Public School Funding Reform Proposed Numbers Disclosed
On Thursday, lawmakers revealed actual numbers on how the proposed public school funding reform would send more revenue to 80 percent of the public-school districts, while 20 percent would lose revenue. No calculations are written in stone, but it was revealed the overall funding would rise by $195 million. The consulting firm EdBuild proposes a $75 million increase in state funding (3 percent more than current state formula spending of $2.3 billion) In addition, the proposed increase in local tax contributions would pull in the other $120 million.

New Opportunity for Infrastructure funding

House Bill 480: This bill was originally introduced to provide municipalities a portion of revenue collected from certain out-of-state sellers, yet it was amended in committee with a committee substitute, and the new language would allow the state to begin collecting online sales tax from the big online retailer Amazon.com. The state will distribute 70 percent of this new revenue to MDOT, 15 percent to counties, and 15 percent to municipalities.

NOTE: This measure has passed the HOUSE Ways and Means Committee and will now head to the HOUSE Floor for consideration.

MAS Proposal Items

House Bill 1240 & Senate Bill 2836: Both bills increases the minimum acquisition cost of an item or service purchased by a county that does not require a purchase requisition form from $1,000 to $1,500.

NOTE: Both the HOUSE and SENATE version of these bills have passed their respective committees and will now head to their respective floor chamber for consideration.

Senate Bill 2861: This bill was originally drafted and introduced to allow the Public Service Commission to approve an increase to the E-911 service charge to aid counties with E-911 services. This bill was amended in committee with a committee substitute, and now the new language creates a study committee to analyze E-911 funding.

NOTE: This measure has passed the Senate Energy Committee and will now head to the Senate Floor for consideration.

The Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS)
Weekly Grassroots Initiative
The second and third Regional Capitol visits will be next week. East Central will meet on Tuesday, January 31 and South Delta on Wednesday, February 1. Supervisors will meet MAS staff on the first floor of the Capitol at 9 a.m. to receive handouts (talking points).