

Public Questions For the Week of June 23:

1. Campaign Finance questions – Campaign issue

2. Treasurer's position

"We wish Marshall Bennett the best. We will make an announcement shortly."

3. Chip Pickering story

"I haven't had any conversation with Chip about this. Certainly, it is a hypothetical at this point."

FYI, MS Law, 23-15-853, provides that the Governor orders a special election to fill a Congressional vacancy within 60 days. No appointment.

4. USA Today articles

"I disagree with the study. The Rockefeller Institute of Government recently released a report citing the national recession as the #1 reason that states have seen declines in revenue. States shouldn't be rewarded for raising taxes and cutting vital services to their people. In Mississippi, we set education as our top priority, balanced our budget without depleting our rainy day fund, and we didn't raise taxes."

"We understand the need to make difficult decisions to balance the budget and have worked hard to accomplish that. I oppose any effort to do so by raising taxes or making cuts to essential services. Again, I respectfully disagree with the results of study that rewards states for raising taxes and I consider it a compliment that Mississippi was not put in the same category as those states."

5. Affirmative Action

"We continue to work hard to ensure that all Mississippians have access to a quality education regardless of race. It is critical that we as a society seek the delicate balance between providing inclusive diversity and equal opportunity for all of our citizens under the law. Racial quotas are not the answer for our colleges and universities. The path to a better society is by investing in a lifetime of education for all of our citizens. We continue to work hard to ensure that all Mississippians have access to a quality education regardless of race. When we do, we attract quality high paying jobs that build great communities."

6. Coast-Port security question

"On March 23 we quickly authorized the state's security level upgrade to high alert, or orange. I issued an executive order that deployed troops to ports, including the Ports of Biloxi and Gulfport."

“Under new guidelines from the US Department of Homeland Security, the US Coast Guard is the lead agency for port security. The Mississippi Office of Homeland Security works with our agencies, the local port authorities, and the federal agencies to ensure the safety of our people.”

7. End of Year collections

We are closely watching the final collections for this month. The Rockefeller Institute of Government recently released a report citing the national recession as the #1 reason that states have seen declines in revenue. Unlike many other states, we have been able to balance the state’s budget without raising taxes or cutting services.