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## ***Quorum***

Mississippi Public Broadcasting • Education Services Department

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### **Introduction**

On Dec. 10, 1817, Mississippi joined the Union and became the twentieth state. Seventy-three years later, the Mississippi Constitution that is currently in use was adopted. While this document has been amended since November 1, 1980, it sets the framework for state government and outlines the duties and responsibilities of its officials.

Prior to becoming a state, Mississippi's first government was made up of a territorial governor, a secretary to the governor, and three judges. Washington, Mississippi served as the territorial capital and was the location where Mississippi's first constitution was drafted and sent to the United States Congress for the territory's admittance in the Union as a state.

Today, Mississippi has three branches of government: the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch. The three branches work together and have checks and balances against each other so that no branch becomes too strong.

### **About the Production**

The 2011 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature marks the 36<sup>th</sup> year Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) has produced the television program QUORUM. This hour-long, live television broadcast focuses on the public policy-making work of the Mississippi Legislature.

The first show will air January 19, 2011 at 7 pm and continue each Wednesday through March, possibly the first week in April, depending on the last day of the 2011 Regular Session as determined by legislators.

You can view each episode of QUORUM on MPB's website by visiting <http://www.mpbonline.org/television/series/quorum/index.htm> or you can visit MPB's home page at [www.mpbonline.org](http://www.mpbonline.org) and then click on television and in the pull down menu click on QUORUM.



**Three Branches of Mississippi State  
Government**

The State of Mississippi is overseen by three separate branches of government: the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. Below is a description of each branch as presented in *The 2008 – 2010 Mississippi Official and Statistical Register* or Blue Book. The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office publishes this document every fourth year after a presidential election in accordance with Section 39-5-15 of the Mississippi Code of 1972. The next edition will be available in 2013.

## **Executive Branch**

The Executive Branch, established in Article 5 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, has the duty and responsibility of executing governmental programs and policies established by law. The Executive Branch includes the offices of:

- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- State Auditor
- State Treasurer
- Commissioners
  - Agriculture and Commerce
  - Insurance
  - Public Service
  - Transportation

## **Legislative Branch**

The State Constitution places law-making authority in the Legislature, which also has the power of the purse, a constitutional provision that no money can be spent from the state's treasury unless the Legislature passes a law to do so. The Senate exercises advice and consent over appointments made by the Governor. The power of impeachment is vested solely in the House; the power to try impeachment lies in the Senate. The House has the duty to elect the Governor if no candidate receives a majority of both the popular vote and the electoral vote in the general election.

**Redistricting:** The Constitution requires the Legislature to draw new, contiguous state legislative districts every ten years to reflect changes in population. No more than 52 Senatorial Districts and 122 House of Representative Districts are allowed. The Mississippi Legislature is also charged with the responsibility of drawing districts for the U.S. House of Representatives following each census. If the Legislature does not adopt the new legislative district in the time allowed by the Constitution, a five-member commission consisting of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as chairman, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate must do so. Miss. Const. of 1980, Art. XIII, § 254. Miss. Code Ann. § 5-3-81 et seq. (1972).

Qualifications: Senators and Representatives are elected for four-year terms and may be elected to successive terms.

A Senator must be at least 25 years of age at the time he or she takes office, a resident for two years of the district to be represented, and a qualified elector of the state for four years. Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, § 42. The qualifying fee is \$15.

A Representative must be at least 21 years of age at the time he or she takes office, a resident citizen of the state for four years, a resident of the district to be represented for two years immediately preceding the election, and a qualified elector of the state. Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, § 41. The qualifying fee is \$15.

Officers: The President and presiding officer of the Senate is the Lieutenant Governor; the second in command is the President Pro Tempore. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is the Speaker of the House, a state Representative who is elected to the position by House members. The Speaker Pro Tempore is the second-ranking Representative.

Terms and Sessions: Legislators are administered the oath of office by the Secretary of State on the first day of the regular session of the year following election. The Constitution requires the Legislature to convene yearly on the Tuesday after the first Monday in January.

Volume of Legislation: During each regular session, the Legislature sends to the Governor more than 500 bills to be signed into law. Frequently, more than 100 of those bills involve the finance of state government (appropriations). Approximately 20-25 percent of all bills introduced become law. The Secretary of State's Office assigns chapter numbers to the bills, distributes copies according to law, and certifies the bills for legal proceedings as requested.

Rules: The Constitution stipulates that bills may originate in either chamber of the Legislature. It empowers each chamber to determine its own rules of procedure, although each is prohibited from adjourning for more than three days without the consent of the other chamber. Adjourning to places other than the House and Senate chambers is prohibited as well.

Each body adopts its own rules, although joint rules are adopted to govern legislative procedures that affect the orderly flow of bills between the houses.

Length of Session: The Constitution provides for legislative sessions to last no more than 90 days except for the first session of a new term, which may not exceed 125 days. Sessions may be extended by two-thirds vote in both houses. When needed, the Governor may call a special session with a specific legislative focus. Numerous legislative committees also work between sessions on a wide variety of proposals. In addition, individual legislators often use the interim months to research and prepare bills for the next session. Members also work to help the citizens they represent.

Accountability: Legislative accountability to the people of Mississippi is provided by publication of all proceedings in Senate and House journals which are published by the Secretary of State. Moreover, the Constitution requires that the doors of each chamber shall be open "except in cases which may require secrecy."

## **Judicial Branch**

In Mississippi, the judicial branch of government has three components: the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Trial Courts.

### ***Supreme Court***

The Supreme Court is the state's court of last resort. It is composed of nine elected justices, three from each of the state's three Supreme Court Districts. Their eight-year terms are staggered to provide continuity. The Supreme Court hears appeals from Mississippi's two courts of general jurisdiction: circuit and chancery; in limited circumstances, it may also hear direct appeals from county courts. It also reviews the decisions on the Court of Appeals on writ of certiorari. In addition to the appellate jurisdiction, the Supreme Court has the power to issue extraordinary writs. The nine justices may sit in en banc (all members participating) or in three-judge panels.

Reserved to the Supreme Court are death penalty cases, appeals involving utility rates, annexations, bond issues, election contests, and statutes held unconstitutional by a lower court, cases involving attorney discipline and judicial performance, certified questions from a federal court, cases involving a major question of first impression, fundamental and urgent issues of broad public importance requiring prompt determination, substantial constitutional questions concerning the validity of a statute, ordinance, court rule, or administrative rule or regulation, and issues where there is an inconsistency or conflict in court decisions.

Qualification: A qualified elector of the Supreme Court District in which election is sought, at least 30 years of age, a practicing attorney, and a citizen of the state for five years. Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. 6, §§ 150 and 250; Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-993 (1972). Qualifying fee is \$200.

Terms of Court: A term of the Supreme Court shall be held twice each year in the city of Jackson, to be styled the Supreme Court; and the terms shall commence the second Monday of September and the first Monday of March, and the Court shall be kept open for the discharge of business for at least nine months of every year if the business therein should require. Miss. Code Ann. § 9-3-3 (1972).

### ***Court of Appeals***

The Court of Appeals was created in 1994 and began sitting the following year. It is the state's only intermediate court and hears only appeals assigned to it by the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeals is composed of ten elected judges, two from each of the five Court of Appeals districts. Their terms are for eight years and are staggered to provide continuity. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals to a four-year term. The chief judge of the Court of Appeals appoints the presiding judges to terms of two to four years.

Qualifications. A qualified elector, at least 30 years of age, a practicing attorney, and a citizen of the State for five years immediately preceding the election. Miss. Code Ann. § 9-4-5 (1972). The qualifying fee is \$200.

Terms of Court. The Court of Appeals meets continuously throughout the year and hears arguments every month except July. By law, the court is located in the City of Jackson as close as convenient to the State Law Library and the Supreme Court. Miss. Code Ann. § 9-4-11 (1972).

### ***Trial Courts***

Mississippi's trial courts system consists of two general jurisdiction courts (circuit and chancery) and three limited jurisdiction courts (county, justice, and municipal).

### ***Chancery Courts***

Twenty chancery courts have jurisdiction over matters involving equity, divorce, alimony, probate, guardianship, and sanity. In those counties with no county court, chancery courts have exclusive jurisdiction over juvenile matters. Their jurisdiction over equity matters involving less than \$200,000 is concurrent with county courts. Chancery court judges, often called chancellors, are elected in non-partisan races to four-year terms. Most chancery court cases are non-jury proceedings, although juries may be impaneled in certain circumstances.

Qualifications: A qualified elector, at least 26 years of age, a practicing attorney, and a citizen of the state for five years. Miss. Const. of 1890, § 154. The qualifying fee is \$100.

Terms of Court: Each year, chancellors issue orders establishing the commencement and continuation of terms of court no later than October 1. If no order is issued, then the court term remain unchanged from the previous year. This information is posted at each courthouse and is published by the Secretary of State in the Judiciary Directory and Court Calendar. Miss. Code Ann. § 9-5-3 (1972).

### ***Circuit Courts***

Twenty-two circuit courts have original jurisdiction over all civil and criminal matters not vested exclusively in another court. Circuit judges are elected in non-partisan races to four-year terms. Most circuit court cases are heard by juries, although some circumstances may permit bench trials. Circuit judges have the power to issue extraordinary writs.

Qualifications: A qualified elector, at least 26 years of age, a practicing attorney, and a citizen of the state for five years. Miss. Const. of 1890, § 154. The qualifying fee is \$100.

Terms of Court: Each year, the circuit court judges issue orders establishing the commencement and continuation of terms of court no later than October 1. If no order is issued, then the court term remain unchanged from the previous year. This information is posted at each courthouse and is published annually by the Secretary of State in the Judiciary Directory and Court Calendar. Miss. Code Ann. § 9-7-3 (1972).

## ***County Courts***

Twenty counties have established county courts. County court judges are elected in non-partisan races to four-year terms. They have exclusive jurisdiction over matters involving eminent domain, partition of personal property, unlawful entry and detainer, and juvenile matters.

County courts have concurrent jurisdiction with justice courts in all matters, civil and criminal, and concurrent jurisdiction with circuit and chancery courts in all matters of law and equity up to \$200,000. They may also adjudicate certain non-capital felony cases transferred by the circuit courts.

Qualifications: A qualified elector at least 26 years old, a practicing attorney for five years, and a citizen of the state for five years preceding the election. Miss. Code Ann. § 9-9-1 et seq. (1972). The qualifying fee is \$15.

Terms of Court: County court usually begins the second Monday of each month unless a special order is entered by the court to extend the term, or, in the case of some counties with two courthouses, the law provides special terms of court for each courthouse. Miss. Code Ann. § 9-9-19 (1972).

## ***Justice Courts***

Justice courts have jurisdiction in all civil cases involving amounts of \$3,500 or less. They conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases and have concurrent jurisdiction with circuit courts over criminal matters where punishment cannot exceed a fine and sentence of one year in county jail. Justice courts also handle preliminary matters committed inside the county, but outside of city limits. Each county is divided into justice court districts, the number determined by population. Judges are elected in partisan elections to four-year terms.

Qualification: A qualified elector, a resident of the county two years next preceding election, a diploma, and completion of court of training required by law within six months of the beginning of the term of office. Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, § 171 (1975), and Art. 15-297 (1972). The qualifying fee is \$10.

Terms of Court: Justice Court judges hold regular terms of their courts, at such times as they may appoint, but no more than two and not less than one term in every month. Miss. Code Ann. § 9-11-15 (1972).

## ***District Attorneys***

There are 22 district attorneys in Mississippi, each assigned to a circuit court district. District attorneys are prosecutors who represent the people of Mississippi in all criminal matters originating in a trial court except in those counties with county prosecuting attorneys.

Qualifications: A qualified elector of the district and a practicing attorney admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Mississippi for two years. Miss. Code Ann. § 25-31-1 (1972). The qualifying fee is \$100.

### ***County Prosecuting Attorneys***

The county prosecuting attorney represents the state in all felony matters before the county's justice courts and county courts. Additionally, the county prosecuting attorney represents the state in criminal cases appealed from county court to circuit court, can present any matters to the grand jury, and has full responsibility for all misdemeanor youth court proceedings and all other cases not specified to the district attorney. He or she can also be appointed by the district attorney as designee. In counties where no county prosecuting attorney is elected, one may be employed by the county board of supervisors to represent certain cases.

Qualifications: A qualified elector and a regular licensed and practicing attorney. Miss. Code Ann. § 21-23-1 (1972).

### ***Municipal Courts***

Municipal courts have exclusive jurisdiction over city ordinance violations. Under certain conditions, some may also exercise jurisdiction in cases involving juveniles. Municipal court judges are appointed by municipal governing bodies. Miss. Code Ann. § 21-23-1 (1972).

Qualifications: A qualified elector of the county in which the municipality is located and an attorney at law. Miss. Code Ann. § 21-23-2 (1972).

Terms of Court: Municipal judges may hold court every day except Sundays and legal holidays if the business of the municipality requires. Miss. Code Ann. § 21-23-7 (1972).



## **Legislative Committees**

The Mississippi House of Representatives and Senate each established committees that work on specific legislation related to the committee assignment. Below is a list of all committees for each legislative body.

### **House of Representative Committees**

Agriculture  
Apportionment and Elections  
Appropriations  
Banking and Financial Services  
Compilation, Revision and Publication  
Congressional Redistricting  
Conservation and Water Resources  
Constitution  
Corrections  
County Affairs  
Education  
Enrolled Bills  
Ethics  
Executive Contingent Fund  
Fees and Salaries of Public Officials  
Forestry  
Gaming  
Insurance  
Interstate Cooperation  
Investigate State Offices  
Judiciary A  
Judiciary B  
Judiciary En Banc  
Juvenile Justice  
Labor  
Legislative Budget Committee  
Legislative Reapportionment  
Local and Private Legislation  
Management  
Marine Resources  
Medicaid  
Military Affairs  
Municipalities  
Oil, Gas and Other Minerals  
PEER  
Ports, Harbors and Airports  
Public Health and Human Services  
Public Property  
Public Utilities  
Rules  
Select Committee on Philanthropic Development  
Select Committee on the Gulf Coast Disaster  
Select Committee on Poverty  
State Library  
Tourism

### **Senate Committees**

Agriculture  
Appropriations  
Business and Financial Institutions  
Compilation, Revision and Publication  
Congressional Redistricting  
Constitution  
Corrections  
County Affairs  
Drug Policy  
Economic Development  
Education  
Elections  
Enrolled Bills  
Environment Prot, Cons and Water Res  
Ethics  
Executive Contingent Fund  
Fees, Salaries and Administration  
Finance  
Forestry  
Highways and Transportation  
Housing  
Insurance  
Interstate and Federal Cooperation  
Investigate State Offices  
Judiciary, Division A  
Judiciary, Division B  
Labor  
Legislative Budget Committee  
Legislative Reapportionment  
Local and Private  
Municipalities  
Oil, Gas and Other Minerals  
PEER  
Ports and Marine Resources  
Public Health and Welfare  
Public Property  
Public Utilities  
Rules  
State Library  
Tourism  
Universities and Colleges  
Veterans and Military Affairs  
Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

**House of Representative Committees, continued**

Transportation

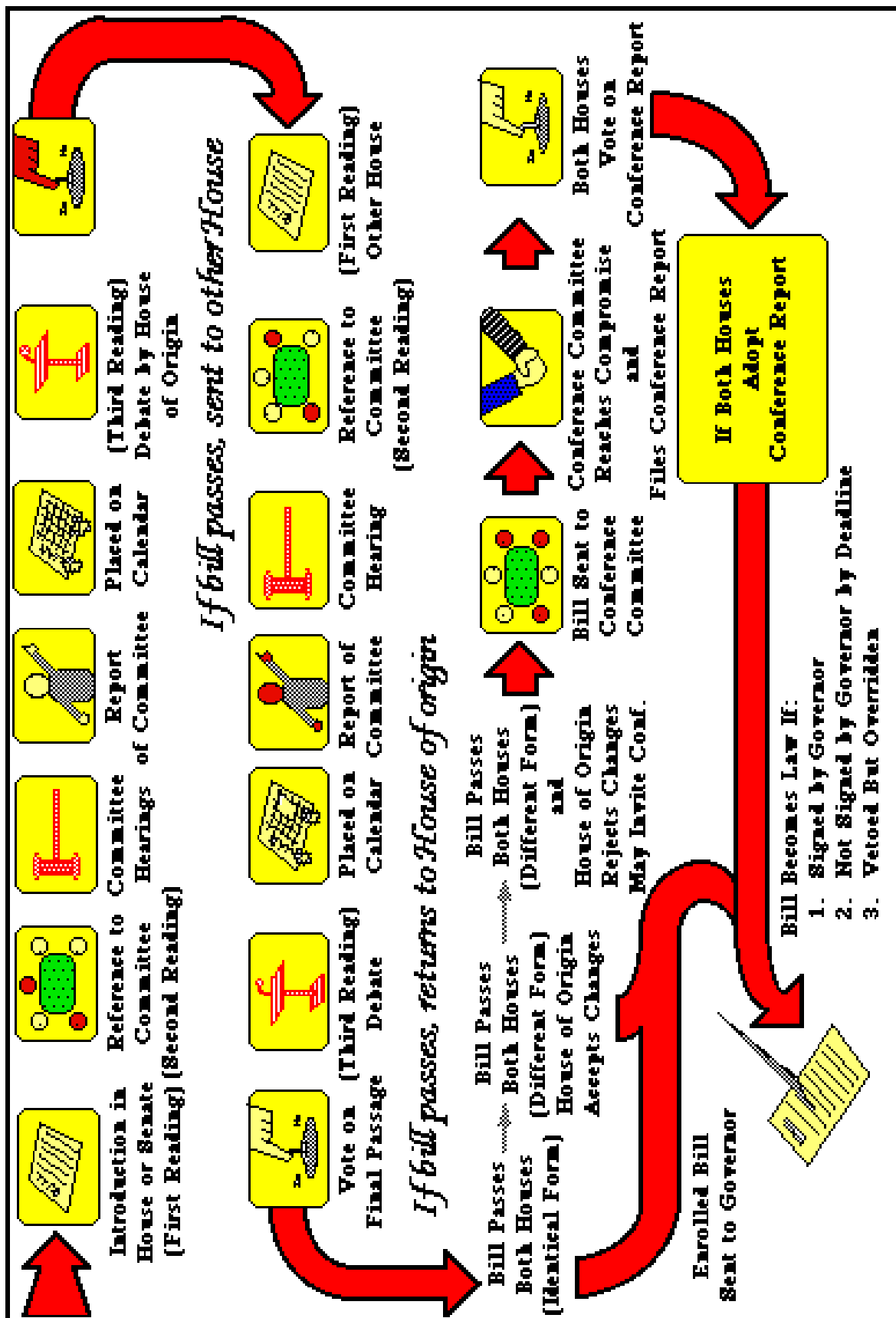
Universities and Colleges

Ways and Means

Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks



## **How a Bill Becomes Law**



Source: Mississippi Legislature Website (<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/htmls/billaw.htm>)



**Mississippi State Legislature Website**

The Mississippi Legislature has established a website (<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us>) that allows the public to search for their local representative and senator, view proposed bills being considered by legislators, check daily action report, and remain aware of the timetable for processing legislation.

House of Representatives Membership Roster

[http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/h\\_roster.pdf](http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/h_roster.pdf)

State Senator Membership Roster

[http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/s\\_roster.pdf](http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/s_roster.pdf)

Bill Status

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2011/pdf/lookup.htm> (by Bill number or Code Section)

<http://index.ls.state.ms.us/2011Session.html> (Text search)

Daily Action Reports

[http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2011/pdf/list\\_dar.htm](http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2011/pdf/list_dar.htm)

## TIMETABLE FOR PROCESSING LEGISLATION 2011

9th day Wed. Jan. 12	Deadline for making REQUESTS for general bills and constitutional amendments to be drafted.***
14th day Mon. Jan. 17	Deadline for INTRODUCTION of general bills and constitutional amendments.*
29th day Tues. Feb. 1	Deadline for COMMITTEES TO REPORT general bills and constitutional amendments originating in OWN House.*+
38th day Thurs. Feb. 10	Deadline for ORIGINAL FLOOR ACTION on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in OWN House.*
39th day Fri. Feb. 11	Deadline for reconsideration and passage of general bills and constitutional amendments originating in OWN House.*
42nd day Mon. Feb. 14	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider general bills and constitutional amendments originating in OWN House.*
51st day Wed. Feb. 23	Deadline for ORIGINAL FLOOR ACTION on APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills originating in OWN House.
52nd day Thurs. Feb. 24	Deadline for RECONSIDERATION AND PASSAGE OF APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills originating in OWN House.
53rd day Fri. Feb. 25	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills originating in OWN House.
57th day Tues. Mar. 1	Deadline for COMMITTEES TO REPORT general bills and constitutional amendments originating in OTHER House.*+
65th day Wed. Mar. 9	Deadline for ORIGINAL FLOOR ACTION on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in OTHER House.*
66th day Thurs. Mar. 10	Deadline for RECONSIDERATION AND PASSAGE of general bills and constitutional amendments originating in OTHER House.*
67th day Fri. Mar. 11	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider general bills and constitutional amendments originating in OTHER House.*
71st day Tues. Mar. 15	Deadline for ORIGINAL FLOOR ACTION on APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills originating in OTHER House.
72nd day Wed. Mar. 16	Deadline for RECONSIDERATION/PASSAGE of APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills originating in OTHER House.
73rd day Thurs. Mar. 17	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills originating in OTHER House.
74th day Fri. Mar. 18	Deadline to concur or not concur in amendments from OTHER House to APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills, and for INTRODUCTION of LOCAL and PRIVATE bills that are REVENUE bills.
77th day Mon. Mar. 21	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider concurrence or nonconcurrence in APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills.
79th day Wed. Mar. 23	Deadline for CONFERENCE REPORTS on APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills to be filed.**+
80th day Thurs. Mar. 24	Deadline to CONCUR or not concur in AMENDMENTS from OTHER HOUSE to GENERAL bills and CONSTITUTIONAL amendments.
81st day Fri. Mar. 25	Deadline for FINAL ADOPTION of CONFERENCE REPORTS on APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills**+, and for INTRODUCTION of LOCAL and PRIVATE bills that are not REVENUE bills.
84th day	Deadline for CONFERENCE REPORTS on GENERAL BILLS and CONSTITUTIONAL

Mon. Mar. 28	AMENDMENTS to be filed.**+
85th day Tues. Mar. 29	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider conference reports on APPROPRIATIONS and REVENUE bills.
86th day Wed. Mar. 30	Deadline for first consideration of conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments.
87th day Thurs. Mar. 31	Deadline for filing conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments that had been recommitted for further conference.+
88th day Fri. Apr. 1	Deadline for adoption of conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments after recommittal.
89th day Sat. Apr. 2	Deadline to dispose of motions to reconsider conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments, and sine die.

\* Appropriation, revenue, and local and private bills, and bills to restore suffrage are excluded from these deadlines. For purposes of the deadlines herein set forth, the term "revenue bills" shall include only those bills whose primary purpose is to increase or decrease taxes or to authorize the issuance of bonds or the borrowing of money. Bills which are primarily for regulatory purposes which have revenue provisions included shall not be considered as revenue bills for deadline purposes. The deletion from a bill of the features which made it a revenue bill shall render the bill a general bill for deadline purposes.

\*\* Conference reports on all bills must be filed with the Secretary/Clerk no later than the time of adjournment on the day prior to being called up and considered. Appropriation bills which actually appropriate money and are recommitted for further conference are excluded from the requirement that the subsequent conference report be filed and lay on table one (1) day before being considered; however, original action must be taken on all appropriation conference reports by 2:00 p.m. on the 81st/95th day and subsequent reports must be filed no later than 6:00 p.m.

\*\*\* Requests for general bills and constitutional amendments to be drafted must be made no later than 8:00 p.m. on the 9th/23rd day. The Rules Committee of the House or Senate, as the case may be, may authorize any member of its respective house to make requests, for one or more general bills or constitutional amendments to be drafted, after the expiration of the deadline for making such drafting requests but before the deadline for introduction of bills and constitutional amendments, upon a determination by the Rules Committee that such drafting requests are in response to conditions of an emergency nature arising subsequent to the deadline for making requests for general bills and constitutional amendments to be drafted.

+ Committee reports and conference reports that are subject to being filed on these deadlines must be filed with the Secretary/Clerk no later than 8:00 p.m.

Whenever the word "day" appears in this rule, it shall mean calendar day.

The above schedule shall not be deviated from except by the passage of a concurrent resolution adopted by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the House and Senate present and voting.



## **Lesson Activities**

## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT -one semester-

*United States Government* will provide students with an understanding of civic life, politics, and the constitutional process. It will also provide a basis for understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizens and a framework for competent and active participation. The formal curriculum should be augmented by related learning experiences in both school and community. Skill development will include, but is not limited to, the interpretation and application of maps, graphs, charts political cartoons, primary documents, and other social studies tools. The avenues for these concepts are developed through the social studies strands.

The social studies curriculum should be taught in a developmental sequence. This means that the instruction proceeds from the simple to the complex, beginning with the student's immediate geographic world and expanding to the world, using history, civics, and economics to develop the student's knowledge and perspectives. The expanding theme that is incorporated in this framework refers to a curriculum progression in the study of people from self, families, communities, cities, regions, the United States, and to the world.

Competencies should be taught thematically, chronologically, geographically, or in any other format a district develops. **The competencies are required to be taught.** The competencies combine the following strands: **civics, history, geography, and economics.** Competencies may be taught throughout the year in any order or combined with other competencies. Competencies are not ranked in order of importance; rather the sequence of competencies relates to the broader K-12 framework. Competencies provide a general guideline of on-going instruction, not isolated units, activities, or skills.

The suggested objectives are optional, not mandatory. Objectives indicate skills that enable fulfillment of competencies, describe competencies in further detail, or show the progression of concepts throughout the grades. School districts may adopt the objectives, modify them, and are encouraged to write their own objectives to meet the needs of students in their school district.

# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## -one semester-

**STRANDS:** (C-Civics) (H-History) (G-Geography) (E-Economics)

### COMPETENCIES and Suggested Objectives

- 1. Explain how geography, economics, and history have influenced the political development of the United States. (C, H, G, E)**
  - a. Trace the historical development of the United States political system.
  - b. Describe how the Constitution and Bill of Rights embodies the principles of American democracy.
  - c. Discuss how the Bill of Rights describes and protects our basic freedoms.
  - d. Describe the interaction of the different branches of American government on American society.
  - e. Describe the American economic system of capitalism and how it impacts the American way of life.
  
- 2. Analyze the United States federal form of government. (C, H)**
  - a. Identify the structure of the United States federal system according to the Constitution and its amendments (e.g., separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review, etc.).
  - b. Evaluate the flexibility of the United States Constitution (e.g., language, amendment process, etc.).
  
- 3. Describe the impact of science and technology on the political development of the United States. (C, H, G, E)**
  - a. Analyze the impact of the media on United States democracy (e.g., print, television, etc.).
  - b. Describe the influence of technology on the political process (e.g., polls, television, Internet, e-mail, etc.).
  
- 4. Describe the relationship of people, places, and environments with the government. (C, H, G, E)**
  - a. Describe the effects of different migration patterns in the United States.
  - b. Explain how federal laws have affected the environment.
  - c. Analyze population trends and their impact on a representative government (e.g., electoral college, census, etc.).
  - d. Interpret the impact of political parties, special interest groups, and political action committees (PACS) on United States politics.
  
- 5. Demonstrate the ability to apply and interpret studies tools (e.g., timelines, maps, globes, graphs, a compass, technology, primary and secondary documents, political cartoons, etc.). (C, H, G, E)**
  - a. Interpret special purpose maps.
  - b. Analyze information on graphs, charts, tables, and timelines.
  - c. Analyze political cartoons.
  - d. Utilize primary and secondary sources.
  - e. Utilize the Internet for comparative purposes.

- 6. Explain how civic responsibilities are important to Americans as citizens of the United States and a global community. (C, E)**
- a. Explain the rights, roles, privileges, and responsibilities of citizens in American democracy.
  - b. Compare the United States government to other governments of the world.

Grade Level: United States Government  
 Unit Theme: Historical Development

Comp.	Obj.	Suggested Teaching Strategies	Suggested Assessment
1 5	a d	Analyze the Declaration of Independence and relate its importance to the development of the United States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion-referenced assessment; Rubric</li> </ul>
4 5	a a	Using a map, describe the path of settlement resulting from the Great Depression.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubric; Teacher observation; Criterion-referenced assessment</li> </ul>
5	c	<i>Use word processing software to develop a chart depicting forms of government and their type of rule. (ISTE 3, 5)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion-referenced assessment; Rubric</li> </ul>
4	b	Identify federal regulations and its impact on the environment and settlement patterns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion-referenced assessment; Teacher observation</li> </ul>
4	c	Explain how population impacted the historical development of our nation and its decision making process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher observation</li> </ul>
4	d	Develop a chart showing the formation of early political parties, leaders, and platforms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubric</li> </ul>

Grade Level: United States Government  
 Unit Theme: Constitutional Principles

Comp.	Obj.	Suggested Teaching Strategies	Suggested Assessment
1 2 5	d a, c c	Chart and discuss the roles and powers of each branch of government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubric</li> </ul>
1 5	d c	Develop a chart showing the system of checks and balances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubric</li> </ul>

Grade Level: United States Government  
 Unit Theme: Political Process

Comp.	Obj.	Suggested Teaching Strategies	Suggested Assessment
2 6	c a	Make a chart showing the laws and amendments that pertain to voting in the United States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected response</li> </ul>
3	a	Explain how the media system influences public opinion as it relates to political development in the United States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher observation</li> </ul>
3	a	Compare and explain the media systems in the democratic process. Discuss which system is the most conclusive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubric; Teacher observation</li> </ul>
3	b	Explain the advantages and disadvantages of technology on the democratic process of our nation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher observation</li> </ul>
3	b	<p>Analyze technological developments and advancements and their impact on the political process. (ISTE 1, 3, 5)</p> <p>Use research tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internet resources</li> <li>Reference resources</li> <li>Library resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher observation</li> </ul>
4	c	Explain how population shifts affect the political process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher observation</li> </ul>
4	d	Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of political parties and special interest groups on the political process. Use word processing software to present arguments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubric</li> </ul>
5	e	Using the internet, compare the democratic election process with communism and socialism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubric; Teacher observation</li> </ul>
5	d	Use a political cartoon to analyze the election process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubric</li> </ul>

Grade Level: United States Government  
 Unit Theme: Structure of the Federal Government

Comp.	Obj.	Suggested Teaching Strategies	Suggested Assessment
1 2	c a	<p>Analyze the formation of and conflicts between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.                      (ISTE 1, 3, 5)                      Use research tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet resources</li> <li>• Reference resources</li> <li>• Library resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubric</li> </ul>
2	a	<p>Explain the differences in authority among the levels of government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher observation</li> </ul>
2 5	a b	<p>Design a chart to show the compositions of the three (3) branches of government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubric; Criterion-referenced assessment; Teacher observation</li> </ul>
1 2	a b	<p>Analyze and explain the scope of Presidential power and decision-making through such cases as the Steel Crisis, Cuban Missile Crisis, or the Iran Hostage Crisis.                      (ISTE 1, 3, 5)                      Use research tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet resources</li> <li>• Reference resources</li> <li>• Library resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubric</li> </ul>

# Quiz

1. Mississippi joined the Union became the \_\_\_\_\_ state in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Senatorial Districts and \_\_\_\_\_ House of Representative Districts allowed by the Mississippi Constitution.
3. The three branches of government in Mississippi are:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The Executive Branch of government has the duty and responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ established by law.
5. The 'power of the purse' belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_ branch of government.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ exercises advice and consent over appointments made by the Governor.
7. The power to try impeachment lies in the \_\_\_\_\_, while the power of impeachment is vested solely in the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In Mississippi, the judicial branch of government has three components:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. The Supreme Court is the state's court of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. County courts have concurrent jurisdiction with justice courts in all matters, civil and criminal, and concurrent jurisdiction with circuit and chancery courts in all matters of law and equity up to \_\_\_\_\_; while Justice Courts have jurisdiction in all civil cases involving amounts of \_\_\_\_\_.

# Quiz Answer Key

11. Mississippi joined the Union became the 20<sup>th</sup> state in the year 1817.
12. There are 52 Senatorial Districts and 122 House of Representative Districts allowed by the Mississippi Constitution.
13. The three branches of government in Mississippi are:

Executive

Legislative

Judicial

14. The Executive Branch of government has the duty and responsibility of executing governmental programs and policies established by law.
15. The 'power of the purse' belongs to the legislative branch of government.
16. The Senate exercises advice and consent over appointments made by the Governor.
17. The power to try impeachment lies in the Senate, while the power of impeachment is vested solely in the House.
18. In Mississippi, the judicial branch of government has three components:

Supreme Court

Court of Appeals

Trial Courts

19. The Supreme Court is the state's court of last resort.
20. County courts have concurrent jurisdiction with justice courts in all matters, civil and criminal, and concurrent jurisdiction with circuit and chancery courts in all matters of law and equity up to \$200,000; while Justice Courts have jurisdiction in all civil cases involving amounts of \$3,500 or less.



## **Technology Connections and Resources**

## *Quorum*

History Now - <http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/articles/276/government-of-mississippi-how-it-functions>  
(An online publication of the Mississippi Historical Society)

MPB Hot Chalk – [www.mpbeducatorexpress.com](http://www.mpbeducatorexpress.com)  
*Quorum* – Educator Resource and Activity Guide

Mississippi Public Broadcasting – <http://www.mpbonline.org/television/series/quorum/index.htm>  
or visit  
[www.mpbonline.org/television](http://www.mpbonline.org/television) and click on Quorum

Mississippi Department of Education – [www.mde.k12.ms.us](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us)

Mississippi Curriculum Framework for Visual and Performing Arts

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/ID/Curriculum/ss/frame.html>  
(Click on Grades 9 – 12 Social Studies Curriculum)

Mississippi State Legislature - <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/>

Secretary of State's Office – Mississippi's Official and Statistical Register (2008-2012) -  
[http://www.sos.ms.gov/education\\_and\\_publications\\_publications3.aspx](http://www.sos.ms.gov/education_and_publications_publications3.aspx)