

Response to Julie Goodman re: rumor of vetoing budget:

*Response from the Governor:*

The budget I presented last November laid out a clear course with clear priorities: Putting our schools first, creating jobs and ensuring that the state continued to provide quality services. My plan accomplished these goals without raising taxes, and using sound fiscal policies that did not jeopardize the faith and credit of our state.

We have been successful in working with the legislature in meeting the needs of the people of this state. The historic education bill changed the way we do business forever.

The final budget must provide the flexibility for agency heads to efficiently and effectively provide services, and it should do so in a fiscally responsible manner and without raising taxes on the people of Mississippi.

*Response from Press Office:*

Last November, Governor Musgrove laid out a clear budget with clear priorities – putting schools first, creating jobs, and ensuring the state continued to provide quality services to the people of Mississippi. Governor Musgrove’s budget meets these priorities without raising taxes, and uses sound fiscal policies that do not jeopardize our future.

Under the Governor’s leadership, we have been successful in working with the Legislature on the budget, as evidenced by the historic education bill passed in February.

Governor Musgrove has provided the direction for a final budget that is fiscally responsible and does not raise taxes on the hard-working people of this state.