

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A PROCLAMATION

BY THE

GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2025, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi in the case styled *Dyamone White, et al. v. State Board of Election Commissioners, et al.*, Cause No. 4:22-CV-62-SA-JMV (“*White*”), entered an Order and Memorandum Opinion (“Order”) declaring “the current Mississippi Supreme Court electoral map violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act” and enjoining the State “from utilizing the current electoral map in any further Mississippi Supreme Court elections.” The Order finding a Section 2 violation is on appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the appeal has been stayed by order entered September 29, 2025, pending resolution of two cases on appeal to the United States Supreme Court, and one case on appeal to the Fifth Circuit; and

WHEREAS, in the Order, the Court recognized well-established federal law holding reapportionment “is a legislative task which the federal courts should make every effort not to preempt.” Thus, as counsel for the parties argued and the Court held: “[T]he Mississippi Legislature should first be given an opportunity to enact a new plan prior to this Court taking any action in that regard. The Court agrees and will provide the Mississippi Legislature with an opportunity to enact a plan in compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.”; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2025, the United States Supreme Court in the case styled *Louisiana v. Callais, et al.*, Cause No. 24-109 (“*Callais*”), entered an order requesting supplemental briefing on the following question: “[W]hether the State’s intentional creation of a second majority-minority congressional district violates the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the U. S. Constitution.” At issue in *Callais* is a race-conscious congressional map enacted by Louisiana as a proposed remedy to a Section 2 violation of the Voting Rights Act. Thus, when the United States Supreme Court renders its decision in *Callais*, it will necessarily decide once and for all the question of whether race-based redistricting in the guise of remedying a Section 2 violation itself violates the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2026, the Senate Judiciary A Chairman introduced Senate Bill 2138 bringing forward the relevant code sections to redraw the Mississippi Supreme Court districts. Similarly, on January 19, 2026, the House Judiciary B Chairman introduced House Bill 1749 also bringing forward the relevant code sections to redraw the Mississippi Supreme Court districts; and

WHEREAS, SB 2138 and HB 1749 remained alive during the entirety of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session, passing all interim legislative deadlines, in anticipation of the United States Supreme Court issuing its ruling in *Callais* and providing to the Legislature clear guidance on the issue of whether race-conscious redistricting to remedy a Section 2 violation itself would violate the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2026, the final deadline for filing conference reports on general bills, and without the benefit of a ruling in *Callais*, both SB 2138 and HB 1749 died on the legislative calendar. The absence of a ruling in *Callais* prior to *sine die* of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session on April 15, 2026, deprived the Mississippi Legislature of its undisputed federally recognized right to a meaningful first opportunity to remedy the Section 2 violation found by the Court in *White* (and on appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit); and

WHEREAS, the October 2025 Term of the United States Supreme Court will end in June 2026, and a decision in *Callais* is expected before the close of the Term. It is my sincere hope that the United States Supreme Court will reaffirm the animating principle that all Americans are created equal and that when the government classifies its citizens on the basis of race, even as a

perceived remedy to right a wrong, it engages in the offensive and demeaning assumption that Americans of a particular race, because of their race, think alike and share the same interests and preferences--a concept that is odious to a free people whose institutions are founded upon the doctrine of equality; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 121 of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi of 1890, the Governor is vested with the power to convene, by public proclamation, the Legislature in Extraordinary Session whenever, in his judgment, the public interest requires it; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 121 of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi of 1890, such public proclamation "shall state the subjects and matters to be considered by the Legislature, when so convened; and the Legislature, when so convened as aforesaid, shall have no power to consider or act upon subjects or matters other than those designated in the proclamation of the Governor by which the session is called..."; and

WHEREAS, it is my judgment that both the public interest and federal law requires that the Legislature be convened in Extraordinary Session for the sole and exclusive purpose of (and for no other purpose unless as otherwise expressly authorized herein) being afforded a meaningful first opportunity to adopt an electoral map for the Mississippi Supreme Court to remedy the Section 2 violation found by the Court in *White*.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby issue this Proclamation to convene the Legislature in Extraordinary Session, and do designate **the calendar day that falls twenty-one (21) days after the United States Supreme Court issues its decision in Callais as the date, 1:00 p.m. as the time, and the State Capitol in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, as the place**, in which said Extraordinary Session shall be convened; and do designate as the sole and exclusive subjects or matters to be considered at said Extraordinary Session, when so convened, the following and for no other purpose:

AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-3-1, 9-3-3, 9-3-5, 9-3-6, 9-3-7, 9-3-9, 9-3-11, 9-3-12, 9-3-13, 9-3-14, 9-3-15, 9-3-17, 9-3-19, 9-3-21, 9-3-23, 9-3-25, 9-3-27, 9-3-29, 9-3-31, 9-3-37, 9-3-39, 9-3-43, 9-3-45, 23-15-977, 23-15-991, 23-15-993, 23-15-994, 23-15-995, 23-15-607, AND 23-15-849, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT ELECTIONS, ELECTION BOUNDARIES, TERM OF OFFICE AND VACANCIES, FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT TO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

Further, pursuant to Section 121 of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi of 1890, I may, in my sole discretion, submit in writing other matters for consideration by the Legislature during this Extraordinary Session.

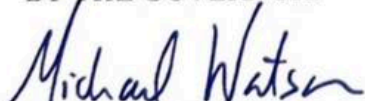
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 23rd day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fiftieth.


TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR



BY THE GOVERNOR:


MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE