

# JOINT LEGISLATIVE PANELS TALKS TAX POLICY & BUDGETS

On August 1, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., legislators gathered to begin briefly discussing tax policy and state agency spending as a part of an effort to streamline government and to find government efficiencies. This was the first step of what will inevitably become a formalized collection of recommendations addressing state and local fiscal policy. The meeting was held in room 216 of the Mississippi State Capitol. Speaker of the House Rep. Philip Gunn and Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves will serve as co-chairman of this joint legislative panel. The Lt. Gov. noted that “taxpayers want to know their dollars are being spent efficiently on state services and they expected their elected leaders to ensure priority needs are being met.” Speaker Gunn also mentioned that “they want to examine the entire tax structure and develop a comprehensive plan that is both fair and provides a more solid stream of revenue.” Some of the top priorities of this tax policy panel will include the following:

## OBJECTIVES:

- Flatter, fairer tax code that puts more money back into Mississippians pockets
- Move toward user-based tax system
- Increase the state’s competitiveness both regionally and nationally
- Build on the pro-growth tax changes implemented since 2012

## PROCESS:

- Engage tax experts (both within and outside Mississippi) to assist with surveying Mississippi’s tax structure, including the Miss. Department of Revenue.
- Evaluate best practices in other states
- Identify strengths, weakness, and opportunities to modify tax laws to meet objectives
- Make recommendations for consideration for the 2017 Regular Legislative Session.

**NOTE:** The tax policy panel will consist of 10 joint legislative working groups. The title of each working group is listed below.

*Tax Group      K-12 Spending Group      MDOT Group      Health Dept./DHS/Mental Health Group*  
*Corrections/DPS Group      Boards & Commissions Group      State Buildings & Property Group*  
*IHL/CC Group      IT Consolidation Group      Medicaid Group*

Visit the MAS Website ([www.mssupervisors.org](http://www.mssupervisors.org)) and view the selected legislative members serving in these various groups. Look to see if any of your local legislative delegation will be serving in this capacity.