

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

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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 Gomel 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
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Jason C. McNeil 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
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