

ELECTION DAY
Nov 5, 2024

Who is running for Supreme Court, District 1, in Mississippi?



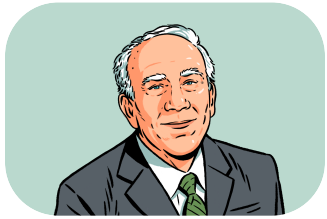
Scan to read the full guide,
including candidate Q&A's.

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The Marshall Project - Jackson is a nonprofit news organization that aims to expose abuses in the local criminal justice system, and some instances around the state, through investigative, data and community engagement journalism.

Our election guide provides an in-depth look at who's running for seats on the state Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Hinds County Court, and the types of decisions each court makes.

The Supreme Court reviews decisions made by lower courts in the state, often having the final say. The court decides on criminal and civil matters, including death penalty cases, questions on the state's laws and its constitution and issues of public interest. The state is divided into three districts, with three justices elected from each district in different years. District 1 represents the central part of the state, including Jackson.



Jim Kitchens

Currently holds the seat

Admitted to Mississippi Bar 1967

Residence Crystal Springs, Copiah County

- Dissented on a controversial decision that barred voters from amending the state constitution through ballot initiatives.
- Endorsed by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights advocacy group.
- Supports an adequately funded state public defender system.

Relevant experience: Completing a second eight-year term as a Supreme Court justice; 41 years as a practicing attorney, including nine as district attorney of Copiah, Walthall, Pike and Lincoln counties.

Campaign finance: As of July 10, his campaign committee raised \$87,437, mostly from trial lawyers, and spent \$46,868, leaving him with \$40,569 on hand.

Statement of economic interest: Kitchens and his wife are partners in a real estate company, Kitchens Properties, LLC, in Copiah County.



Jenifer B. Branning

Admitted to Mississippi Bar 2004

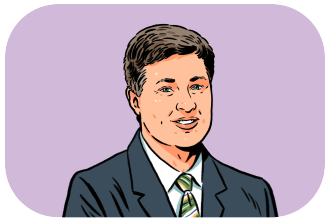
Residence Philadelphia, Neshoba County

- Self-described "constitutional conservative."
- The Republican state senator has supported increased minimum sentences for some criminal charges, reducing taxes on businesses and the state's abortion ban.
- Her campaign committee has raised more money than all of her opponents combined.

Relevant experience: State senator since 2016.

Campaign finance: As of July 10, Branning's campaign committee had raised \$520,691, including a \$250,000 loan from the candidate, and spent \$74,543, leaving \$446,149.

Statement of economic interest: Branning is listed as member, owner, stockholder or partner in several companies located in Philadelphia, including her law firm, Branning Properties, LLC, and Triple E Investments.



Byron Carter

Admitted to Mississippi Bar 1987

Residence Byram, Hinds County

- Has handled appeals as an attorney.
- Calling for an end to judges being appointed or elected after turning 70.
- Member of appellate practice section of Mississippi Bar.

Relevant experience: Attorney in private practice; law clerk for former Presiding Justice Armis Hawkins.

Campaign finance: Carter's campaign committee reported a negative balance of \$3,247, which includes the repayment of an \$11,000 personal loan Carter gave the committee.

Statement of economic interest: None on file.



Ceola James

Admitted to Mississippi Bar 1977

Residence Vicksburg, Warren County

- Has held multiple judgeships in Warren County and served one term on the Court of Appeals.
- As a private attorney, represented clients who couldn't afford to pay.
- Describes herself as a fair and impartial judge.

Relevant experience: Former Court of Appeals and Chancery Court judge; interim Justice Court judge; attorney in private practice.

Campaign finance: As of July 10, James's campaign committee had raised \$1,655 and spent \$548, leaving her with \$1,107 on hand.

Statement of economic interest: James operates a law firm.



Abby Gale Robinson

Admitted to Mississippi Bar 2016

Residence Jackson, Hinds County

- Seeking one-term limit.
- As part of her platform, her campaign did not raise any money.
- Private attorney handling cases of alleged civil rights violations, medical malpractice and personal injury.

Relevant experience: Attorney in private practice.

Campaign finance: Robinson's campaign committee has not raised or spent any money as of the July 10 report.

Statement of economic interest: None filed for this election. Robinson owns a law firm and construction business.

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Who is running for Supreme Court, District 2, in Mississippi?



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Dawn H. Beam

Currently holds the seat

Admitted to Mississippi Bar 1989

Residence Sumrall,
Lamar County

- Has held several positions within the court system with a focus on improving child welfare.
- Voted with the majority in a high court decision to strike down ballot initiatives to amend the state constitution.
- Endorsed by the state's Republican Party.

Relevant experience: Five years as chancellor for the 10th District Chancery Court (Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River and Perry counties); former Lamar County prosecutor; attorney in private practice.

Campaign finance: As of July 10, Beam's campaign committee raised \$63,958, mostly from political action committees, and spent \$28,595, leaving the campaign with \$35,363 on hand.

Statement of economic interest: Beam and her husband, a physician, own Beam Properties, LLC.



David P. Sullivan

Admitted to Mississippi Bar 1995

Residence Gulfport,
Harrison County

- Descendant of several generations of Mississippi lawyers, including his father, the late Supreme Court Justice Michael D. Sullivan.
- Wants to increase representation of the Gulf Coast on the court.
- Currently a private attorney, public defender and municipal court judge in D'Iberville.

Relevant experience: Public defender in Harrison; Stone and Pearl River counties municipal judge in D'Iberville since 2019; municipal judge pro tempore in Ocean Springs; former city prosecutor of Gulfport.

Campaign finance: Sullivan's campaign had raised \$38,800 as of July 10 and spent \$1,381, leaving the campaign with \$37,419 on hand.

Statement of economic interest: None on file.

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Who is running for **Court of Appeals, District 5**, in Mississippi?



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The Court of Appeals was created to relieve the backlog of the Supreme Court. It is an appellate court, meaning it reviews cases that have already been decided in lower courts. The Supreme Court assigns it cases. Two judges are elected to the court from each of its five districts. One seat is up for election this year. District 5 is in the southeastern part of the state, including the Gulf Coast.



Ian Baker

Admitted to Mississippi Bar 2006

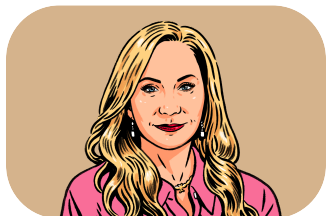
Residence Crystal Springs, Copiah County

- Prosecutor focused on gangs, sex crimes, drug trafficking and major violent crimes.
- Worked in district attorney's office under incumbent Judge Joel Smith.
- Clerked in Court of Appeals after law school.

Relevant experience: Assistant district attorney; former clerk for Court of Appeals Judge Bill Myers; attorney in private practice; attorney for Biloxi Civil Service Commission.

Campaign finance: As of July 10, Baker's campaign committee raised \$70,780 and spent \$2,793, leaving it with \$67,988 on hand.

Statement of economic interest: Baker is employed by Harrison County as an assistant district attorney.



Jennifer Schloegel

Admitted to Mississippi Bar 1991

Residence Gulfport, Harrison County

- Serving fourth term as a chancery court judge.
- Of her cases that have been appealed over 14 years on chancery court, courts upheld 32 of 33 of her decisions.
- Her campaign has raised the most money in this race.

Relevant experience: Elected to four terms as Chancery Court Judge for Harrison, Hancock and Stone counties; attorney in private practice.

Campaign finance: As of July 10, Schloegel's campaign committee raised \$159,120 and spent \$29,230, leaving it with \$131,878 on hand.

Statement of economic interest: Schloegel's statement of economic interest lists her position as a chancellor.



Amy Lassiter St. Pé

Admitted to Mississippi Bar 2003

Residence Pascagoula, Jackson County

- First woman to hold municipal court judgeship in Jackson County.
- Has held many roles involving redevelopment, including an appointment from Gov. Tate Reeves to the advisory council managing the settlement money from the 2010 BP oil spill.
- Campaign funders include medical professionals and Republican politicians.

Relevant experience: Municipal court judge; city attorney; attorney in private practice.

Campaign finance: As of July 10, St. Pé's campaign committee raised \$154,050 and spent \$41,756, leaving it with \$112,294 on hand.

Statement of economic interest: St. Pé owns a law firm and is a board member of Merchants & Marine Bank. She also receives income from the cities of Moss Point, Gautier and Pascagoula.

ELECTION DAY
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Who is running for **County Court, Subdistrict 2**, in Hinds County?



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The County Court is divided into three dockets: civil, criminal and youth court. The judge in subdistrict 2 currently handles civil cases. These include disputes of \$200,000 or less, evictions, debt collection and medical malpractice. This is a special election to fill the seat of the late Judge LaRita Cooper-Stokes, who died last year. Judge Pieter Teeuwissen, the incumbent, was appointed by Gov. Tate Reeves in December 2023 and faces attorneys Bridgette Morgan and Yemi Kings.



Pieter Teeuwissen

Currently holds the seat

Admitted to bar 1990

Residence Jackson,
Hinds County

- Veteran of city and county government, as city and board attorney.
- Campaign platform includes community issues such as housing instability, juror pay and taking illegal guns off the streets.
- Serves on Mississippi Board of Bar Admissions.

Relevant experience: Appointed to seat in December 2023; former Hinds County Board of Supervisors attorney; and Jackson city attorney.

Campaign finance: Teeuwissen's campaign committee reported \$8,400 in contributions, and personal loans of \$20,000 and \$15,000 from Teeuwissen and his law firm.

Statement of economic interest: Teeuwissen has income from the county court judgeship and the Mississippi Board of Bar Admissions. He is also a partner in a law firm and is an investor in two Wingstop restaurants.



Bridgette M. Morgan

Admitted to bar 2013

Residence Jackson,
Hinds County

- Currently civil attorney for Jackson Police Department.
- Created body camera policy for the department.
- Has been both a prosecutor and a public defender.

Relevant experience: Deputy city attorney; attorney for Jackson; former public defender.

Campaign finance: Morgan's campaign committee reported \$1,957 in contributions and \$1,182 spent, leaving the committee \$232 on hand.

Statement of economic interest: None on file.



Yemi Kings

Admitted to bar 2009

Residence Jackson,
Hinds County

- Emphasizes community involvement, especially in the Georgetown neighborhood where he was raised.
- Experienced in all three areas county court handles (civil law, criminal law, youth court).
- Youth court prosecutor and mentor.

Relevant experience: Deputy prosecutor; former public defender; private attorney.

Campaign finance: Kings' campaign committee reported \$5,275 in contributions and \$7,862 spent, including expenses paid with his personal funds.

Statement of economic interest: Kings is the owner of a law firm, a beauty salon and a realty company.