

The Most Livable State Award study was developed by the Morgan Quitno Press, a Lawrence, Kansas-based publishing and research company. The study, which ranks all 50 states, is based on 43 factors and is not a measurement of which state is most fun or the best place for everyone to live. It is based on statistical indicators. Mississippi ranked 50th for the 2nd consecutive year.

Mississippi ranked very well in state cost of living index, hazardous waste sites, per capita state and local government debt outstanding, normal daily mean temperature and homeownership rate.

Mississippi ranked poorly in the areas of state prisoner incarceration rate, per capita gross state product, per capita personal income, median household income, public high school graduation rate, percent of population graduated from high school, percent of population not covered by health insurance, low birth weight, infant mortality rate, poverty rate, highway fatality rate, percentage of population graduated from college, books in public libraries per capita, annual average weekly earnings or production workers on manufacturing payrolls and percent of eligible population reported voting.

This is a value-based award. This is a system, which ranks factors that are not necessarily important to many Mississippians.

Our administration is developing a Sustainable Community Strategy that will include a variety of factors.

The Sustainable Communities Strategy will include short, medium and long-term goals for each of the factors.

With a strategy in place to reach our goals in the various areas, we will have a vehicle in place to measure our improvements.

We are committed to continuing to create a high quality of life for the people of Mississippi.