

Levee Board

The entire Delta was saddened at the death in June of Murry Alexander of Greenville. Alexander had been elected to serve as a commissioner of the Mississippi Levee Board in July of 1978 and was re-elected and served continuously until his death on June 21, 2000.

During his time of service, he was a member of several committees dealing with Upper Steele Bayou and Levee maintenance contracts. Alexander served as the Levee Board's vice-president from April 6, 1998, until his death. He was also active in various community and agricultural activities as well as being a vital member of his church.

The Washington County Board of Supervisors appointed Johnny Robinson to serve as commissioner until the special election scheduled for November 7. Robinson is retired from the Greenville Public School system where he served as principal at McBride Elementary School.

Any candidate wishing to run for Levee Board commissioner must qualify 60 days prior to the special election.

—Sharon Neff

GEORGE W. BUSH FOR PRESIDENT EDUCATION RALLY “No Child Left Behind”

Join Congressman Chip Pickering, GOP Chairman Mike Retzer, and MFRW President Jeanne Luckey on Saturday, September 9th at 10 a.m. on the South steps of the Mississippi Capitol in Jackson. A reception will follow in the Capitol Rotunda. For more information call Ann Hebert, 228-769-3566.

Mark These Dates!

- September 8** – Qualifying deadline for candidates for Election Commissioner and County School Board Members (Districts 3 and 4)
- September 9** – MFRW *No Child Left Behind* Rally, Mississippi Capitol South steps
- October 3** – President Debate – John F. Kennedy Library, Boston, 8 p.m.
- October 4-15** – Mississippi State Fair
- October 5** – Vice-Presidential Debate – Centre College, Danville, Kentucky – 8 p.m.
- October 17** – Washington County Republican Party Fall Pre-Election Rally – Washington County Convention Center

Washington County Republican Party
P. O. Box 315
Stoneville, MS 38776

Your Right To Vote

Under Mississippi law, the right to vote is universal with only a few narrow exceptions. Generally speaking any adult resident of Washington County has the right to register and vote. Exceptions to the right to vote include only two groups of persons, those persons who have been committed or adjudicated *non compos mentis* and those persons who have a felony conviction.

The details of these qualifications are found in Title 23, Chapter 15 Section 11 of the Mississippi Code. First, a prospective voter must be an “inhabitant” of this state. This term is generally understood to require actual residency with the intention to remain a resident. Next, the statute excludes “idiots and insane persons” from the voter rolls. Although these are fairly vernacular terms in and of themselves, in this context they are understood to be limited to committed individuals, *non compos mentis* individuals and individuals over whom a conservatorship has been established. The next requirement is that the potential elector be a citizen of the USA, either by birth or naturalization. The following requirement is that the potential voter be either eighteen years of age or older. Although the residency requirement in the Mississippi Constitution demands one year residency prior to voting, that provision has been struck down as unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. Therefore, the Mississippi legislature has reduced the residency requirement by statute to thirty days prior to the date of election. Registration to vote is also required and must be done so at least thirty days before the election. Finally, the statute makes ineligible all persons who have been convicted of murder, rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy. This list has been interpreted as nonexclusive and may include similar misdemeanors as well as the expressly listed felonies.

In the past the right to vote was very limited. Most of the population was disenfranchised. Now the right to suffrage is nearly universal, limited in only very restricted situations and only for very good reason. Each qualified elector has a voice and ought to use it, and vote, at every opportunity.

—Brad Golmon

Vote
November 7th

Fall Rally

The Washington County Republican Party is in the process of planning a fall pre-election rally. The event will be held at the Washington County Convention Center on October 17th.

A catered catfish dinner and local entertainment is planned. National Republican have been invited to speak including Senator Trent Lott, and Representative J. C. Watts from Oklahoma.

A big screen TV will be available for the Presidential debate between George W. Bush and Al Gore.

Tickets will be available soon from members of the Washington County Executive Committee and will be \$10.00 each.

If you are interested in helping with the rally your input and participation would be welcome. Please contact Collins Brent at (662) 378-4700 to volunteer or for additional information.

Voting Record

Does your vote count? It doesn't if you don't vote. While people all over the world are fighting for the right to vote and others are facing physical harm or even death when they try to vote in legal elections, many voters in the Delta stay home.

In the latest election, held on June 6 for Mississippi Levee Board Commissioner, only 3,350 out of 34,063 registered voters bothered to cast their ballot. That's less than 10%.

Precinct # Precinct Name Votes Cast Eligible Voters

1-1 Extension Bldg 32 1593 1-2 St. James Epis. Church 328 2364
 1-3 Swiftwater Bapt. Church 34 398
 1-4 Glen Allen HC 105 622
 1-5 Italian Club 414 2350
 2-1 Ward Rec Center 210 2224
 2-2 Buster Brown 226 2194
 2-3 Avon Health Center 79 723
 2-4 Arcola Comm Center 116 719
 2-5 Grace Temple 26 1167
 3-1 Tampa Dr. Bldg 63 822
 3-2 Brent Center 56 1663
 3-3 Percy Library 21 1251
 3-4 Mixon-Garrett VFW 121 1847
 3-5 Metcalfe City Hall 45 708
 4-1 Elks Lodge 163 2664
 4-2 Leland Health Center 475 2063
 4-2 Leland Rotary Bldg 417 1743
 5-1 Hollandale City Hall 189 2420
 5-2 Darlove Baptist Church 19 115
 5-3 St. Paul MB Church 9 27
 5-4 Grace Methodist 139 1926
 5-5 Industrial College 49 2460
 Affidavit Votes 14

Your vote can count! Remember what a privilege it is and keep in mind no election is too small or too large for your vote to make a difference.

—Sharon Neff

Economic Development

The quality of life in Mississippi is directly related to the strength of our economy. Over the past four years, Mississippi has experienced unprecedented economic growth resulting in new jobs and better opportunities for our citizens. For this reason we, the Mississippi Republicans, believe the creation of new private sector jobs and the continued expansion of our state's economic base should remain a top priority for our state government.

In addition to the record number of new industries which have located new plants in Mississippi, many established industries have expanded their operations in the state. The expansion of existing businesses and industries is a vital part of our state's economic growth, and we should continue to support and encourage their efforts.

As we promote the recruitment and expansion of large businesses and industries in our state, it is essential that we not lose sight of the role small businesses play in our state's economic health. Too often overreaching government regulations discourage innovation and the entrepreneurial spirit. We must seize every opportunity to eliminate the burdens placed on small businesses by government regulations and taxes.

An adequate transportation system is key to our future economic development. We encourage the completion of construction of four-lane highways throughout the state. This project will not only aid in the movement of goods within our state, but will also provide safer avenues of transportation for the people of Mississippi.

In developing new industries in our state, we must not ignore the importance of a healthy and vibrant farm economy. Mississippi's agricultural products are exported to markets around the world. We should continue to seek new export opportunities for agricultural goods so that our farmers will become even more profitable and competitive.

Mississippi is blessed with abundant natural resources. We should capitalize on this asset by encouraging the establishment of industries that process raw materials into finished products in the state for export, thus creating thousands of additional highly compensated new jobs.

The Mississippi Republican Party is dedicated to freedom of choice for all working people. We therefore reiterate our strong support for the Right to Work law.

... copied *Party Platform*

Absentee Voting

From the office of Eric Clark, Secretary of State for Mississippi, answers to some of your questions about absentee voting:

AM I ELIGIBLE TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Yes, if you are a registered voter who will be away from your county of residence on Election day, or you are a registered voter who is

- 65 years of age or older.
- Physically disabled.
- A student, teacher, or administrator, or a spouse and/or dependent whose studies or employment requires absence from your home county on Election day.
- A person who must be at your place of work during the times the polls are open.
- A member of the armed forces, a spouse, and/or dependent of military personnel.
- A member of the Merchant Marines or Red Cross, a spouse, and/or dependent of a member.
- A hospitalized, disabled war veteran, a spouse, and/or dependent of a hospitalized veteran.
- A civilian attached to and serving outside the U.S. with any branch of the armed forces, Merchant Marines or Red Cross, or a spouse and/or dependent.

- ⇒ A parent, spouse and/or dependent who will be with a temporarily, or permanently, disabled individual who is hospitalized outside his/her county of residence, or more than 50 miles away from his/her residence on Election day.
- ⇒ A member, spouse or dependent of Mississippi's Congressional delegation.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Either in person or by mail, obtain an application for an absentee ballot from your Voter Registrar. For municipal elections, your City, Town or Municipal Clerk is your Voter Registrar and for all other elections the Circuit Clerk of Washington County is your Voter Registrar. The Municipal Clerk is in your City Hall and the Circuit Clerk's office is in the Washington County Court House on Washington Avenue.

You can also check with these two offices for more information on voting by absentee ballot. The important thing is – **make plans now to vote in the next election!**

GOP Focus THE FORUM

As my commitment to the GOP Focus, *The Forum*, I want to contribute \$_____.

- ☐ MONTHLY ☐ QUARTERLY
☐ SEMIANNUALLY ☐ ANNUALLY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE: _____

Please mail this completed form to:
 Washington County Republican Party
 P. O. Box 315
 Stoneville, MS 38776

AUTHORITY TO DRAFT MY ACCOUNT

FOR BANK DRAFT, PLEASE
 INCLUDE A VOIDED CHECK

TO: _____
 _____ Bank

 _____ City

This is your authority to pay and charge my account checks drawn in the amount of \$_____
☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually
 By the Washington County Republican Fund. The above authorization will remain in force until revoked by me in writing.
 WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this the _____ day of _____, 2000.