

Recruiting Democratic Candidates in Mississippi for 2023 and Beyond



Our January 7, 2023 workshop, hosted by the Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women (MFDW) Political Action Committee.
Chaired by Kelly Jacobs, Co-Chair Cynthia Philipone

Recruiting Democratic Candidates for ALL of Mississippi's 2023 races

2,000+ openings create opportunity for Democrats

What we will cover today

- The need to recruit Democratic candidates.
- The qualifications for public office in Mississippi.
- The deadline, the paperwork, the fees
- Our strategy for success
 - Recruiting for 25 positions on all ballots
 - What are the positions and what is the pay
- How we move forward in the next 3 weeks
 - Making three lists of Democrats to call/recruit.



The 2023 Deadline to file is February 1, 2023.

Who is Kelly Jacobs?

Mississippi Civil Rights and Community Activist

Current and Past Volunteer Work:

Date – present: Member MFDW and Political Action Committee Chair.
2017 – present: Member DeSoto Marshall County Federation Democratic Women
1999 – present: Member DeSoto NAACP (since President Sadie Caldicut)
2005 – present: DeSoto AARP
2022: Volunteer Campaign Manager, Dianne Black for MS-01 US Congress.
1998 – 2022: Volunteer Member DeSoto County Democratic Executive Committee
2004 – 2020: Volunteer Member MDP, Indivisible NEMS, League of Women Voters
2004 – 2006: President DeSoto County Federation of Democratic Women

Authorship and Sponsorship:

2022: presented a DeSoto County redistricting map with a minority/majority district.
2021: MS Early Voting Initiative 78, to require a minimum of 10 days of early voting, sponsored by H-40 Representative Hester Jackson-McCray.
2014: Initiative 48, 1st MS Ballot initiative to regulate cannabis like alcohol & require the Governor to pardon non-violent cannabis crimes
2010: Chaired DeSoto County Redistricting Committee, presented DeSoto HD minority map

Awards:

2022: True Blue Award for Dedicated Service, NFDW.
2019: NAACP Sam Williams Citizenship Award
2011: Hall of Fame, DCEC. 2018 Civil Rights Award, DMCFDW
2004: Fannie Lou Hamer Award, MDP.
2004: Woman of the Year, Commercial Appeal.
2003: National Special Services Award, The US Chess Federation.



Political Fashionista, Obama, Hillary, Pelosi, Oprah & other political outfits, One Obama dress is on permanent display in the NY Historical Museum.



Welcome by our Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women President Lovie West

The purpose of the MFDW is to support the Democratic Party so that we recruit candidates, especially women, to run for office and win elections.

Ground Rules

1. This workshop will be recorded and saved for review on the Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women's website MFDW.org
2. All guest microphones are muted.
3. If you are a 2023 Democratic candidate, THANK YOU! Please announce your campaign/county/district/website in the chat.
4. Questions/comments may be submitted in the chat where our PAC Vice Chair, Cynthia Philipone, will field them and may be answered during our workshop.
5. At the end we will ask you to vote about whether THIS WAS A VALUABLE PRESENTATION and if we should repeat this workshop again before Feb 1, 2023.

The 2023 Deadline to file is February 1, 2023.





“Whatever community organization, whether it’s a women’s organization, or fighting for racial justice ... you will get satisfaction out of doing something to give back to your community that you never get in any other way.”

— Ruth Bader Ginsburg



On November 7, 2023, every Mississippi ballot will have 25+ political races which will equate to more than 2,000+ Democrats needed for every ballot in all 82 counties.

Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Auditor, Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce, Commissioner of Insurance. (District) (3) Transportation Commissioner, (3) Public Service Commissioner, (22) District Attorney, (52) State Senator, (122) State House of Representative, (82 County Races) (82) Sheriff, (82) Chancery Clerk, (82) Circuit Clerk, (82) Tax Assessor, (82) Tax Collector, (82) Coroner, (82) County Attorney, (unk) Surveyor, (410) Supervisors, Justice Court Judge, Constable, (Districts 2 & 4) (164) Election Commissioners.



"Life gives us few opportunities to put our best foot forward, so when a chance to shine presents itself, it is best to take it."
— Ilona Andrews

Let's Turn Mississippi Blue!

You can't win if you're not on the ballot.

1. Most candidates have to be asked to run for office.
2. We cannot turn Mississippi Blue unless we have at least one Democratic candidate for every race on every ballot for every election. There is no official group that is legally responsible to do this, only **volunteers** for State, County and Municipal Democratic Parties. The Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women supports the Democratic Party and we are recruiting!
3. If we ***all use our circle of influence***, we will recruit lots of Democratic candidates for voters to choose from, and that's a good thing.

12/26/2022

The chart below reflects regularly scheduled elections and does not account for special elections, elections affected by litigation, and other special circumstances.

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Federal Offices				
President and Vice President				
United States Senator				
United States Representative				
State Offices				
Governor				
Lieutenant Governor				
Secretary of State				
Attorney General				
State Auditor				
State Treasurer				
Commissioner of Agric. & Commerce				
State District Offices				
Supreme Court Justice				
Court of Appeals Judge				
Transportation Commissioner				
Public Service Commissioner				
State Senator				
State Representative				
Circuit Court Judge				
Chancery Court Judge				
District Attorney				
Levee Commissioner				
Court Offices				
Sheriff				
Chancery Clerk				
Circuit Clerk				
County Court Judge				
Tax Assessor				
Tax Collector				
Coroner				
County Attorney				
Surveyor				
County District Offices				
Supervisor				
Justice Court Judge				
Constable				
Election Commissioner				
Municipal Offices				
Municipal Offices				

NOTE: Not all counties elect all of the offices listed. Some special-charter municipalities hold elections in years other than the one indicated. Supreme Court Justices, Appeals Court Judges, and County Board of Education members run in staggered terms.

Mississippi's 3 Main Qualifications for ALL 2023 Political Offices:

1. Must be a registered voter of Mississippi.
2. Must prove they meet the residency requirement, which for most (but not all) of Mississippi's elected jobs is living two years in the district.
3. Must not have been convicted of a felony.
4. Note: Some offices have additional requirements.

What Does Mississippi Offer to Election Winners?

Free Training! Possible Healthcare Benefits!

- The State of Mississippi provides **FREE TRAINING** for everyone who wins their November 7, 2023 election.
- Most of these government jobs are part time and come with **healthcare benefits**.
- The four-year term begins January 2024.



**YOU CANNOT WIN AN
ELECTION UNLESS YOU
ARE ON THE BALLOT!**

**We need prospects to run for office on
the Democratic ticket.**

Deadline to file: February 1, 2023

Democratic Primary: Tuesday, August 8, 2023

General Election: Tuesday, November 7, 2023



Prospects want to know

1. What are the 25+ jobs on the November 7, 2023 ballot?
2. How do you file & when is the deadline?
3. Where are the documents to file?
4. Where do you file?
5. What is the fee?

Job descriptions and filing paperwork are listed on the Mississippi Secretary of State's website: www.sos.ms.gov

The three main categories

These are the 8 Statewide Positions that need Democratic Candidates:

- Governor paid \$122,160 year. Qualifying fee is \$1,000.
- The next 7 pay a \$500 qualifying fee.
- Lt. Governor \$60,000.
- Secretary of State \$90,000.
- Attorney General \$108,960
- Auditor \$90,000
- Treasurer \$90,000
- Commissioner of Ag. & Commerce \$90,000
- Commissioner of Insurance \$78,000



District/Area positions that need Democratic candidates:

- (Northern, Central, and Southern Commissioners: \$500 filing fee)
- (3) Public Service Commissioners: **\$135,000**
- (3) Transportation Commissioners: **\$126,207**
- (22) District Attorneys (\$250 filing fee): **\$125,900**
- **52 State Senators:** \$23,500/year \$155/day. 16D vs. 36R
- **122 State Representatives:** \$23,500/year \$155/day.
- 43 Democrats vs. 76 Republicans & 3 independents (\$250 filing fee.)

You should know if the incumbents are Democrats and if they are running for re-election.



Mississippi's 82 County Positions (salary varies).

These are the DeSoto County Political Offices & their pay:

- Sheriff - paid \$119,000.04
- (5) Supervisors - paid \$54,000 (meet twice a month on Monday's)
- Chancery Clerk - paid \$94,500
- Circuit Clerk - paid \$94,500
- Tax Assessor - paid \$107,471.04
- Tax Collector - paid \$108,470.88
- Coroner - paid \$10,800 salary PLUS \$175. for each autopsy.
- County Attorney - paid \$58,434
- Surveyor - fee to be set by DCBS?
- (5) Justice Court Judges - paid \$58,434
- (5) Constables \$4,500 annual fail case fee plus \$55. Fee for performing Bailiff & Constable duties.
- (5) Election Commissioners \$110 for every time they work, not to exceed \$15,000 per year.
- Special election for DeSoto County School Board
 - District 3, no filing fee, and later filing deadline plus 50 signatures needed.



What if you make a mistake in conveying information to a prospect?

Before a Candidate Files paperwork, they should review all the requirements for the job that are listed on the Mississippi Secretary of State's website to make sure they are qualified.

Any legal questions should be addressed to SOS Election Attorney Kyle Kirkpatrick 601-359-5137




How Candidates file?

1. Download the required STATEMENT OF INTENT from the SOS website.
 2. Fill out paperwork with the name listed on their voter registration card. (Update VRA before filing if needed).
- A. Democratic candidates for Statewide and District offices file their paperwork and their \$1000/\$500/\$250 filing fees either in person, January 3rd - until 5PM Feb 1st at the Mississippi Democratic Party headquarters 811 East River Place, Jackson, MS 39215, OR paperwork can be mailed (received before 2/1/23) to the Mississippi State Democratic Party, PO Box 1583, Jackson, MS 39215. Question? MDP's new Executive Director is Andre Wagner: 601-969-2913 wagner@mississippidemocrats.org
- B. B. Democratic candidates for County offices file their paperwork and \$100 filing fee January 3rd - until 5PM Feb 1st with their County Circuit Clerk (who will then pass on the information and the \$100 fee to the County Democratic Party). **Special Election candidates file August 10- Sept. 6th, 2023.

**Women's
Rights Are
Human
Rights**

Filing Deadline: 5PM February 1, 2023
Democratic Primary: Tuesday, August 8, 2023
General Election: Tuesday, November 7, 2023




 Candidate Petition
 County Election Commissioner

Page ____ of ____

TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS of DESOTO County:

We, the undersigned qualified electors of DESOTO COUNTY, DISTRICT TWO,
(County/District name and number, as applicable)
 State of Mississippi, hereby petition that the name of ZELDA HILL be
 placed upon the ballot of the GENERAL election to be held on NOVEMBER 7, 2023
(General/Special)
 as a candidate for the office of County Election Commissioner, District TWO,
(District Number)

1. SIGNATURE _____	Printed Name _____
Address _____	PHONE # _____
2. SIGNATURE _____	Printed Name _____
Address _____	PHONE # _____
3. SIGNATURE _____	Printed Name _____
Address _____	PHONE # _____
4. SIGNATURE _____	Printed Name _____
Address _____	PHONE # _____
5. SIGNATURE _____	Printed Name _____
Address _____	PHONE # _____
6. SIGNATURE _____	Printed Name _____
Address _____	PHONE # _____
7. SIGNATURE _____	Printed Name _____
Address _____	PHONE # _____
8. SIGNATURE _____	Printed Name _____
Address _____	PHONE # _____
9. SIGNATURE _____	Printed Name _____
Address _____	PHONE # _____
10. SIGNATURE _____	Printed Name _____
Address _____	PHONE # _____

Copy this form for succeeding pages.

The appropriate county registrar must certify signatures on this form.
 The opening paragraph of each page of signatures MUST include:
 (1) The name of the candidate, (2) office sought, AND (3) date of the election.

County Election Commissioners & County School Board Candidates are special!

1. No Filing Fee.
2. No Primary Election.(Even when they run as a Democratic candidate)
3. **50+ SIGNATURES REQUIRED!** No fewer than 50 signatures from registered voters are required to get onto the ballot (even if you are running as a Democrat before 2/1/23 deadline).
4. If there are more than 2 election commissioner candidates on the 11/7/23 ballot, the winner must have 50%+ votes or the top two vote getters face off in a runoff election on November 28, 2023.
5. Staggered district election years: All 82 Counties have 5 Election Commissioner Districts. Districts 2 and 4 are on the 11/7/23 ballot. Districts 1,3, and 5 will be on 2024 ballot.



Candidate Petition County Election Commissioner

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- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. SIGNATURE _____ | Printed Name _____ |
| Address _____ | PHONE # _____ |
| 2. SIGNATURE _____ | Printed Name _____ |
| Address _____ | PHONE # _____ |
| 3. SIGNATURE _____ | Printed Name _____ |
| Address _____ | PHONE # _____ |
| 4. SIGNATURE _____ | Printed Name _____ |
| Address _____ | PHONE # _____ |
| 5. SIGNATURE _____ | Printed Name _____ |
| Address _____ | PHONE # _____ |
| 6. SIGNATURE _____ | Printed Name _____ |
| Address _____ | PHONE # _____ |
| 7. SIGNATURE _____ | Printed Name _____ |
| Address _____ | PHONE # _____ |
| 8. SIGNATURE _____ | Printed Name _____ |
| Address _____ | PHONE # _____ |
| 9. SIGNATURE _____ | Printed Name _____ |
| Address _____ | PHONE # _____ |
| 10. SIGNATURE _____ | Printed Name _____ |
| Address _____ | PHONE # _____ |

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Our Goal

The goal of the Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women is to recruit Democratic candidates, especially women, up and down the 2023 ballot, in all 82 Mississippi counties.

We need your help to recruit!

Candidates don't have to work alone. They can coordinate with other Democratic campaigns and Democratic clubs to organize canvassing, visibility events, GOTV rallies and attend meetings to familiarize voters about our two-page, November 7, 2023 ballot.

Note: The MFDW will not consider endorsing Democratic candidates (who must apply for our endorsement) until after the August 8th Democratic primary election.



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!



How to find Prospects – Make Three Lists

Think about your “Circle of Influence” call your friends, and discuss recruiting at group meetings

1. Current Democratic Elected Officials

Contact current State, District and County Democratic elected officials and ask them if they are running for re-election or a new office?

2. Previous Democratic candidates or former Democratic Elected Officials

Who has run for office before? Who has held office and should be asked to run again? Election results are stored on SOS website.

3. Prospects

Who are leaders in your community? Members of State, County or Municipal Democratic Parties? Organizers? Pastors? Attorneys?



The Three Lists

First List - Current Elected Officials



**House 40
Representative:
Hester Jackson-
McCray**



**Senate 11:
Senator
Robert
Jackson**



**Alderman of
Walls:
Keith White**



**House 9:
Representative
Cedric Burnett**

The Three Lists

Second List - Former Democratic elected officials and former candidates



**Candidate for
Attorney
General:
Jennifer Riley-
Collins, 2018**



**Candidate for
House 6:
Dianne Black,**



**Candidate for
House 20:
Theresa
Gillespie Isom,**

The Three Lists

The Third List - Registered Voters who are Democrats and are willing to demonstrate perseverance!



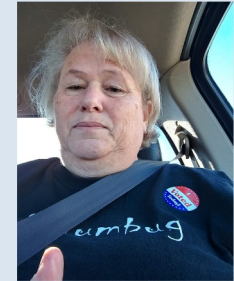
DeBo-rah Drayton-Ward



Michael Chandler



Charlotte Armstrong



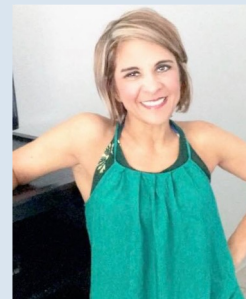
Lisa Hall-Hayes



Shulandra (Sandy) Kerr



Eric Wright



Maria Morano



William Egner

Few Democratic candidates in Mississippi win their first time on the ballot. Let's Help Them Try, Try Again!

Definition of Perseverance: Doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.



MFDW President Lovie West with
House 40 Representative Hester
Jackson-McCray

It took 10 years and five campaigns for Hester Jackson McCray to win:

2009 Hester ran for Mayor of City of Horn Lake and lost.

2013 Hester ran again for Mayor and lost.

2015 Hester ran for House 40 and lost.

2017 Hester ran for Alderman of Horn Lake and lost.

***In 2019 Hester ran for House 40
and WON by 14 votes!***



How to Recruit?

Contact your 3 lists and ask them to run for office



1

Assemble your 3 lists of candidates. If possible, form a team to help, and TRY TO RECRUIT.

2

Get the phone numbers and addresses of your prospective candidates so you ask in person or by phone.

3

Write a script in case you only get an answering machine and ask them to run for office on the Democratic ticket. Sometimes it's helpful when many people ask the same person to REPRESENT US AT THE TABLE WHERE DECISIONS ARE MADE: run for office.

4

Growing your list: No matter if they say yes or no, be sure to ask them if they know someone else who might run for office on the Democratic ticket.

5

Share their answer with your team and determine if you need to have others call them.

**We need Democrats who
represent our values at the table
where decisions are made.**

Who recruits 2,000+ Democrats?


We the People.


**Recruiting Democrats up and down
the ballot for every election.**


LIVE


MEET THE CANDIDATES
MS DEMOCRATS FOR US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY MAY 2ND 7:00-8:30 P.M.



HUNTER AVERY
1st CD



DIANNE DODSON BLACK
1st CD


GERALD KERNER
2nd CD


CONGRESSMAN
BENNIE G. THOMPSON
2nd CD


SHUWASKI YOUNG
3rd CD


DR. JOHNNY DUPREE
4th CD


DAVID SELLERS
4th CD

Free registration for this Virtual Event on our
website www.MFDW.org
Hosted by the Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women
LIVE VIA ZOOM | WWW.MFDW.ORG

Script to use to recruit your candidates

Hello, this is _____ and I'm calling on behalf of Mississippi Democrats to ask you to please run for public office on the Democratic ballot this year.

I'm asking you because I know that you share my values and will do your best to represent me if you are elected to sit at the table where decisions are made about our laws & how to spend Mississippi's tax dollars.

There will be 25 positions on our ballots, most of these jobs are part time and come with free training & healthcare benefits. The deadline to file is February 1st, and only people on the ballot can win.

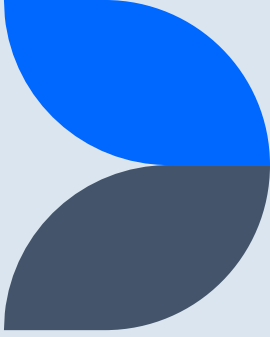
If you have a Democratic primary, it's on August 8th, 2023. Mississippi's General Election is November 7, 2023.

If you win, your new job will not begin until January of 2024.

I asking that you run for _____. What do you think?

We have to try!

That means we have to recruit!



"We have to become comfortable with being uncomfortable to accomplish anything, because things are always difficult and anxiety-inducing at the start. Life is about coming to terms with that discomfort and pushing through. Whether the new adventure turns out to be a mistake doesn't matter. **At least we all tried.**" Kelly's favorite author, Ilona Andrews

To Review:

Democrats can't win if we're not on the 2023 ballot, and we need more than 2000 candidates.

1. Most candidates have to be asked to run for office.
2. We cannot turn Mississippi Blue unless we have at least one Democratic candidate for every race on every ballot for every election. There is no official group that does this, so try it.
3. If we all use our circle of influence, we will field lots of Democratic candidates for voters to choose from, and that's a good thing.



Qualified Candidates should immediately work on their brand:

Read the SOS handbook on candidate reporting requirements which include obtaining a free EIN number.

1. Note all of the FINANCE REPORTING AND ELECTION DATES on a “political calendar”, preferably on their cell phone.
2. Set up their CAMPAIGN social media featuring the election date of their primary and NOVEMBER 7, 2023.
3. Take a professional-style portrait photo(s) for their campaign and then...
4. Issue a press release to the media announcing their candidacy so their campaign will be reported after the Feb. 1st filing deadline.
5. Consider attending virtual candidate training camps.



Thinking about this workshop, we want your honest opinion.

Should we do this workshop again?

To vote yes, please raise your ZOOM hand.

While you're voting we'll take questions from the chat.



**QUESTION WILL NOW BE
ANSWERED FROM THE CHAT.**

**Any legal questions should be
addressed to SOS Election Attorney
Kyle Kirkpatrick 601-359-5137.**

You may also ask

**Kelly Jacobs
662-429-4412
KELLITAJ@AOL.COM)**



- Thank you for attending our workshop to recruit Democrats to run for office.
- Teamwork makes the dream work.
- For those of you who wish to stay on the zoom call, I will quickly review from slide 6.

Now is the time to join/rejoin all local Democratic organizations. Please pay 2023 dues and attend their meetings.

We meet every 2nd Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

To join, contact:

Kelly Jacobs, Chair of MFDW's Political Action Committee.
662-429-4412
KELLITAJ@AOL.COM

