

By: Senator(s) Blackmon

To: Elections;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2636

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE
2 SHALL MAIL OUT POSTCARDS TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WITH THEIR
3 DESIGNATED POLLING PLACE INFORMATION; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY CHANGES
4 MADE BY LOCAL GOVERNING AUTHORITIES TO THE LOCATION OF POLLING
5 PLACES SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THE
6 SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL SEND OUT POSTCARDS WITH THE UPDATED
7 INFORMATION; TO REQUIRE THAT POLLING PLACE POSTCARDS BE MAILED OUT
8 THIRTY DAYS BEFORE A GENERAL, PRIMARY OR SPECIAL ELECTION, OR AS
9 SOON AS POSSIBLE VIA CERTIFIED MAIL IF THE POLLING PLACE CHANGE
10 TAKES PLACE LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION; TO AMEND
11 SECTIONS 23-15-281 and 23-15-557, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
12 CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, the following terms
15 shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection,
16 unless context clearly requires otherwise:

17 (a) "Voting precinct" means one (1) of several
18 districts into which a county or municipality is divided for
19 voting.

20 (b) "Polling place" means the place within a precinct
21 where electors vote.

22 (2) All county or municipality governments shall provide the
23 Secretary of State with information regarding the location of each

24 polling place within their precinct(s), at least ninety (90) days
25 before any general, primary or special elections. If there are
26 any changes to polling place locations for any reason, the county
27 or municipal government shall provide the updated location(s) to
28 the Secretary of State's office.

29 (3) The Secretary of State's office shall mail out postcards
30 to all registered voters with their polling place location
31 information at least thirty (30) days prior to any general,
32 primary or special election. If a polling place location is
33 changed less than thirty (30) days before a general, primary or
34 special election, then the postcards shall be sent as soon as
35 possible by certified mail.

36 (4) The Secretary of State shall have the authority to
37 promulgate rules and regulations regarding the formatting of the
38 postcards required by this section.

39 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-281, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
40 amended as follows:

41 23-15-281. (1) Each county shall be divided into
42 supervisors districts, which shall be the same as those for the
43 election of members of the board of supervisors, and may be
44 subdivided thereafter into voting precincts; and there shall be
45 only one (1) voting place in each voting precinct. The board of
46 supervisors shall notify the Office of the Secretary of State of
47 the boundary of each supervisors district, sub-precinct and voting
48 precinct as then fixed and shall provide the office a legal



49 description and a map of each supervisors district, sub-precinct
50 and voting precinct and shall indicate the voting place in each
51 such district, as required by Section 1 of this act. The board of
52 supervisors shall also ensure the legal description and map of
53 each supervisors district is available in the circuit clerk's
54 office for public inspection.

55 (2) The board of supervisors is authorized, by order spread
56 upon the minutes of the board setting forth the cost and source of
57 funds therefor, to purchase improved or unimproved property and to
58 construct, reconstruct, repair, renovate and maintain polling
59 places, or to pay to private property owners reasonable rental
60 fees when the property is used as a polling place for a period not
61 to exceed the day immediately preceding the election, the day of
62 the election, and the day immediately following the election. On
63 or before May 1, 2019, the county board of supervisors shall
64 ensure each polling place is accessible to all voters,
65 structurally sound, capable of providing air conditioning and
66 heating and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

67 (3) All facilities owned or leased by the state, county,
68 municipality, or school district may be made available at no cost
69 to the board of supervisors for use as polling places to such
70 extent as may be agreed to by the authority having control or
71 custody of these facilities.

72 **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-557, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
73 amended as follows:



74 23-15-557. The governing authorities of any municipality
75 within the State of Mississippi are hereby authorized and
76 empowered, in their discretion, to divide the municipality into a
77 sufficient number of voting precincts of such size and location as
78 is necessary, and there shall be the same number of polling
79 places. The authority conducting an election shall not be
80 required, however, to establish a polling place in each of said
81 precincts, but such election authorities, whether in a primary or
82 in a general election, may locate and establish such polling
83 places, without regard to precinct lines, in such manner as in the
84 discretion of such authority will better accommodate the
85 electorate and better facilitate the holding of the election. The
86 governing authority of every municipality shall report the
87 location of the established polling places within their voting
88 precinct(s) as required by Section 1 of this act.

89 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
90 and after July 1, 2025.

