

By: Senator(s) Tate

To: Elections; Judiciary,
Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2076

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES FROM PROVIDING ANY
2 POLITICAL CANDIDATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC DURING
3 COURT TERMS; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-973, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
4 TO PROHIBIT CIRCUIT JUDGES FROM ALLOWING ANY POLITICAL CANDIDATE
5 TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC DURING COURT TERMS; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** No judge of any circuit court shall provide an
9 opportunity for any political candidate to address the public
10 during court terms.

11 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-973, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:

13 23-15-973. * * * No judge of any circuit court may provide
14 an opportunity for any candidate for the office of justice of the
15 Supreme Court, judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge,
16 chancellor or justice court judge to address the public during
17 court terms. It shall be unlawful for any candidate for * * * the
18 office of justice of the Supreme Court, judge of the Court of
19 Appeals, circuit judge, chancellor or justice court judge to align
20 himself or herself with any candidate or candidates for any other



21 office or with any political faction or any political party at any
22 time during any primary or general election campaign. Likewise it
23 shall be unlawful for any candidate for any other office nominated
24 or to be nominated at any primary election, wherein any candidate
25 for any of the judicial offices in this section mentioned, is or
26 are to be nominated, to align himself or herself with any one or
27 more of the candidates for the offices or to take any part
28 whatever in any nomination for any one or more of the judicial
29 offices, except to cast his or her individual vote. Any candidate
30 for any office, whether nominated with or without opposition, at
31 any primary wherein a candidate for any one (1) of the judicial
32 offices herein mentioned is to be nominated who shall
33 deliberately, knowingly and willfully violate the provisions of
34 this section shall forfeit his or her nomination, or if elected at
35 the following general election by virtue of the nomination, his or
36 her election shall be void.

37 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
38 and after July 1, 2025.

