

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS  
Weekly Legislative Update

2017 Regular Legislative Session  
January 20, 2017



## Hearing on Public School Funding

The consulting firm (*EdBuild*) hired to study and evaluate how the State of Mississippi funds public education released their various recommendations on Monday, January 16. Of these, EdBuild recommended lawmakers should consider giving school boards the freedom of raising local funds **ABOVE** the state cap of 55 mills. In addition to **removing** the 55 mill cap, EdBuild's Executive Director, Rebecca Sibilias also believes the suggestion of the State committing 73 percent of state funding towards public schools is too high. Sibilias stated, "We would encourage the Legislature to reconsider whether or not 73 percent is really the right level in what the state should be guaranteeing in the total amount of resources."

### CALL TO ACTION

Please contact your local legislative delegation and discuss how removing the 55 mill cap would impact your county. In addition, please request that the legislature support providing 73 percent state support toward funding public schools.

## The Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) Weekly Grassroots Initiative

The first of 10 Regional Capitol Visits begins next week with the Central Region on Wednesday, January 25. Supervisors will meet MAS staff on the first floor of the Capitol at 9 a.m. to receive handouts (talking points).

Once you receive your handouts, identify committee meetings you would like to sit in to listen. If there are issues discussed that will impact your county, find your legislator(s) after the meeting and inform them of your concerns.

Remember to go into the gallery to be recognized by either the Senate or House chamber.

After speaking with your legislative delegation, please invite them back to the MAS office for lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. At that time MAS will provide a legislative briefing.

## Legislation Impacting Counties

**House Bill 132:** This bill increases the amount the Legislature shall appropriate to the Local System Bridge Replacement & Rehabilitation Program. (*Beginning in 2017, if the State General Fund reflects a 2 percent or more growth for the succeeding fiscal year, then the Legislature "shall" appropriate \$60 million from the State General Fund into LSBP*). This bill has passed out of the House Transportation Committee and will now head to the House Appropriations Committee.

## WEEK IN REVIEW

The deadline for introduction of general bills and constitutional amendments has passed. The deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house is **Tuesday, January 31**

The House and Senate will reconvene Monday, January 23 at 4:00 p.m.

## REGIONAL ELECTIONS FOR MAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES

During MAS Regional Capitol Visits, Supervisors will be electing representatives to the MAS Board of Directors, Nominating Committee, and Legislative Committee. These elections will be held promptly following the luncheon at **1:30 p.m.** at MAS office.

Supervisors unable to attend the Capitol Visit may still participate in the election process by conference call. Conference call information is listed below and will be posted on the MAS website.

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