extreme ideas that risk dividing America.

Combat Critical Race Theory:

1. Combat Critical Race Theory

Having published a paper highlighting how Critical Race Theory is being advanced in our state, we are supporting legislative efforts to ensure that no public money be spent to promote this divisive ideology.

2. Promote Academic Transparency

A key way to combat the presence of toxic ideologies in the classroom is to require schools to publish details of what is actually being taught to our young Mississippians. We support legislative efforts to do exactly that.

Extend Economic Liberty:

3. State Income Tax Abolition

A number of Southern states like Texas, Florida, and Tennessee have already eliminated or are working to eliminate the state income tax. This policy proposal may be the best way to bolster the Mississippi economy and make us more competitive in the region.

4. Red Tape Reduction

Mississippi is burdened by far too many boards, commissions, and state agencies that are constantly pushing new regulations onto the people. Big businesses can navigate this minefield of market obstacles, but small businesses and entrepreneurs are often stifled. We want to mandate a significant scaling back of the existing regulatory landscape.

Education:

5. Open Enrollment in Education

To improve public schools in Mississippi, we need to give moms and dads more control. We seek to allow parents who are dissatisfied with their current school systems, the ability to send their child, and their tax dollars, to a different school of their choice.

6. Cap School Board Administrative Costs

Too much of our education budget is spent on administrative costs and bureaucratic salaries. We support efforts to ensure that more money goes into the classroom instead.

7. Establish Multiple Charter School Authorizers

Charter schools are meant to offer families a better future for their kids. But a decade since they were allowed to be authorized in Mississippi, there are still far too few of them. We want to streamline the authorization process and encourage the expansion of education freedom.

8. Free Speech on Campus

We need to protect freedom of speech for college students on our state campuses. We want to ensure that peaceful assembly, protests, lectures, petitions, and literature distribution will be allowed.

Healthcare:

9. Repeal Certificate of Need

Mississippi has some of the worst health outcomes in America. One reason for this is that we have some of the most severe restrictions on the expansion and creation of healthcare facilities. Certificate of Need (CON) laws mean that no new health care provider can come along and offer services without the express permission of competitors. This makes as much

sense as allowing a Pizza Hut to block the building of a Papa John's because of the potential for competition. We aim to get rid of this incredibly outdated policy.

10. Repeal of Moratorium on Home Health Agencies

With more folks than ever seeking to get medical care from the comfort of their own homes, we support legislation that would make it easier to offer medical access directly. Our system currently makes this almost impossible.

Technology & Innovation:

11. Agricultural Incubator

A major portion of Mississippi's economy is comprised of agriculture. We would like to empower innovators and small businesses to bring new technology to market with reduced regulatory burdens that could allow for Mississippi to become the nation's leader in the field.

12. Reduce Barriers to Telemedicine/Telepharmacy

In an age of unprecedented integration between digital technology and daily life, we believe that Mississippians should be allowed to access their healthcare systems and doctors using modern devices.

"Thank you for your continued support and encouragement! Together we can continue to advance freedom in Mississippi."

- Douglas Carswell