

# 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

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## 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.