

2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Our Approach

Mississippi Votes advances durable democratic power by integrating youth and base-building, legislative and administrative advocacy, strong coalition infrastructure, and narrative change. Together, these strategies are used to move priority legislation, block harmful policy, and shift long-term power—particularly for young people and communities historically excluded from civic life. We partner with legislators, local officials, and community leaders to advance practical, research-based reforms grounded in constituent experience and broad coalition support.

Priority Policy Clusters

YOUTH CIVIC POWER

Expand youth participation while improving election administration and access. These reforms reduce administrative errors, ease pressure on Election Day, and ensure Mississippi's largest voting-age population can participate reliably.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- High school voter preregistration
- Campus polling locations
- Electronic absentee voting for college students

DEMOCRATIC ACCESS & DIRECT DEMOCRACY

Ensure eligible votes are counted and restore voter-driven policymaking.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Restore Mississippi's ballot initiative process
- Early/no-excuse absentee voting
- Online voter registration
- Ballot curing protections

DECARCERATION & REENTRY

Reduce costly incarceration, improve public safety outcomes, and support reentry. Civic reintegration—including voting rights—supports stability and reduces recidivism.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Automatic voting-rights restoration
- Ending incarceration for unpaid fines and fees
- Bail and pretrial reform
- Diversion and reentry infrastructure expansion
- Raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction to 18

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR FAMILIES

Support working families and strengthen Mississippi's workforce. Economic stability improves workforce retention, child outcomes, and local economic activity.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Refundable state Earned Income Tax Credit
- Paid family leave and fair-scheduling protections

Priority Policy Clusters (cont.)

REPRODUCTIVE & HEALTH JUSTICE

Protect access to healthcare and defend recent gains in maternal health. Coverage stability improves health outcomes, protects hospitals, and reduces uncompensated care.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Medicaid expansion
- Permanent postpartum Medicaid coverage
- Pregnancy-related health data privacy protections

EDUCATION JUSTICE & INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY

Preserve inclusive learning environments and promote civic readiness.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Protection of culturally relevant curriculum and DEI initiatives
- Youth civic access research and support

HOUSING, CLIMATE & COMMUNITY STABILITY

Prevent displacement and protect basic services during emergencies.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Water quality enforcement and accountability
- Disaster-related utility shutoff protections
- Source-of-income discrimination protections
- Eviction diversion and right-to-counsel models

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Prevent displacement and protect basic services during emergencies.

TOGETHER, THESE REFORMS:

- IMPROVE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AND REDUCE ELECTION DAY STRAIN
- LOWER INCARCERATION AND COURT COSTS
- STRENGTHEN WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION AND FAMILY STABILITY
- INCREASE PUBLIC TRUST IN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Mississippi Votes stands ready to provide research, constituent feedback, and implementation support to legislators advancing these priorities.