

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS  
Weekly Legislative Update

2017 Regular Legislative Session  
January 13, 2017



### Governor Bryant Forced to Make Budget Cuts

Governor Phil Bryant announced another round of emergency mid-year budget cuts to most state agencies on Thursday. This will be the fourth round of cuts for many agencies in less than two years. Governor Bryant ordered nearly \$51 million in cuts (1.45 percent across the board) and will dip into the state rainy day fund for \$4.06 million to square the current fiscal year's budget, which ends in June. In addition, based on the Executive Budget recommendation for Fiscal Year 2018 and the budget recommendation from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for Fiscal Year 2018, there could possibly be more cuts to come.

#### RECENT CUTS

- **January 2016** – Gov. Bryant cut \$39.8 million or about 1.5 percent for most agencies affected and pulled \$35.2 million from the rainy-day fund.
- **April 2016** – Gov. Bryant cut \$25 million, or .43 percent for most agencies affected, and pulled \$10 million from the rainy-day fund.
- **September 2016** – Gov. Bryant cut \$57 million, or about 1.6 percent for most agencies.

### MS House Passes Campaign Finance Reform Measure

The House passed a campaign finance reform bill on a bipartisan vote of 102-13 on Wednesday after an hour-long debate. **House Bill 479** prohibits the personal use of campaign contribution by **ANY** elected public office holder or **ANY** candidate. This measure would give the **Mississippi Ethics Commission oversight over campaign finance reporting and rules and allow the agency to fine candidates who do not comply \$1,000 per violation.** Also, political committees that fail to file finance reports within a new 48 hour deadline could face a \$5,000 fine. House Bill 479 has passed the House Chamber and will head to the Senate for consideration.

### Legislation Impacting Counties

**House Bill 469:** This bill authorizes a county board of supervisors to dissolve, redefine or reconfigure fire protection districts. This bill has passed the House Chamber and will head to the Senate for consideration.

### STAY IN THE KNOW

Check MAS' website [www.mssupervisors.org](http://www.mssupervisors.org) for news and information important to counties. Want to receive this update ? Send an email to join the distribution list to [ybacallao@massup.org](mailto:ybacallao@massup.org).

#### WEEK IN REVIEW

The deadline for making requests for general and constitutional amendments to be drafted has passed. The deadline for introduction of general bills and constitutional amendments is Monday, January 16, 2017.

#### 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.

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.

Dial In Number: (877) 699-4804  
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