

# 101 Business Leaders for School Choice

January 7, 2026

**Dear Governor Reeves, Lt. Governor Hosemann, Speaker White, and Members of the Mississippi Legislature:**

As Mississippi business owners and employers, we write to urge you to take bold action this session to expand education freedom for every child in our state. ***This is Mississippi's moment for school choice.*** There has never been more momentum for empowering families with options than there is right now. Now is the time.

As employers, we see firsthand the challenges that result when students graduate unprepared for the workforce. Too many young Mississippians lack the skills, discipline, and confidence needed to succeed in today's economy. This is a disservice both to our students—who struggle to find and keep meaningful employment—and to our businesses, which need competent, reliable, and motivated workers to grow.

In business, we know that healthy competition fosters innovation, lowers costs, and improves quality. The same principle applies to education. When parents have the freedom to choose the learning environment that best fits their child's needs, all schools—public and private alike—are encouraged to improve. The goal of school choice is not to harm public schools, but to strengthen them by promoting excellence and accountability.

Mississippi now finds itself surrounded by states that have embraced robust school choice programs. These states are becoming more competitive as families and employers alike seek communities where educational opportunity abounds. Mississippi cannot afford to fall behind.

We are confident that expanding school choice will lead to a more dynamic, better-prepared workforce. By giving every child access to the education that fits them best, we can help ensure that Mississippi's next generation is ready to succeed—both in life and in the workplace.

***We urge you to seize this historic opportunity and make this the year Mississippi puts families first by expanding school choice to every child in Mississippi.***

Respectfully,

**Governor Haley Barbour**  
Barbour Hurst  
Jackson

**Governor Phil Bryant**  
BSS Global  
Ridgeland

**Chip Crane**  
FL Crane & Sons, Inc.  
Fulton

**Tommy Duff**  
Duff Capital Investors  
Columbia

**Lee Lampton**  
Ergon  
Flowood

**Hu Meena**  
C Spire  
Jackson

**Boyce Adams Jr.**  
Adams Family Ventures  
West Point

**Drew Adams**  
Addicus  
Oxford

**William Alexander**  
Alexander's Hardware  
Bay Springs

**Allen Anderson**  
Anderson Design Center  
Hattiesburg

**L. Forrest Berry**  
Laurel Fuel Company  
Flowood

**Bill Billingsley**  
Investments  
Madison

**Keith Blakeney**  
SIC Incorporated  
Bay Springs

**Kirby Boteler**  
Align IT Group  
Jackson

**Phillip W. Bowman**  
Specialty Metals Supply, Inc.  
Jackson

**Jason Branning**  
Branning Wealth Management  
Jackson

**Lee Bush**  
National Collection System  
Jackson

**Brian Cain**  
Cain & Cain Recyclers  
Kosciusko

**Fred Carl, Jr.**  
Carl Investments, LLC  
Greenwood

**Chris Caughman**  
Peoples Bank  
Mendenhall

**Casey Combest**  
BlueSky Studios  
Jackson

**NJ Correnti**  
Nicholas Air  
Oxford

**Perry N. Cox**  
PNC Investments  
Madison

**David Dallas**  
Dallas Printing Incorporated  
Richland

**Dr. John D. Davis, IV**  
NewSouth NeuroSpine  
Flowood

**Lesley Davis**  
MS Advocacy Group  
Flowood

**Bruce Deer**  
Investments  
Madison

**Sunny Desai**  
Desai Hotel Group  
Ridgeland

**John Nutie Dowdle**  
Investments  
Columbus

**Betsy Dowell**  
Century Construction  
Ridgeland

**Jonathan Duhon**  
YAK Access  
Hattiesburg

**Wyatt Emmerich**  
Emmerich Newspapers  
Jackson

**Joe Estess**  
Investments  
Tupelo

**Jay Fenton**  
Venture Oil & Gas  
Laurel

**Dallas Blake Ferretti**  
Investments  
Madison

**Arty Finkelberg**  
Raymond James  
Jackson

**Michael Freeman**  
MG Freeman Enterprises  
Hattiesburg

**Roman Galey**  
SouthGroup Insurance  
Hattiesburg

**Gerard Gibert**  
Executive  
Ridgeland

**Chris Gommel**  
Investments  
Macon

**Dr. Daryl P. Guest**  
Starkville Surgical Associates  
Starkville

**Thomas Harris, CPA**  
Harris & Co.  
Flowood

**Joey Havens**  
Leading with Significance  
Ridgeland

**Bryan Hawkins**  
Hawkeye Manufacturing  
Tupelo

**Jamie Holder**  
Hol-Mac Corp.  
Bay Springs

**Phillip Holmes**  
Highest Good Media  
Jackson

**Wilson Hood**  
Investments  
Jackson

**Brien B. Hubbard**  
Cavalier Healthcare, Inc.  
Hattiesburg

**Robbie Hughes**  
Investment  
Madison

**Robert Kelton**  
Terrebonne Investment Properties  
Gulfport

**Denny King**  
Hesselbein Tire  
Jackson

**Tommy Kline**  
Kline Mechanical Systems  
Fulton

**Julie Koestler**  
Koestler Prime  
Ridgeland

**David Landrum**  
Business Executive  
Madison

**Alan Lange**  
Kinetic Staffing  
Ridgeland

**Edward J. Langton**  
Langton Holdings  
Hattiesburg

**Francis C. Lee**  
Lee Investment Partners  
Flowood

**Hank Lott**  
MCS, Inc.  
Hattiesburg

**Alwyn Luckey**  
Investments  
Ocean Springs

**Bradley Lum**  
Investments  
Jackson

**John Marchetti**  
Gallagher Insurance  
Ridgeland

**Glenn McCullough, Jr.**  
GLM Associates, LLC  
Tupelo

**Douglas M. McDaniel**  
McDaniel & Register  
Jackson

**Jason C. McNeel**  
Canton Concrete  
Madison

**Ashley Meena**  
Investments  
Jackson

**Oscar Miskelly**  
Miskelly Furniture  
Pearl

**Luke Montgomery**  
Montgomery Enterprises  
Fulton

**Russell Morrison**  
Investments  
Jackson

**William M. Mounger, II**  
Tristar Technologies, LLC  
Jackson

**Jeremy Nelson**  
Element Wealth  
Jackson

**Nash Neyland**  
Tristar Technologies, LLC  
Jackson

**Don Noblitt**  
Investments  
Jackson

**Scott Noblitt**  
Investments  
Jackson

**Thomas Nusz**  
Investments  
Madison

**Lee Parish**  
Parish Tractor Company  
Hattiesburg

**Abb Payne**  
Payne Companies  
Hattiesburg

**Bo Pennebaker**  
Ashley Furniture  
Hattiesburg

**Hastings Puckett**  
Puckett Machinery  
Flowood

**Ambassador Mike Retzer**  
Retzer Resources  
Greenville

**Chris Rozier**  
Rozier Construction  
Greenwood

**Brian Sanderson**  
Three Oak Group  
Ocean Springs

**Marie Sanderson**  
GP3 Partners  
Ocean Springs

**Brian Schneider**  
Brian Schneider Company  
Bay St. Louis

**Mark A. Smith**  
The CPI Group, LLC  
Columbus

**Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.**  
Hernando Smiles  
Hernando

**Rebekah Staples**  
Free State Strategies  
Jackson

**Jon Stevenson**  
Treadmill Doctor  
Hernando

**Nathan Stringer**  
B&R Industrial Supply  
Laurel

**Rob Tatum**  
CR Properties  
Ridgeland

**Charlie Thomas**  
Shuqualak Lumber  
Shuqualak

**Hugh D. Trussell, II**  
Blue Sky RE, LLC  
Richland

**Dennis Vander Molen**  
Vermeer Midsouth  
Richland

**Sparkman Walker**  
Stokes Distributing Co. Inc.  
Hattiesburg

**Richard Waring**  
Waring Oil  
Vicksburg

**R.D. Warren**  
Warren, LLC  
Collins

**T. Calvin Wells**  
Attorney  
Jackson

**Guy White**  
White Construction  
Ridgeland

**George Williams**  
Heron Operating  
Jackson

**J. Kelley Williams, Jr.**  
Greenover Managers, LLC  
Jackson

**Howard Alan Wilson**  
Investments  
Flowood

**Wirt Yerger, III**  
Investments  
Ridgeland