

Interview with Gene Edwards  
WAPT  
First 100 days in office

Remember to sit up straight and use your low tones. Be mindful of the ums and uhs when you are answering questions.

- We celebrated 100 days in office along with our accomplishments during those 100 days.
- We plan to continue to build upon that progress.
- During our first 100 days we have:
  1. begun the process of developing a new economic development strategy
  2. reconstructed an action plan and marketing strategy to promote the Children's Health Insurance Program
  3. established the Task Force for Classroom Technology to put a computer in every classroom by the year 2002.
  4. passed a teacher pay raise plan to raise Mississippi teachers' salaries to the Southeastern average
- I campaigned on raising teacher pay to the Southeastern average and I stated on January 11

of this year, right outside these doors that I believed that raising teacher pay was the most critical issue facing the people of Mississippi.

- Some people said it couldn't be done.
- We did it.
- We did it working together with the support of various organizations, individuals, the Speaker and Lt. Governor and the membership of the House and Senate.
- I promised you that as your Governor, I would work hard to find solutions that would work for you, and today, with the hard work of many people, our efforts have paid off.
- I said in my State of the State Address that we must set unprecedented goals and at every opportunity reach for unparalleled progress.
- We have seen some great things happen in the past 100 days.

- We realize our potential, and I can promise you that this is only the beginning.
- As I heard one Representative say yesterday, “Let us act on our hopes and not our fears.”
- We are looking forward to every single day of this administration, and every single day we will be working to fulfill the hopes and dreams of the people of Mississippi.

Where do we go from here?

- We will continue to move forward as we find sensible solutions that work for the people of Mississippi.
- Working to increase federal support that other states are taking advantage of, and Mississippi should be too.
  - Grant Writing
  - Discretionary Dollars
  - Private Foundations
- Be a part of the budgetary process.

- Work efficiently and effectively.