

Veto Message – Draft 1

- Mississippi's budget is not a battleground – it's a blueprint.
- We must be responsible with our people's money.
- Mississippians deserve and demand that of their state leaders.
- We cannot have an honest, straightforward, fiscally sound budget unless we start out with an honest figure.
- Legislators are ignoring the deficit from this year's budget that will be carried into the 2002 budget.
- With this carry-over our state will start the fiscal year \$50 - \$85 million in the hole.
- The legislature is also appropriating for 2002 using an inflated rate of growth of 3.7%.
- Based on Mississippi's rate of growth for the year, that is an unrealistic projection.
- If we do not adjust for the deficit and budget using inflated figures, we are setting the state up for a future budget crisis.
- The legislature has ignored the opportunity to tighten the budget for one year choosing instead to gamble with our people's dollars and with our children's education.
- Using the legislature's plan, our economy will have to grow at a rate of more than 6% to make up for the shortfall and meet the projections of the 2002 budget.
- It is fiscally irresponsible to base a budget on the hope that our economy will turn around when all indicators show that we are facing a slowdown in the economy.
- State agency directors, junior and community college presidents, university presidents and school administrators should be able to prioritize their budgets and appropriate accordingly using real numbers.
- I am vetoing _____ because it is based on a budget that is unrealistic numbers and irresponsibly spends our taxpayers dollars.
- Mississippi's families expect us to be disciplined and reasonable in how we spend their hard earned tax dollars.

- That starts with how we count their dollars and ends with how we spend their dollars.
- Only when we take a responsible, honest approach to our budget, can we meet the needs of our people.