

Since the beginning of the legislative session, Governor Musgrove has been working for a fiscally sound, honest budget. The success of Mississippi depends on our state budget, so we need straightforward numbers with which to work. When the legislature figures our state's budget they need to be taking into account the slowing national and state economy. We need to adjust for the deficit, and we do not need to use inflated figures that will put Mississippi in a larger deficit next year. With the legislature's plan, Mississippi's economy would have to grow more than 6% to make up for the shortfall and meet the 2002 budget projections. This is not realistic, and it is irresponsible behavior with our people's money. Mississippians expect and deserve a responsible state budget for 2002.