



Exchange



August 2026

Issue #24



FROM RECOVERY TO RESILIENCE:
Mississippi Coastal Hurricane Preparedness Summit

OCTOBER 8 2026

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CHECK-IN & EXPO OPENS AT 8:00 A.M.

Hosted by the Mississippi Public Service Commission

WORKING FOR YOU:
REGISTER NOW FOR THE PSC'S HURRICANE SUMMIT

MGCCC
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Hospitality & Resort Management Center
420 DEBUYS RD
BILOXI, MS

FREE EVENT & PUBLIC IS WELCOME

Agenda Available Soon!

The Mississippi Public Service Commission will host **"From Recovery to Resilience: Mississippi Coastal Hurricane Preparedness Summit"** on **Thursday, October 8**, at the **Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Hospitality & Resort Management Center (420 Debuys Road, Biloxi)**, beginning at **9 a.m.** The summit is free and open to the public, with a Community Resilience Expo running throughout the day. Lunch will be provided. This summit is designed for coastal residents, local elected officials and emergency managers, federal and state disaster-response agencies, nonprofits serving vulnerable populations, hospitals and schools, and business leaders — anyone with a stake in how the Coast prepares for, weathers, and recovers from a storm.

The agenda opens with 2026 hurricane season forecasting and storm surge science, then moves into grid restoration, water and wastewater resilience, and coastal pole hardening. Panels throughout the day will cover mutual aid partnerships, natural gas safety, cybersecurity, telecommunications, and marine debris response. The afternoon turns to recovery topics, including county and municipal coordination, and evacuation and sheltering for vulnerable populations. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER for the Free Summit!](#) Email rachael.ring@psc.ms.gov if you are interested in participating in the Community Resilience Expo.

Upcoming at the Commission

Sept 1 Commission's September Open Meeting

10:00 a.m. Commission's Hearing Room

Sept 15-16 Commission's Pipeline Safety Gas Operator Conference

Hilton Garden Inn, Flowood, MS

Oct 8 MPSC's "From Recovery to Resilience – Mississippi Coastal Hurricane Preparedness Summit"

MS Gulf Coast Community College, Hospitality Resort Management Center, 420 Debuys Road, Biloxi

AUGUST OPEN MEETING

The Commission conducted its August Open Meeting Tuesday, August 4 to consider items on the docket.

**AGENDA****WATCH NOW**

HIRING?
BUILDING TO POWER UP MISSISSIPPI?
RESERVE YOUR VENDOR BOOTH
GET REGISTERED!



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT of EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
GOVERNOR'S JOB FAIR
NETWORK OF MISSISSIPPI

ENERGY EXPO & JOB FAIR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026
9 AM - 1 PM
MISSISSIPPI TRADE MART

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Working For You!

Electricity, Water/Wastewater, Natural Gas, Pipelines



CHAIRMAN

WWW.PSC.MS.GOV



Chris Brown

Northern District



Highlights from the Northern District:



> **Holly Springs Utility District Receivership**

Earlier this month, the Chancery Court issued its written order appointing Michael F. Watson as Receiver over the Holly Springs Utility District. Mr. Watson had already been working as a contracted consultant for the City of Holly Springs for approximately nine months prior to his appointment.

While I respect the Court, I do not believe this appointment represents the change in management that the people of HSUD need and deserve. The Commission recommended an independent, experienced professional receiver with no previous ties to HSUD, and we are moving forward with a motion asking the Court to reconsider its decision. Our commitment remains unchanged: we will continue using every avenue available to pursue reliable service, honest billing, and real accountability for the people of HSUD. You can read my full statement [here](#).

> **The Lumber Factory Ribbon Cutting**

It was a pleasure to join local leaders and members of the community for the ribbon cutting at The Lumber Factory. Investments like this mean more than opening the doors of a new business; they represent jobs, economic activity, and continued confidence in the future of North Mississippi. I am always encouraged to see people willing to invest in our communities, put down roots, and create new opportunities for the people who call this region home.



> **August Storm Response**

After the August 22nd storm that impacted Northern Mississippi I was able to visit with many of the hardest hit people and hear from them directly. The longest outages were in the HSUD area and my office received over 800 complaints for extended outages. Our hearts go out to the people within HSUD as we continue to fight on their behalf.

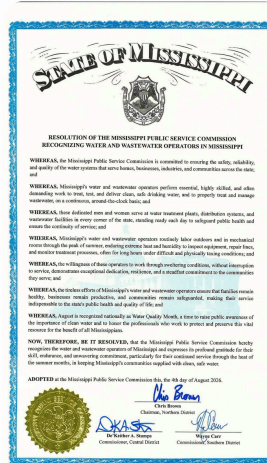
> **Attala County Republicans**

I enjoyed joining the Attala County Republicans this month and having the opportunity to visit directly with people from across the area. The most valuable conversations I have as Commissioner happen in the field, hearing directly from the people I represent about what they are seeing in their communities and what matters to their families. I appreciate everyone who took the time to visit with me and the Attala County Republicans for having me.



> **August Docket Meeting**

August's docket meeting included several meaningful moments beyond our regular Commission business. We adopted a resolution recognizing Mississippi's water and wastewater operators for the demanding, often unseen work they do every day to provide clean, safe water to communities across our state. I was also proud to introduce a resolution encouraging churches, businesses, civic organizations, and individuals to come together in the spirit of Mississippi hospitality to help families struggling with water and utility costs. The meeting also gave us the opportunity to celebrate a very special milestone in my family: my grandmother Mildred's 100th birthday. I am incredibly grateful for her life, her example, and the blessing of being able to recognize this milestone with my cousin, Cherish Woods, at the Commission.



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THE NORTHERN DISTRICT**

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De'Keither Stamps

Central District



Highlights from the Central District:

Investing in Mississippi's Youth & Future

Atmos Energy Partners with Grammy Museum Mississippi for 10th Anniversary - Cleveland, MS

Commissioner De'Keither Stamps joined GRAMMY Museum Mississippi in Cleveland to celebrate its 10th anniversary and a new partnership with Atmos Energy, committing \$150,000 over three years to youth music education. Beginning Fall 2026, the investment will help Mississippi student groups visit the museum free of charge, expanding access to music, education and opportunity for young people across the state.

AI, Infrastructure & Economic Opportunity - Atlanta, GA

Commissioner Stamps joined business leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators in Atlanta for the 126th National Business League Conference, where he spoke on the infrastructure powering the growing AI economy. His message—"If AI is the brain, who controls the neck?"—challenged communities to think beyond participation toward ownership, opportunity and having a seat at the table. The Commissioner's participation was also featured in The Final Call's conference coverage, including the article's lead image.

Leadership, Legacy & Lessons from Tuskegee - Tuskegee, AL

While attending the National Business League Conference, Commissioner Stamps also had the opportunity to reconnect with his longtime friend and mentor, former Tuskegee Mayor Johnny Ford. Ford, a pioneering public servant and the city's first Black mayor, also hosted a special tour of the historic Tuskegee University—bringing together leadership, history and lessons that continue to shape the future.

Introducing SNAP H₂O on the National / International Platforms - Atlanta, GA

During the National Business League Conference, Commissioner Stamps introduced his SNAP H₂O initiative, a proposal seeking federal authorization to give eligible families the choice to use a portion of their existing SNAP/EBT benefits toward qualifying residential water and wastewater bills. The presentation helped take the conversation beyond Mississippi, building awareness around water affordability, household choice and stronger communities.

SNAP H₂O

HELPING MISSISSIPPI FAMILIES. SUPPORTING MISSISSIPPI WATER UTILITIES. BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

No new dollars. Just common sense.

SNAP H₂O allows eligible Mississippi families to use part of their existing SNAP benefits to pay their water and wastewater bills. It's better options and personal responsibility solving the same problems with the same dollars for better results.

THE IDEA IS SIMPLE:

- SNAP benefits already exist to help families buy food.
- SNAP H₂O allows eligible families to use part of that same benefit to pay their water bill.

HOW SNAP H₂O WORKS

1. ELIGIBLE FAMILY? Individuals already approved for SNAP.
2. USE EXISTING BENEFIT? Family chooses to use part of their existing SNAP benefit to pay their water bill.
3. PAY THE WATER BILL? Pay utilities, by phone, in person, or by credit/debit like any other bill.
4. WATER BILLS COVERED? Water goes to the local water provider.
5. FAMILIES BENEFIT? Families stay healthy. Families stay strong. Communities stay strong.

THE IMPACT FOR MISSISSIPPI

- REDUCES FINANCIAL BURDEN: Families can use SNAP benefits to pay water bills, reducing financial stress.
- IMPROVES WATER AFFORDABILITY: Families can use SNAP benefits to pay water bills, reducing financial stress.
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MISSISSIPPI SNAP BY THE NUMBERS ESTIMATES

MISSISSIPPI	SNAP H ₂ O	WATER BILLS	WASTEWATER BILLS	TOTAL
~423,000	~175,900	\$158.3 MILLION	\$158.3 MILLION	\$316.6 MILLION
MISSISSIPPI	SNAP H ₂ O	WATER BILLS	WASTEWATER BILLS	TOTAL
MISSISSIPPI	SNAP H ₂ O	WATER BILLS	WASTEWATER BILLS	TOTAL

WHY IT MAKES SENSE

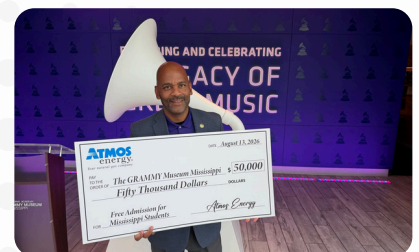
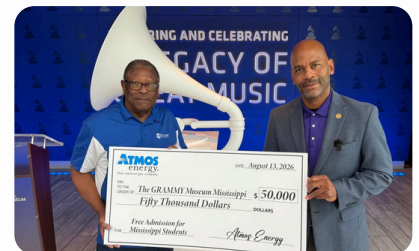
- Eliminating SNAP benefits and new government spending.
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- Eliminating SNAP benefits and new government spending.

IMPLEMENTATION PATH

- FEDERAL ACTION: USDA requests SNAP authority to allow water bills payments.
- STATE ACTION: Mississippi partners with USDA to implement SNAP H₂O through USDA.
- UTILITY PARTICIPATION: Water providers register as SNAP H₂O vendors and begin accepting payment.
- FAMILIES BENEFIT: More choices. Stronger families. Stronger communities. A stronger Mississippi.

Use #SNAPH2O to help us get Washington, D.C. to use common sense.

De'Keither Stamps



#DeKeitherStamps

#ManOnAMission

#CommissionerDeKeitherStamps

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WITH THE CENTRAL DISTRICT

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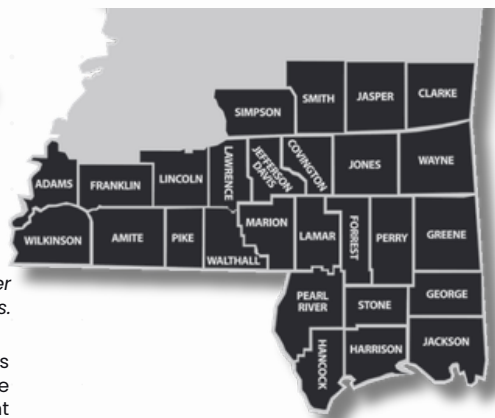


Wayne Carr

Southern District



Highlights from the Southern District:



- The Southern District Team and I remained busy in August fervently serving the citizens of the lower twenty-seven counties. Since January of 2024, the Southern District has serviced over 3,400 complaints. We take pride in excellent customer service listening to our citizens to assist with their utility matters.
- I had the honor of leading an Entergy Regional State Committee (ERSC) meeting as President of this organization. We discussed important information regarding a plethora of electricity policies. We receive reports from Entergy, MISO, and FERC. It's important to myself and my team to stay up to speed on current issues regarding utilities at the local, state, and federal level. I'm grateful for the collaborations.
- We are excited that a major energy infrastructure update is on the horizon for Lauderdale County! The federal government has officially approved the Mississippi Crossing Project (MSX), a \$1.7 billion initiative by Kinder Morgan and the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company. This massive 208-mile natural gas pipeline stretches from Greenville, MS, to Butler, AL, passing right through our area, and Lauderdale County is slated to host one of the project's new compressor stations! While construction isn't expected to kick off until 2027, project leaders note it will bring hundreds of temporary construction jobs, boosting local tax revenue, and enhanced energy reliability for our region's homes and businesses!
- Summer heat is pushing power demand near record highs, and it's not just a Mississippi thing. MISO, the organization that coordinates the flow of electricity across its footprint, says the South region could see all-time peak demand. The good news: our region currently has enough generation to meet that demand on its own. A few simple habits at home go a long way when we all pitch in together: (1) Turn off lights in rooms you're not using (2) Nudge your thermostat up a couple of degrees (3) Close your blinds to keep the afternoon sun out (4) Wait until evening to run the dishwasher or laundry. These helpful hints not only conserve energy but will increase savings on your monthly electric bill.
- I'm thankful for the warm welcome from both the Lamar County Republicans Chapter and the Forrest-Lamar Women's Republican Club. It was an honor to speak and converse with these citizens on the happenings of the Commission and to hear Cindy Hyde-Smith's updates on federal legislation.
- I'm pleased to have joined leaders from across the coast and state at the Slavonian Lodge. Events like these bring fellowship and idea sharing to celebrate community efforts for our state to continue to thrive. Thank you to the Slavic Benevolent Association for having me speak.
- I joined fellow Republicans at the Harrison County Republicans Club to hear updates from Sean Tindell, Scott Delano, and Kevin Felcher regarding advancements in legislation in the 2026 session. I'm thankful for the fellowship and leadership interactions with our state officials.
- I seized the opportunity to join our local and state leaders at the Harrison County Board of Supervisors State of the County address where Board President Dan Cuevas gave county updates. He highlighted regional growth, ongoing infrastructure projects, and the county's bright future. We are thankful to Mississippi Power for supporting our Gulf Coast Chamber in sponsorship with this event along with many local sponsors.
- As noted above, please mark your calendars for our [Recovery to Resilience Hurricane Summit](#) set for October 8, 2026 at 8 am at MGCCC – Harrison County. This event is open to the general public, and we look forward to seeing you there.



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