

# Mississippi General Election: Our Picks

Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Federal, special and judicial races on the official Mississippi sample ballot. You will only see the races for your own districts.

**How we chose.** These are Roach Roundup's recommendations, using these rules:

- **Party races:** the Republican nominee.
- **Races without party labels** (special elections and judges): we recommend the candidate who is Republican-leaning or Republican-endorsed, shown by giving to Republican campaigns in FEC records or by their own public statements. We recommend against candidates who gave to Democratic campaigns or are endorsed by the left-leaning SPLC Action Fund.
- **"Either"** means every name listed meets our rules: none showed Democratic ties in our check. Pick any of them.
- We found no fraud findings in the news reports and FEC records we reviewed for the candidates picked. This is not a full background check.

## Federal races

| RACE                   | VOTE FOR                | WHY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| U.S. Senate            | <b>Cindy Hyde-Smith</b> | Republican nominee, incumbent. Opponent Scott Colom (D) is backed by \$48,000 from the Soros family and endorsed by Barack Obama (FEC; Mississippi Free Press). An FEC complaint naming her committee among 22 respondents was dismissed in 2023 with no finding. |
| U.S. House, District 1 | <b>Trent Kelly</b>      | Republican nominee, incumbent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| U.S. House, District 2 | <b>Ron Eller</b>        | Republican nominee. Opponent Bennie G. Thompson is a Democrat.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| U.S. House, District 3 | <b>Michael Guest</b>    | Republican nominee, incumbent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| U.S. House, District 4 | <b>Mike Ezell</b>       | Republican nominee, incumbent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Special elections (no party labels on ballot)

| RACE                                      | VOTE FOR                                                                          | CANDIDATES AND NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| State House District 77 (Rankin, Simpson) | <b>Melissa C. Sullivan</b>                                                        | Republican-leaning: the only candidate who describes herself as a Republican (Mississippi Free Press). Seat was held by the late Republican Rep. Price Wallace. Also running: Chris Dunn, Dianne McNair Gaddis, Craig T. Williams. |
| State House District 70 (NE Jackson)      | <b>Either</b> Imelda A. Brown or Marcus A. Cheatham<br><b>Not: James Lott III</b> | FEC shows a James Lott in Mississippi gave \$1,450 to the Mississippi Democratic Party in 2024. No Democratic donations found for Brown or Cheatham. Cheatham is a retired Army colonel with 31 years of service.                  |

| RACE                                  | VOTE FOR                                                                                                        | CANDIDATES AND NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| District Attorney, District 7 (Hinds) | <div>Either</div> Gwen Agho, Greta Mack Harris, Marvin L. Sanders or Wendy Wilson<br>White<br>Not: Darla Palmer | FEC shows a Darla Palmer in Mississippi gave monthly to ActBlue and Democratic Action in 2024. No Democratic donations found for the other four. Seat opened after DA Jody Owens resigned following a federal bribery guilty plea. |

## Contested judicial races

Judges run without party labels in Mississippi. Donation notes come from FEC individual-contribution records, 2023–2024, for donors in Mississippi with the same name as the candidate. We have not confirmed each donor is the same person as the candidate.

| RACE                                     | VOTE FOR                                                                          | CANDIDATES AND NOTES                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Court of Appeals, District 1, Position 1 | <div>John Weddle</div>                                                            | Republican-leaning. Sitting judge, appointed to the court in 2024; former District Attorney. Opponent Derek Hopson Jr. is endorsed by the SPLC Action Fund. |
| Chancery 17-1, Place 3                   | <div>Malenda Harris Meacham</div>                                                 | Opponent Gwen Baptist is endorsed by the SPLC Action Fund.                                                                                                  |
| Chancery 7-2                             | <div>Write-in</div> Not: Willie J. Perkins Sr. or W. M. Sanders                   | Both candidates on the ballot are endorsed by the SPLC Action Fund. Write in a candidate of your choice.                                                    |
| Chancery 3, Place 1                      | <div>Either</div> Ginger M. Miller or Jay Westfaul                                | No Democratic donations found for either.                                                                                                                   |
| Chancery 04, Place 3                     | <div>Either</div> Debbra K. Halford or Ashunda Hampton                            | No Democratic donations found for either. Halford is a sitting chancery judge.                                                                              |
| Chancery 5-3                             | <div>Either</div> Bridgett B. Clayton or Tametrice E. Hodges                      | No Democratic donations found for either.                                                                                                                   |
| Chancery 08, Place 4                     | <div>Either</div> Haley Necaise Broom, Stephen J. Maggio or Frances 'Fran' Yeatts | No Democratic donations found for any of them. Open seat.                                                                                                   |
| Chancery 9-2                             | <div>Either</div> Vicki Roach Barnes or Penny B. Lawson                           | No Democratic donations found for either.                                                                                                                   |
| Chancery 11-2                            | <div>Either</div> Cynthia Lee Brewer or Rhonda Cecilia Cooper                     | Both Republican-leaning: FEC shows donors with both names in Mississippi gave through WinRed (Republican) in 2023–2024.                                     |
| Chancery 11, Place 3                     | <div>Either</div> Gene D. Berry or David Bridges                                  | Both Republican-leaning: FEC shows donors with both names in Mississippi gave through WinRed (Republican) in 2024. No donations found for Alan Rhea.        |

| RACE                 | VOTE FOR                                                                                     | CANDIDATES AND NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chancery 13, Place 2 | <b>Either</b> John D. Smallwood or Zachary Monroe Vaughn<br><b>Not: George Schmidt</b>       | FEC shows a George Schmidt in Mississippi gave through ActBlue (Democratic) in 2023. No Democratic donations found for Smallwood or Vaughn.                                                                                                |
| Chancery 16, Place 1 | <b>Either</b> D. Neil Harris Sr. or Jennifer Sekul Harris<br><b>Not: Matthew Paul Pavlov</b> | FEC shows a Matthew Pavlov in Mississippi gave monthly through ActBlue (Democratic) in 2023–2024. No Democratic donations found for either Harris.                                                                                         |
| Chancery 17, Place 2 | <b>Either</b> Elizabeth ‘Beth’ Owens or William ‘Ty’ Scott                                   | No donations found for Owens. FEC records under “William Scott” in Mississippi show both Republican and Democratic giving by people with that common name; we could not tell which, if any, is the candidate.                              |
| Chancery 18, Place 1 | <b>Either</b> Sarah J. Liddy or Jennifer L. Shackelford<br><b>Not: Jenessa Carter Hicks</b>  | FEC shows a Jenessa Hicks in Mississippi gave through ActBlue (Democratic) in 2024. No Democratic donations found for Liddy or Shackelford. Our check on Michael Watts was not completed.                                                  |
| Chancery 20, Place 1 | <b>Either</b> Bo Agnew or Keri H. Carroll                                                    | No Democratic donations found for either. Open seat. Our check on Michael ‘Mike’ Wolf was not completed.                                                                                                                                   |
| Circuit 03, Place 2  | <b>Bart M. Adams</b>                                                                         | Republican-leaning: FEC shows a Bart Adams in Mississippi gave \$1,900 to Trump committees in 2024. A Shirley Byers in Mississippi gave \$1,500 to the DNC and Harris for President in 2024. No donations found for Steven Patrick Jubera. |
| Circuit 11-2         | <b>Either</b> Stephanie ‘Nikki’ Morris-Harris or David L. Tisdell                            | No Democratic donations found for either.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Circuit 14, Place 2  | <b>Either</b> Brendon Adams, Matt Kitchens or Albert Turnage                                 | No Democratic donations found for any of them.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Circuit 15, Place 2  | <b>Either</b> Ryan Bruhl or Prentiss G. Harrell                                              | No Democratic donations found for either.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Circuit 18, Place 1  | <b>Either</b> Brad R. Thompson or Eric Tiebauer                                              | No Democratic donations found for either.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Circuit 19, Place 1  | <b>Justin Lovorn</b>                                                                         | Republican-leaning: FEC shows a Justin Lovorn in Mississippi gave through WinRed (Republican) repeatedly in 2024. No donations found for Matthew Lachaussee.                                                                               |
| Circuit 19, Place 2  | <b>Kathy King Jackson</b>                                                                    | Republican-leaning: FEC shows a Kathy Jackson in Mississippi gave through WinRed (Republican) in 2024. No donations found for Leilani ‘Lani’ Tynes.                                                                                        |

| RACE                  | VOTE FOR                                       | CANDIDATES AND NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Circuit 20, Place 1   | Scott Gilbert                                  | Republican-leaning: FEC shows a Jason Scott Gilbert in Mississippi gave \$250 to the Mississippi Republican Party in 2024. No donations found for Sarah Butler or Carter Smith.                                                                                             |
| Circuit 21, Place 1   | Either Joseph 'Jody' Neyman or Gordon Shaw Jr. | No Democratic donations found for either.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Circuit 21-1, Place 4 | John Hughes                                    | Republican-leaning: FEC shows a John Hughes in Mississippi gave \$500 to Rep. Mike Ezell's campaign (through Ten One Strategies) and \$500 to a Republican congressional candidate; a \$25 ActBlue gift also appears under the name. No donations found for Lucius Edwards. |
| Circuit 22            | Tim Howard                                     | Opponent Akillie Malone Oliver gave to the Mississippi Democratic Party and through ActBlue (FEC, 2023–2024). No donations found for Howard.                                                                                                                                |

## Unopposed judges (one name on the ballot)

These candidates have no opponent and will win. They are listed so you know what you will see. We have not reviewed them, except where noted. You may write in another name.

### COURT OF APPEALS

District 1, Position 2: Donna M. Barnes  
District 2, Position 1: Deborah A. McDonald

District 4, Position 2: David McCarty  
District 5, Position 1: Anthony 'Tony' Lawrence

### CHANCERY COURT

1-1: Brad Tennison  
1-2: Michael Malski  
1-3: Jacqueline Mask  
1-4: Stephen T. Bailey  
2-1: Roy Noble Lee Jr.  
2-2: Gerald M. Martin  
2-3: David Shoemake  
3-2: Sabrina D. Howell  
3-3: Mitchell M. Lundy Jr.  
4-1: E. Vincent Davis  
4-2: Wayne Smith  
5-1: J. Dewayne Thomas  
5-2: Crystal Wise Martin  
5-4: Tiffany Grove  
6-1: Doug S. Crosby  
6-2: Kiley Catledge Kirk  
7-1, Place 1: Catherine Farris-Carter (endorsed by SPLC Action Fund)  
8-1: Jim Persons  
8-2: Jennifer T. Schloegel  
8-3: Margaret Alfonso  
9-1: Bennie L. Richard

10-1: Renee McBride Porter  
10-2: Rhea Hudson Sheldon  
10-3: Tara Kellar  
10-4: Chad Smith  
11-1: Robert G. Clark III  
12-1: Austin C. Terry  
12-2: Amanda Trawick Rainey  
13-1: Sheila Havard Smallwood  
14-1: Rodney P. Faver  
14-2: Joseph N. 'Joe' Studdard  
14-3: Paula Drungole-Ellis  
15-1: Joseph Durr  
15-2: Price Henley  
16-2: Ashlee Cole  
16-3: Mark Maples  
16-4: Kaleigh Nelson  
17-1: Vicki Daniels  
18-2: Bob Whitwell  
19-1: Jerry D. Sharp  
19-2: Kathryn Dickerson Clay  
20-2: Troy Farrell Odom  
20-3: Haydn J. Roberts

### CIRCUIT COURT

1-1: John R. White  
1-2: Josh Wise

**1-3:** Kelly L. Mims  
**1-4:** Michael P. 'Chip' Mills Jr.  
**2-1:** Lisa P. Dodson  
**2-2:** Chris Schmidt  
**2-3:** Larry Bourgeois  
**2-4:** Randi Peresich Mueller  
**3-1:** Gray Tollison  
**3-3:** Kent E. Smith  
**4-1:** Richard A. Smith  
**4-2:** Margaret Carey-McCray  
**4-3:** Carol White Richard  
**4-4:** Ashley Hines  
**5-1:** Joseph H. 'Joey' Loper Jr.  
**5-2:** Alan D. 'Devo' Lancaster  
**6-1:** Carmen Brooks Drake  
**6-2:** Debra W. Blackwell  
**6-3:** David H. Strong Jr.  
**7-1:** Adrienne Wooten  
**7-2:** Debra Gibbs  
**7-3:** Winston Lee Kidd  
**7-4:** Faye Peterson  
**7-5:** Tomika T. Harris-Irving  
**7-6:** Damon R. Stevenson  
**8-1:** Caleb E. May  
**8-2:** Christopher Morgan Posey

**9-1:** Toni Walker Terrett  
**9-2:** M. James 'Jim' Chaney Jr.  
**10-1:** Charles W. Wright Jr.  
**10-2:** Robert T. 'Bo' Bailey  
**11-1:** W. Hunter Nowell  
**11-3:** Charles E. Webster  
**12-1:** T. Michael Reed  
**12-2:** Wes Curry  
**13-1:** Matthew G. Sullivan  
**13-2:** Stanley Sorey  
**14-1:** Mike Taylor  
**15-1:** Brad A. Touchstone  
**15-3:** Richelle Lumpkin  
**16-1:** James 'Jim' Thomas Kitchens Jr.  
**16-2:** Lee J. 'Jay' Howard  
**16-3:** Michelle Easterling  
**17-1:** Smith Murphey V  
**17-2:** James 'Jimmy' McClure  
**18-2:** Darryl A. Hurt Jr.  
**19-3:** Calvin Taylor  
**19-4:** George Huffman  
**20-2:** Steve S. Ratcliff  
**20-3:** Dewey Arthur  
**21-2:** Craig Treadway  
**21-3:** W. Douglas Hollowell III

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**Sources:** Mississippi Secretary of State sample ballot, Nov. 3, 2026 ([sos.ms.gov](https://sos.ms.gov)); FEC filings ([fec.gov](https://fec.gov)); SPLC Action Fund judicial endorsements, Apr. 30, 2026 ([splcactionfund.org](https://splcactionfund.org)); Mississippi Free Press candidate guides for House Districts 70 and 77; Mississippi Today and WLBT on the Hinds DA special election; Mississippi Courts on Judge John Weddle's appointment. Full reports: [roachroundup.com/states/mississippi/elections](https://roachroundup.com/states/mississippi/elections)

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Bring a photo ID. Find your polling place at [yallvote.sos.ms.gov](https://yallvote.sos.ms.gov).