

## Q and A

### FUNDING

- Recommend a 2% growth rate which means that we have (DO NOT START TALKING ABOUT 2% or 2.65)
- Mississippi has approximately \$1 billion cash on hand, excluding the Tobacco Trust Fund. We are recommending that the legislature use \$270 million.

### ONE TIME MONEY

- Yes there is some one time funding in my budget recommendation
- No one likes to use this type of funding.
- We have made a commitment to our children and to our schools and we must live up to that commitment.
- Many state around the country are spending a much higher percentage of one-time money on their budgets than we are (i.e. Tennessee).
- The option is either raising taxes, cutting services, laying off employees or cutting education.

### SHORTFALL

- DHS, Corrections, Medicaid
- We have recommended funding these agencies at a level that will allow them to continue to provide the critical services to the people of Mississippi. These agencies were under funded in FY 03 and we are working with the Legislature to provide some additional funding during the regular session.