

By: Senator(s) Thomas

To: Constitution; Judiciary,
Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2017

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE RESTORATION OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE ACT; TO
 2 PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF VOTE FRAUD, OF ANY
 3 CRIME LISTED IN SECTION 241, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, OR
 4 OF ANY CRIME INTERPRETED AS DISENFRANCHISING IN LATER ATTORNEY
 5 GENERAL OR JUDICIAL OPINIONS IS OTHERWISE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR,
 6 SHALL HAVE HIS OR HER RIGHT TO VOTE SUSPENDED UPON CONVICTION BUT
 7 SHALL HAVE HIS OR HER RIGHT TO VOTE AUTOMATICALLY RESTORED ONCE HE
 8 OR SHE HAS SATISFIED ALL OF THE SENTENCING REQUIREMENTS OF THE
 9 CONVICTION; TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-11, 23-15-19, 23-15-125,
 10 23-15-151, 23-15-153 AND 23-15-165, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 11 CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

13 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
 14 "Restoration of the Right to Vote Act."

15 **SECTION 2.** A person who has been convicted of vote fraud, of
 16 any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890,
 17 or of any crime interpreted as disenfranchising in later Attorney
 18 General or judicial opinions and is otherwise a qualified elector
 19 under Section 23-15-11, shall have his or her right to vote
 20 suspended upon conviction. The person shall have his or her right
 21 to vote automatically restored once he or she has satisfied all of
 22 the sentencing requirements of the conviction.



23 **SECTION *.** Section 23-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
24 amended as follows:

25 23-15-11. Every inhabitant of this state, except persons
26 adjudicated to be non compos mentis, who is a citizen of the
27 United States of America, eighteen (18) years old and upwards, who
28 has resided in this state for thirty (30) days and for thirty (30)
29 days in the county in which he or she seeks to vote, and for
30 thirty (30) days in the incorporated municipality in which he or
31 she seeks to vote, and who has been duly registered as an elector
32 under Section 23-15-33, and who has never been convicted of vote
33 fraud or of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi
34 Constitution of 1890, shall be a qualified elector in and for the
35 county, municipality and voting precinct of his or her residence,
36 and shall be entitled to vote at any election upon compliance with
37 Section 23-15-563. If the thirtieth day to register before an
38 election falls on a Sunday or legal holiday, the registration
39 applications submitted on the business day immediately following
40 the Sunday or legal holiday shall be accepted and entered in the
41 Statewide Elections Management System for the purpose of enabling
42 voters to vote in the next election. Any person who will be
43 eighteen (18) years of age or older on or before the date of the
44 general election and who is duly registered to vote not less than
45 thirty (30) days before the primary election associated with the
46 general election, may vote in the primary election even though the
47 person has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday at the time



48 that the person seeks to vote at the primary election. No others
49 than those specified in this section shall be entitled, or shall
50 be allowed, to vote at any election.

51 **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
52 amended as follows:

53 23-15-11. (1) Every inhabitant of this state, except
54 persons adjudicated to be non compos mentis, shall be a qualified
55 elector in and for the county, municipality and voting precinct of
56 his or her residence and shall be entitled to vote at any election
57 upon compliance with Section 23-15-563, if he or she:

58 (a) * * * Is a citizen of the United States of
59 America * * *;

60 (b) Is eighteen (18) years old and upwards * * *;

61 (c) * * * Has resided in this state for thirty (30)
62 days and for thirty (30) days in the county in which he or she
63 seeks to vote, and for thirty (30) days in the incorporated
64 municipality in which he or she seeks to vote * * *;

65 (d) * * * Has been duly registered as an elector under
66 Section 23-15-33 * * *; and

67 (e) * * * Has never been convicted of vote fraud or of
68 any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of
69 1890 * * *.

70 If the thirtieth day to register before an election falls on
71 a Sunday or legal holiday, the registration applications submitted
72 on the business day immediately following the Sunday or legal



73 holiday shall be accepted and entered in the Statewide Elections
74 Management System for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in
75 the next election.

76 (2) A person who has been convicted of vote fraud, of any
77 crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or
78 of any crime interpreted as disenfranchising in later Attorney
79 General or judicial opinions and is otherwise a qualified elector
80 under subsection (1) of this section, shall have his or her right
81 to vote suspended upon conviction but shall have his or her right
82 to vote automatically restored once he or she has satisfied all of
83 the sentencing requirements of the conviction.

84 (3) Any person who will be eighteen (18) years of age or
85 older on or before the date of the general election and who is
86 duly registered to vote not less than thirty (30) days before the
87 primary election associated with the general election, may vote in
88 the primary election even though the person has not reached his or
89 her eighteenth birthday at the time that the person seeks to vote
90 at the primary election.

91 (4) No others than those specified in this section shall be
92 entitled, or shall be allowed, to vote at any election.

93 **SECTION 4.** Section 23-15-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
94 amended as follows:

95 23-15-19. Any person who has been convicted of vote
96 fraud * * *, any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi
97 Constitution of 1890, or of any crime interpreted as



98 disenfranchising in later Attorney General or judicial opinions,
99 such crimes defined as "disenfranchising," shall * * * have his or
100 her right to vote suspended upon conviction but shall have his or
101 her right to vote automatically restored once he or she has
102 satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction
103 unless the person is otherwise a disqualified elector under
104 Section 23-15-11. Whenever any person shall be convicted in the
105 circuit court of his or her county of a disenfranchising crime,
106 the county registrar shall thereupon remove his or her name from
107 the Statewide Elections Management System * * * until he or she
108 has satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the
109 conviction. Whenever any person shall be convicted of a
110 disenfranchising crime in any other court of any county, the
111 presiding judge of the court shall, on demand, certify the fact in
112 writing to the registrar of the county in which the voter resides,
113 who shall * * * remove the name of the person from the Statewide
114 Elections Management System and retain the certificate as a record
115 of his or her office until he or she has satisfied all of the
116 sentencing requirements of the conviction.

117 **SECTION 5.** Section 23-15-125, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
118 amended as follows:

119 23-15-125. The pollbook of each voting precinct shall
120 designate the voting precinct for which it is to be used, and
121 shall be ruled in appropriate columns, with printed or written
122 headings, as follows: date of registration; voter registration



123 number; name of electors; date of birth; and a number of blank
124 columns for the dates of elections. All qualified applicants who
125 register with the registrar shall be entered in the Statewide
126 Elections Management System. Only the names of those qualified
127 applicants who register within thirty (30) days before an election
128 shall appear on the pollbooks of the election; however, if the
129 thirtieth day to register before an election falls on a Sunday or
130 legal holiday, the registration applications submitted on the
131 business day immediately following the legal holiday shall be
132 accepted and entered in the Statewide Elections Management System
133 for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in the next election.
134 When county election commissioners determine that any elector is
135 disqualified from voting, by reason of death, conviction of a
136 disenfranchising crime, removal from the jurisdiction, failure to
137 comply with the provisions of Section 23-15-152, or other legal
138 cause, that fact shall be noted in the Statewide Elections
139 Management System and the voter's name shall be purged from the
140 Statewide Elections Management System, the state's voter roll and
141 the county's pollbooks. Nothing in this section shall preclude
142 the use of electronic pollbooks. A person who has been convicted
143 of vote fraud, of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi
144 Constitution of 1890, or of any crime interpreted as
145 disenfranchising in later Attorney General or judicial opinions
146 and is otherwise a qualified elector under the provisions of
147 Section 23-15-11, shall have his or her right to vote suspended



148 upon conviction. The person shall have his or her right to vote
149 automatically restored once he or she has satisfied all of the
150 sentencing requirements of the conviction. Once the person has
151 satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction,
152 the voter's name shall be automatically restored into the
153 Statewide Elections Management System, the state's voter roll and
154 the county's pollbooks.

155 **SECTION 6.** Section 23-15-151, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
156 amended as follows:

157 23-15-151. The circuit clerk of each county is authorized
158 and directed to prepare and keep in his or her office a full and
159 complete list, in alphabetical order, of persons convicted of
160 voter fraud * * *, of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi
161 Constitution of 1890 or of any crime interpreted as
162 disenfranchising in later Attorney General opinions. A certified
163 copy of any enrollment by one clerk to another will be sufficient
164 authority for the enrollment of the name, or names, in another
165 county. A list of persons convicted of voter fraud, any crime
166 listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or any
167 crime interpreted as disenfranchising in later Attorney General
168 opinions, shall also be entered into the Statewide Elections
169 Management System on a quarterly basis. * * * A person who has
170 been convicted of vote fraud, of any crime listed in Section 241,
171 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or of any crime interpreted as
172 disenfranchising in later Attorney General or judicial opinions



173 and is otherwise a qualified elector under the provisions of
174 Section 23-15-11, shall have his or her right to vote suspended
175 upon conviction but shall have his or her right to vote
176 automatically restored once he or she has satisfied all of the
177 sentencing requirements of the conviction. Once the person has
178 satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction,
179 the voter's name shall be automatically restored into the
180 Statewide Elections Management System, the state's voter roll and
181 the county's pollbooks.

182 **SECTION 7.** Section 23-15-153, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
183 amended as follows:

184 23-15-153. (1) At least during the following times, the
185 election commissioners shall meet at the office of the registrar
186 or the office of the election commissioners to carefully revise
187 the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the
188 Statewide Elections Management System and remove from the roll the
189 names of all voters who have requested to be purged from the voter
190 roll, died, received an adjudication of non compos mentis, been
191 convicted of a disenfranchising crime and had his or her right to
192 vote suspended, failed to comply with the provisions of Section
193 23-15-152, or otherwise become disqualified as electors for any
194 cause, and shall register the names of all persons who have duly
195 applied to be registered but have been illegally denied
196 registration:



197 (a) On the Tuesday after the second Monday in January
198 1987 and every following year;

199 (b) On the first Tuesday in the month immediately
200 preceding the first primary election for members of Congress in
201 the years when members of Congress are elected;

202 (c) On the first Monday in the month immediately
203 preceding the first primary election for state, state district
204 legislative, county and county district offices in the years in
205 which those offices are elected; and

206 (d) On the second Monday of September preceding the
207 general election or regular special election day in years in which
208 a general election is not conducted.

209 Except for the names of those voters who are duly qualified
210 to vote in the election, no name shall be permitted to remain in
211 the Statewide Elections Management System; however, no name shall
212 be purged from the Statewide Elections Management System based on
213 a change in the residence of an elector except in accordance with
214 procedures provided for by the National Voter Registration Act of
215 1993 and as provided in Section 23-15-152. Except as otherwise
216 provided by Section 23-15-573, no person shall vote at any
217 election whose name is not in the county voter roll electronically
218 maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System.

219 (2) Except as provided in this section, and subject to the
220 following annual limitations, the election commissioners shall be
221 entitled to receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten



222 Dollars (\$110.00), to be paid from the county general fund, for
223 every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated
224 over two (2) or more days actually employed in the performance of
225 their duties in the conduct of an election or actually employed in
226 the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in
227 the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained
228 by the Statewide Elections Management System as required in
229 subsection (1) of this section:

230 (a) In counties having less than fifteen thousand
231 (15,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial
232 census, not more than fifty (50) days per year, with no more than
233 fifteen (15) additional days allowed for the conduct of each
234 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

235 (b) In counties having fifteen thousand (15,000)
236 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but
237 less than thirty thousand (30,000) residents according to the
238 latest federal decennial census, not more than seventy-five (75)
239 days per year, with no more than twenty-five (25) additional days
240 allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1)
241 occurring in any calendar year;

242 (c) In counties having thirty thousand (30,000)
243 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but
244 less than seventy thousand (70,000) residents according to the
245 latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred (100)
246 days per year, with no more than thirty-five (35) additional days



247 allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1)
248 occurring in any calendar year;

249 (d) In counties having seventy thousand (70,000)
250 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but
251 less than ninety thousand (90,000) residents according to the
252 latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred
253 twenty-five (125) days per year, with no more than forty-five (45)
254 additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess
255 of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

256 (e) In counties having ninety thousand (90,000)
257 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but
258 less than one hundred seventy thousand (170,000) residents
259 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than
260 one hundred fifty (150) days per year, with no more than
261 fifty-five (55) additional days allowed for the conduct of each
262 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

263 (f) In counties having one hundred seventy thousand
264 (170,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial
265 census but less than two hundred thousand (200,000) residents
266 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than
267 one hundred seventy-five (175) days per year, with no more than
268 sixty-five (65) additional days allowed for the conduct of each
269 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

270 (g) In counties having two hundred thousand (200,000)
271 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but



272 less than two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) residents
273 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than
274 one hundred ninety (190) days per year, with no more than
275 seventy-five (75) additional days allowed for the conduct of each
276 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

277 (h) In counties having two hundred twenty-five thousand
278 (225,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial
279 census but less than two hundred fifty thousand (250,000)
280 residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not
281 more than two hundred fifteen (215) days per year, with no more
282 than eighty-five (85) additional days allowed for the conduct of
283 each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

284 (i) In counties having two hundred fifty thousand
285 (250,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial
286 census but less than two hundred seventy-five thousand (275,000)
287 residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not
288 more than two hundred thirty (230) days per year, with no more
289 than ninety-five (95) additional days allowed for the conduct of
290 each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

291 (j) In counties having two hundred seventy-five
292 thousand (275,000) residents according to the latest federal
293 decennial census or more, not more than two hundred forty (240)
294 days per year, with no more than one hundred five (105) additional
295 days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1)
296 occurring in any calendar year.



297 (3) In addition to the number of days authorized in
298 subsection (2) of this section, the board of supervisors of a
299 county may authorize, in its discretion, the election
300 commissioners to receive a per diem in the amount provided for in
301 subsection (2) of this section, to be paid from the county general
302 fund, for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours
303 accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the
304 performance of their duties in the conduct of an election or
305 actually employed in the performance of their duties for the
306 necessary time spent in the revision of the county voter roll as
307 electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management
308 System as required in subsection (1) of this section, not to
309 exceed five (5) days.

310 (4) (a) The election commissioners shall be entitled to
311 receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten Dollars
312 (\$110.00), to be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed
313 ten (10) days for every day or period of no less than five (5)
314 hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in
315 the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in
316 the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained
317 by the Statewide Elections Management System before any special
318 election. For purposes of this paragraph, the regular special
319 election day shall not be considered a special election. The
320 annual limitations set forth in subsection (2) of this section
321 shall not apply to this paragraph.



322 (b) The election commissioners shall be entitled to
323 receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Sixty-five Dollars
324 (\$165.00), to be paid from the county general fund, for the
325 performance of their duties on the day of any primary, runoff,
326 general or special election. The annual limitations set forth in
327 subsection (2) of this section shall apply to this paragraph.

328 (5) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive
329 a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten Dollars (\$110.00), to
330 be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed fourteen (14)
331 days for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours
332 accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the
333 performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the
334 revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by
335 the Statewide Elections Management System and in the conduct of a
336 runoff election following either a general or special election.

337 (6) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive
338 only one (1) per diem payment for those days when the election
339 commissioners discharge more than one (1) duty or responsibility
340 on the same day.

341 (7) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive
342 a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten Dollars (\$110.00), to
343 be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed five (5) days
344 for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated
345 over two (2) or more days for those days when the election



346 commissioners shall be required to conduct an audit of an election
347 as provided in Section 23-15-615.

348 (8) In preparation for a municipal primary, runoff, general
349 or special election, the county registrar shall generate and
350 distribute the master voter roll and pollbooks from the Statewide
351 Elections Management System for the municipality located within
352 the county. The municipality shall pay the county registrar for
353 the actual cost of preparing and printing the municipal master
354 voter roll pollbooks. A municipality may secure "read only"
355 access to the Statewide Elections Management System and print its
356 own pollbooks using this information.

357 (9) County election commissioners who perform the duties of
358 an executive committee with regard to the conduct of a primary
359 election under a written agreement authorized by law to be entered
360 into with an executive committee shall receive per diem as
361 provided for in subsection (2) of this section. The days that
362 county election commissioners are employed in the conduct of a
363 primary election shall be treated the same as days county election
364 commissioners are employed in the conduct of other elections.

365 (10) In addition to any per diem authorized by this section,
366 any election commissioner shall be entitled to the mileage
367 reimbursement rate allowable to federal employees for the use of a
368 privately owned vehicle while on official travel on election day.

369 (11) Every election commissioner shall sign personally a
370 certification setting forth the number of hours actually worked in



371 the performance of the commissioner's official duties and for
 372 which the commissioner seeks compensation. The certification must
 373 be on a form as prescribed in this subsection. The commissioner's
 374 signature is, as a matter of law, made under the commissioner's
 375 oath of office and under penalties of perjury.

376 The certification form shall be as follows:

377 **COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER**

378 **PER DIEM CLAIM FORM**

379 NAME: _____ COUNTY: _____

380 ADDRESS: _____ DISTRICT: _____

381 CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

382		PURPOSE	APPLICABLE	ACTUAL	PER DIEM		
383	DATE	BEGINNING	ENDING	OF	MS CODE	HOURS	DAYS
384	WORKED	TIME	TIME	WORK	SECTION	WORKED	EARNED
385	_____						
386	_____						
387	_____						

388 TOTAL NUMBER OF PER DIEM DAYS EARNED

389 EXCLUDING ELECTION DAYS _____

390 PER DIEM RATE PER DAY EARNED X \$110.00

391 TOTAL NUMBER PER DIEM DAYS EARNED

392 FOR ELECTION DAYS _____

393 PER DIEM RATE PER DAY EARNED X \$165.00

394 TOTAL AMOUNT OF PER DIEM CLAIMED \$ _____



395 I understand that I am signing this document under my oath as
396 an election commissioner and under penalties of perjury.

397 I understand that I am requesting payment from taxpayer funds
398 and that I have an obligation to be specific and truthful as to
399 the amount of hours worked and the compensation I am requesting.

400 Signed this the _____ day of _____, ____.

401 _____

402 Commissioner's Signature

403 When properly completed and signed, the certification must be
404 filed with the clerk of the county board of supervisors before any
405 payment may be made. The certification will be a public record
406 available for inspection and reproduction immediately upon the
407 oral or written request of any person.

408 Any person may contest the accuracy of the certification in
409 any respect by notifying the chair of the commission, any member
410 of the board of supervisors or the clerk of the board of
411 supervisors of the contest at any time before or after payment is
412 made. If the contest is made before payment is made, no payment
413 shall be made as to the contested certificate until the contest is
414 finally disposed of. The person filing the contest shall be
415 entitled to a full hearing, and the clerk of the board of
416 supervisors shall issue subpoenas upon request of the contestor
417 compelling the attendance of witnesses and production of documents
418 and things. The contestor shall have the right to appeal de novo
419 to the circuit court of the involved county, which appeal must be



420 perfected within thirty (30) days from a final decision of the
421 commission, the clerk of the board of supervisors or the board of
422 supervisors, as the case may be.

423 Any contestor who successfully contests any certification
424 will be awarded all expenses incident to his or her contest,
425 together with reasonable attorney's fees, which will be awarded
426 upon petition to the chancery court of the involved county upon
427 final disposition of the contest before the election commission,
428 board of supervisors, clerk of the board of supervisors, or, in
429 case of an appeal, final disposition by the court. The
430 commissioner against whom the contest is decided shall be liable
431 for the payment of the expenses and attorney's fees, and the
432 county shall be jointly and severally liable for same.

433 (12) Any election commissioner who has not received a
434 certificate issued by the Secretary of State pursuant to Section
435 23-15-211 indicating that the election commissioner has received
436 the required elections seminar instruction and that the election
437 commissioner is fully qualified to conduct an election, shall not
438 receive any compensation authorized by this section or Section
439 23-15-239.

440 **SECTION 8.** Section 23-15-165, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
441 amended as follows:

442 23-15-165. (1) The Office of the Secretary of State, in
443 cooperation with the county registrars and election commissioners,
444 shall procure, implement and maintain an electronic information



445 processing system and programs capable of maintaining a
446 centralized database of all registered voters in the state. The
447 system shall encompass software and hardware, at both the state
448 and county level, software development training, conversion and
449 support and maintenance for the system. The Secretary of State
450 shall equip the Statewide Elections Management System with
451 appropriate security measures to protect private information of
452 the registered voter and the integrity of Mississippi elections.
453 This system shall be known as the "Statewide Elections Management
454 System" and shall constitute the official record of registered
455 voters in every county of the state.

456 (2) The Office of the Secretary of State shall develop and
457 implement the Statewide Elections Management System so that the
458 registrar and election commissioners of each county shall:

459 (a) Verify that an applicant that is registering to
460 vote in that county is not registered to vote in another county;

461 (b) Be notified automatically that a registered voter
462 in its county has registered to vote in another county;

463 (c) Receive regular reports of death, changes of
464 address and convictions for disenfranchising crimes, which cause a
465 voter to have his or her right to vote suspended, that apply to
466 voters registered in the county; * * *

467 (d) Receive regular reports of voters who have
468 satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of his or her
469 conviction and automatically restore the voter's name into the



470 Statewide Elections Management System, the state's voter roll and
471 the county's pollbooks;

472 (* * *e) Retain all present functionality related to,
473 but not limited to, the use of voter roll data and to implement
474 such other functionality as the law requires to enhance the
475 maintenance of accurate county voter records and related jury
476 selection and redistricting programs; and

477 (* * *f) When evidence exists that a registered voter
478 may not be a citizen of the United States as provided in Section
479 23-15-15, send notification to the registrar of the location where
480 the person is registered to vote.

481 (3) As a part of the procurement and implementation of the
482 system, the Office of the Secretary of State shall, with the
483 assistance of the advisory committee, procure services necessary
484 to convert current voter registration records in the counties into
485 a standard, industry accepted file format that can be used on the
486 Statewide Elections Management System. Thereafter, all official
487 voter information shall be maintained on the Statewide Elections
488 Management System. The standard industry accepted format of data
489 was reviewed and approved by a majority of the advisory committee
490 created in subsection (5) of this section after consultation with
491 the Circuit Clerks Association and the format may not be changed
492 without consulting the Circuit Clerks Association.

493 (4) The Secretary of State may, with the assistance of the
494 advisory committee, adopt rules and regulations necessary to



495 administer the Statewide Elections Management System. The rules
496 and regulations shall at least:

497 (a) Provide for the establishment and maintenance of a
498 centralized database for all voter registration information in the
499 state;

500 (b) Provide procedures for integrating data into the
501 centralized database;

502 (c) Provide security to ensure that only the registrar,
503 or his or her designee or other appropriate official, as the law
504 may require, can add information to, delete information from and
505 modify information in the system;

506 (d) Provide the registrar or his or her designee or
507 other appropriate official, as the law may require, access to the
508 system at all times, including the ability to download copies of
509 the industry standard file, for all purposes related to their
510 official duties, including, but not limited to, exclusive access
511 for the purpose of printing all local pollbooks;

512 (e) Provide security and protection of all information
513 in the system and monitor the system to ensure that unauthorized
514 access is not allowed;

515 (f) Provide a procedure that will allow the registrar,
516 or his or her designee or other appropriate official, as the law
517 may require, to identify the precinct to which a voter should be
518 assigned; and



519 (g) Provide a procedure for phasing in or converting
520 existing manual and computerized voter registration systems in
521 counties to the Statewide Elections Management System.

522 (5) The Secretary of State established an advisory committee
523 to assist in developing system specifications, procurement,
524 implementation and maintenance of the Statewide Elections
525 Management System. The committee included two (2) representatives
526 from the Circuit Clerks Association, appointed by the association;
527 two (2) representatives from the Election Commissioners
528 Association of Mississippi, appointed by the association; one (1)
529 member of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, or its
530 staff, appointed by the association; the Director of the Stennis
531 Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, or his or
532 her designee; the Executive Director of the Department of
533 Information Technology Services, or his or her designee; two (2)
534 persons knowledgeable about elections and information technology
535 appointed by the Secretary of State; and the Secretary of State,
536 who shall serve as the chair of the advisory committee.

537 (6) (a) Social security numbers, telephone numbers, email
538 addresses, and date of birth and age information in statewide,
539 district, county and municipal voter registration files shall be
540 exempt from and shall not be subject to inspection, examination,
541 copying or reproduction under the Mississippi Public Records Act
542 of 1983.



543 (b) Copies of statewide, district, county or municipal
544 voter registration files, excluding social security numbers,
545 telephone numbers, email addresses, and date of birth and age
546 information, shall be provided to any person in accordance with
547 the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983 at a cost not to exceed
548 the actual cost of production.

549 **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
550 and after July 1, 2024.

