



MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY



*Annual Review*

2023







# MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

## *Our Team*



**DOUGLAS CARSWELL**  
President & CEO



**ANJA BAKER**  
Fellow



**VANCE GINN**  
Fellow



**MATTHEW MITCHELL**  
Fellow



**ANIKA PAGE**  
Director of Operations



**AARON RICE**  
Director, Mississippi Justice Institute



**ILYA SHAPIRO**  
Fellow

## *Our Board*



**CAL WELLS**  
Chairman



**DOUG MCDANIEL**  
Treasurer



**THOMAS DUNBAR**



**ARTY FINKELBERG**



**JIM HERRING**



**PRICE JOHNSON**



**JOHN MARCHETTI**



**MAC MCGEHEE**



**ASHLEY MEENA**



**GLORIA WALKER**



**ALAN WILSON**



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

America is exceptional—but I fear that this exceptionalism is at risk.

During my lifetime, the federal government has grown relentlessly. Public debt has ballooned. Welfare programs set up to alleviate poverty have become wealth redistribution schemes, harming the families they were designed to help.

Many young Americans are taught to think the worst about our country. Many universities have become politicized, with “woke” ideas running rampant. A moral rot on campus has even seen some university administrators sound like apologists for Islamist extremism.

Rather than wait on Washington, D.C., to come to its senses, the Mississippi Center for Public Policy has a plan to change things where we live.

We also have a leader, Douglas Carswell, who served in the British Parliament for 12 years. Douglas not only helped achieve Brexit, he understands that if we are to deliver the kind of conservative vision that Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher shared for the West, we need to move the dial in each state. With his leadership, we can achieve transformative change.

Every win we have had here in Mississippi—income tax cuts, labor market deregulation, a bill to combat Critical Race theory—serves as a model that others can emulate. We are part of a national conservative movement taking back control of America state by state.

Please support us now in this fight!

- Cal Wells, Chairman of the Board

## Our Mission

Mississippi has long been ranked one of the poorest states in America. The Mississippi Center for Public Policy has a plan to help change this.

We believe that free markets and limited government are the key to prosperity. Established over 30 years ago, we are a strictly non-partisan, independent 501 c) 3 organization dedicated to providing government officials, the media, and the public with information to help them understand and defend freedom.

Our priorities are to ensure:



### EDUCATION FREEDOM

Every family in Mississippi should be able to access the education their children need.



### OPPOSITION TO "WOKE" EXTREMISM

Radical ideology risks tearing America apart.



### LOWER TAXES

To be competitive, Mississippi needs lower taxes.



### MORE AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

Removing restrictions on health care provision will lower the costs and improve outcomes.



# Moving the Dial

## IN MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Center for Public Policy has real impact shaping the policy debate in our state. Over the past year, we have accomplished the following:

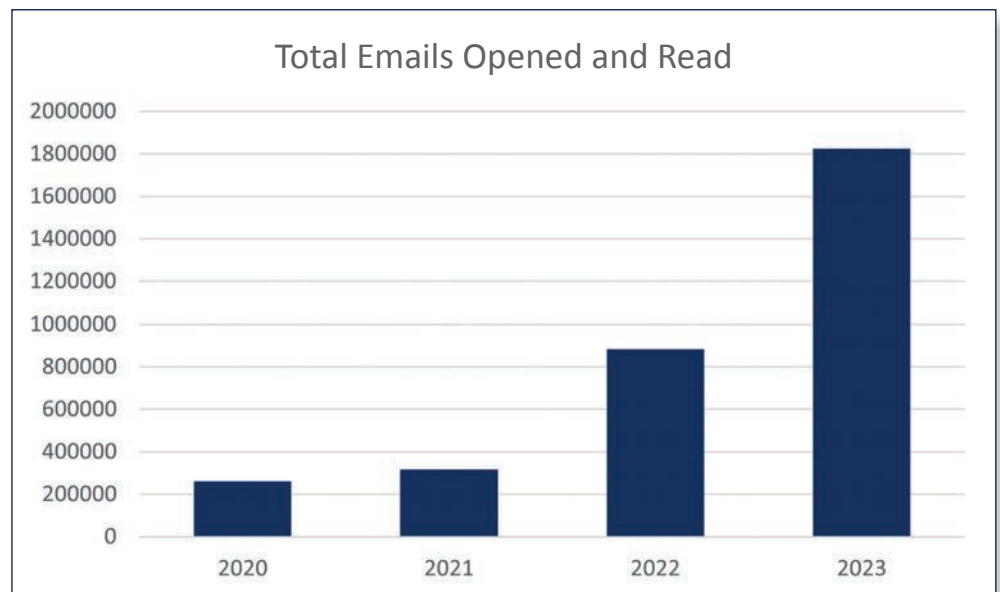


### SPEAKERS SERIES

We hosted speakers, including **Betsy DeVos**, former Secretary for Education; **Riley Gaines**, top U.S. athlete talking about protecting women's rights; **Alex Epstein**, author, on the case for oil and gas, **Rafael Mangual** from the Manhattan Institute on the dangers of the anti-police/anti-prison agenda; **Corey DeAngelis** for the American Federation for Children on school choice; and **Mark Mills**, former White House adviser, on the risks of green energy.

### WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Our weekly newsletter has 84,000 subscribers, and with a consistent 21 percent open rate, we have one of the largest readerships of any media outlet across the state.





# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Over the past year, we have placed dozens of articles in newspapers throughout the state, as well as nationally and internationally.

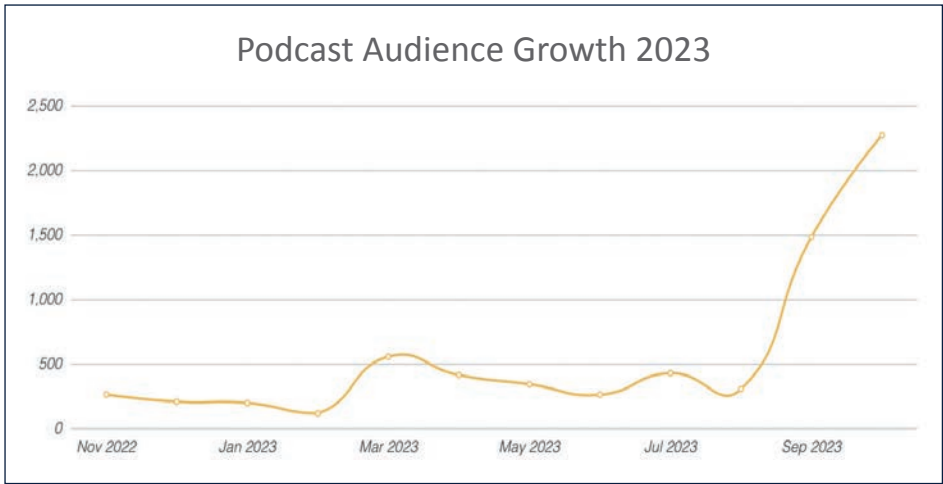
*The Atlantic*

THE  TIMES

SunHerald

Part of the McClatchy Media Network

 THE Northside **SUN**  
NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE



## AUDIO VISUAL OUTPUT

More than 60,000 (overwhelmingly young) people viewed almost 2,000 hours of our video content on YouTube this year. Our podcast audience around the state has taken off dramatically.

## ROBUST RESEARCH

In 2023, we published regular, high-quality reports, including:

- *A Responsible Budget for Mississippi* (January 2023).
- *A Conservative Platform for Mississippi* (January 2023)
- *2023 Mississippi Fat Cat Report* (September 2023).
- *A Roadmap for Certificate of Need Reform* (November 2023).





# MISSISSIPPI JUSTICE INSTITUTE

A Division of Mississippi Center for Public Policy



## AARON RICE: WINNING FOR LIBERTY!

The Mississippi Justice Institute continues to gain statewide and national recognition for its work. This year, our director, Aaron Rice, received the Mississippi Top 50 award presented by Magnolia Tribune.

Our legal division, the Mississippi Justice Institute (MJI), has established a reputation for successful litigation in defense of liberty.

MJI is fighting to strike down a state-wide moratorium that has banned certain health care facilities opening in our state for the past 43 years.

As momentum grows for education freedom, MJI has also been laying the ground work by showing that school choice is constitutional. MJI has also been defending pro-life physicians from possible sanctions for acting according to their conscience.

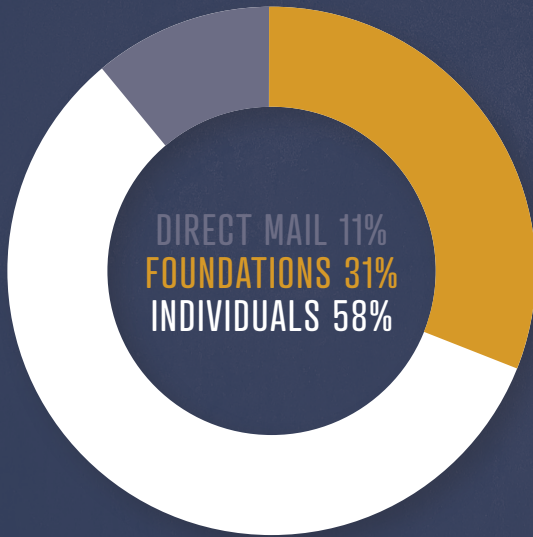
## MISSISSIPPI LEADERSHIP ACADEMY: THE ANTIDOTE TO "WOKE"!



Something has gone seriously wrong at many American universities. Too many progressive professors have been teaching young Americans to despise their own country. To counter the "woke" mind virus, we have devised a five-part program teaching young participants about the importance of liberty, limited government, and American exceptionalism. We have had contributions from world-renowned speakers, including Lord Daniel Hannan and author Matt

Ridley. This is a great opportunity for young Mississippians to learn about the political process in our state and meet state leaders. Last year, almost half our Academy graduates went on to work or intern for state and legislative leaders.

# Our Financials



Through 15 written grant proposals, MCPP raised hundreds of thousands from different foundations last year.

One of our great successes was our Direct Mail program. We raised tens of thousands of dollars from local supporters.

Over the past two years, we have raised \$135,720 in small local donations.

## HOW TO SUPPORT MCPPP

Here are several ways you can support our work:

### **DIRECT DONATIONS ONLINE**

Tax deductible donations can be made online by visiting [www.mspolicy.org/donate](http://www.mspolicy.org/donate)

### **SEND A CHECK**

Douglas Carswell  
Mississippi Center for Public Policy  
520 George Street  
Jackson, MS 39232

### **STOCK TRANSFER**

Contact Douglas Carswell, our CEO, at [carswell@mspolicy.org](mailto:carswell@mspolicy.org) to request any additional information about legacy support.

### **LEGACY GIVING**

What sort of world do you want future generations to live in? Would you like to see American exceptionalism secured for the future? Your legacy will outlast you. It will ensure the values you cherish and which made America such a success continue. Your legacy will impact not only your children, but your children's children's children.

Please remember the Mississippi Center for Public Policy in your estate plans. Together we can ensure that Mississippi and America prosper.



## **GUIDESTAR.ORG PLATINUM RATING**

The Mississippi Center for Public Policy was recently awarded the highest charity rating ("Platinum") from GuideStar.org, showing that we carefully steward every donor dollar.



# Our Impact

## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS



**865** people attended our speaking events.



**27** students participated in our Leadership Academy in 2023.



**60,475** people watched videos we posted on YouTube, consuming 1,821 hours of content.



**82,814** subscribers to our weekly e-newsletter, with an average 21% open rate over the year.



Almost **1/3** of the Legislature attended an event hosted by the Mississippi Center for Public Policy over the past year.



**38** Op-Eds placed in dozens of newspapers, nationally and internationally.



**12,625,995** people reached across all social media.



Spoke at **17** events from Vicksburg to Hattiesburg, and Memphis to the Coast.



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