

Levee Board

The Board of Mississippi Levee Commission has three members who are up for re-election this year. They are Jimmy House, in Bolivar County; Fred Ballard, in Washington County; and Roy Nichols, in Issaquena County. The scheduled election date is June 6th with a run-off, if necessary, to be held June 20th. All candidates for these positions must have their petitions filed with a minimum of 50 signatures of registered voters. These petitions must be filed prior to close of business on May 5, 2000.

The Mississippi Levee Board encompasses the counties of Bolivar, Washington, Sharkey, Issaquena, and parts of Humphreys and Warren Counties. The Board is the local sponsor for the Corps of Engineers projects on the levee and on interior streams. The primary responsibility includes right-of-way acquisition and maintenance of completed work.

The Mississippi Levee Board is funded by an ad valorem tax (currently 2.19 mils) and on acreage tax (currently 5 cents per acre or parcel if less than one acre).

For more information regarding the Levee Board, contact James E. Wanamaker, P.E. P.L.S., Chief Engineer, Board of Mississippi Levee Commissioners, (662) 334-4813.

I AM A REPUBLICAN BECAUSE. . .

I believe the strength of our nation lies with the individual and that each person's dignity, freedom and responsibility must be honored.

I believe in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability.

I believe free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity.

I believe government must practice fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn.

I believe the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations and that the best government is that which governs least.

I believe the most effective, responsible and responsive government is government closest to the people.

I believe Americans must retain the principles that have made us strong while developing new and innovative ideas to meet the challenges of changing times.

I believe Americans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to extend peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world.

Finally, I believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government. . . .*copied*

Chairman's Viewpoint

These past twelve months have indeed proved to be an interesting

first year for me to serve as your Executive committee Chairman of our GOP here in Washington County. It has been both a privilege that I am grateful for and an enlightening experience from which plans for improved organizational structure are forthcoming.

Although 1999 was a year of some heartbreaking losses in both statewide and local elections, a record number of Republican candidates were elected to local offices in Mississippi, including our own Paul Watson and Robert Evans.

Upon evaluating the state of our Party in the county, the conclusion is reached that opportunities for significant gains are within our grasp through more effective organization and communication. To that end, your Executive Committee has been hard at work developing a "Roadmap to Victory" in Washington County. We want to tap the optimism as evidenced by over 600 activists who purchased tickets to our giant Republican Rally last October and by the many new faces now coming forward and asking how to get involved. As we organize from the ground up, we'll need a lot of energized volunteers. For example, an immediate goal is to name both Captains and Youth Captains for every precinct in the county, followed by further sub-division at the block level — there is a job for everyone concerned about voter apathy, fair elections and better government.

To address the need for timely coordination and dissemination of information to an expanding Party activist membership, our Communications Committee was tasked to develop two forums specific to GOP activity in Washington County. Their first endeavor debuts in newsletter form with this edition of **THE FORUM**. In addition to our periodic newsletter, the Communications Committee plans to go on-line shortly with an interactive Washington County GOP website.

Your Party is putting the foundation in place to succeed as never before if we all take part. Let us remember that ours is a party of INCLUSION — together, we can make a difference!

John Dean
Washington County Republican
Party Chairman

Mark These Dates!

April 29th – 10:00 a.m. – Precinct Caucuses
April 29th – 3:00 p.m. – County Convention
May 19-20th – TBA – State Convention
**June 6th – Levee Board Commissioner
Election**

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

Precinct Caucus

The Republican Precinct Caucus will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 29th at your usual voting place. Any person who is a qualified elector of the precinct may participate. The County Chairman has selected a temporary chairman for each precinct. If the temporary chairman fails to arrive, the first person at the caucus will assume the duties of this individual. He will call the meeting to order and then elect a permanent chairman to preside. One person can constitute a valid precinct meeting. He can elect himself and any other qualified elector in his precinct as delegates and alternate delegates to the County Convention. The table below lists the number of delegates and alternates for each precinct. All delegate and alternate positions do not have to be filled in order to have a valid delegation. The precinct Chairman will list the names and addresses of the delegates and alternates as well as those attending the caucus and then sign the list to certify it. This must be done for the precinct delegation to be recognized at the County Convention. The County Convention will be held at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, April 29th, in the Chancery Courtroom at the County Courthouse.

Precinct # Precinct Name Delegates Alternates

1-1 Ext. Bldg. 1 1 1-2 St. James Epis. 5 5
 1-3 Swiftwater BC 2 2
 1-4 Glen Allen HC 2 2
 1-5 Italian Club 6 6
 2-1 Ward Rec Ctr 5 5
 2-2 Buster Brown 4 4
 2-3 Avon Health Ctr 2 2
 2-4 Arcola Comm Ctr 1 1
 2-5 Grace Temple 1 1
 3-1 Tampa Dr. Bldg 2 2
 3-2 Brent Center 1 1
 3-3 Percy Library 1 1
 3-4 Mixon-Garrett VFW 3 3
 3-5 Metcalfe City Hall 1 1
 4-1 Elks Lodge 2 2
 4-2 Leland Health Ctr 3 3
 4-2 Leland Rotary Bldg 3 3
 5-1 Hollandale City Hall 3 3
 5-2 Darlove Baptist Ch 1 1
 5-3 St. Paul MB Church 1 1
 5-4 Grace Methodist 4 4
 5-5 Industrial College 1 1

Election Commissioner

The responsibility for preparing the official ballot and generally overseeing each election for county offices falls to the Washington County Election Commissioners. By statute Washington County has five such posts, one for each of the five Supervisor Districts. One Commissioner is elected from each district and that Commissioner must reside in the district electing him. The next opportunity we will have to run for and vote for these positions is in the general election in the fall of this year.

In order to qualify to run for this office a candidate must circulate a petition for his or her candidacy and must secure the signatures of at least fifty registered voters residing in the district the candidate wishes to represent. This petition must request the candidacy of the individual wishing to run for the office and must declare his or her party affiliation. The petition must be filed with the Circuit Clerk of Washington County no less than sixty days before the election and it is the burden of the Circuit Clerk to examine the petition and determine that the names of at least fifty registered voters appear on the petition. If the Circuit Clerk determines that this requirement is met the petition is transmitted to the President of the Board of Supervisors and the President assures that at least fifty of the electors signing the petition reside in the same district as the candidate, the district in which the candidate intends to run. If this requirement is confirmed as satisfied the President of the Board of Supervisors sends the petition to the current Secretary of the Election Commission for the qualified candidate to be placed on the next official ballot as a candidate for Election Commissioner.

In order to be elected to the post of Election Commissioner a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast. If a run-off is required it will be held two weeks later to determine a victor. Once the new Election Commission in place the Commission will elect, from its members, a President and a Secretary. It is the ultimate responsibility of the Chairman to print and distribute official ballots for all countywide elections. During the course of his or her term, no Election Commissioner may run for any other county office.

Washington County's current roster of Election Commissioners includes Arlelia Moreland - District 3, Linda Boschert - District 1, David Weathersby - District 4, Francis Whitacre - District 2, and William Burnside - District 5. --Brad Golmon

THE GOP FOCUS

This newsletter is brought to you by GOP Focus, the countywide Republican organization. This group, working under the umbrella of the Executive Committee, will endeavor to inform its members on the activities of all our local elected officials, including legislators, in the conduct of their governmental duties. A calendar of events will be posted as well as other news pertaining to our government. This will be done through the publishing of a quarterly newsletter and the hosting of a web page. In addition to these duties, GOP Focus will be charged with sponsoring events for its members and other interested parties throughout the year.

The content of the newsletter and web page depends solely on volunteers to collect and write articles. At this time we have an editor and partial staff for the newsletter. We are in need of an editor for the web page and additional staff for both the web page and newsletter. If you are willing to contribute, you can write to GOP Focus at P. O. Box 315, Stoneville, MS 38776.

Our first newsletter has been paid for by contributions collected during the past year. We ask that you consider a minimum annual donation of \$25 to help defray the cost of printing and mailing of the newsletter as well as the operational expenses associated with the web page. A membership form can be found below.

Republican National Convention 2000

July 31 - August 3, 2000

First Union Center

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mississippi will have 33 Delegates and 33 Alternate Delegates to the 2000 Republican National Convention. All 66 will be chosen at a series of meetings to be held in the Spring of 2000 on April 29 and May 19-20.

Any registered Mississippi voter who considers himself a Republican is eligible to run for Delegate or Alternate Delegate.

For more information, call the Mississippi Republican party, (601) 948-5191

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.