

MISSISSIPPI

Voters in Mississippi this year will elect a governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general. All 122 seats in the house and all 52 seats in the senate will also be on the ballot in November. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the legislature and executive offices.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Brandon Presley

Presley served as Mayor of Nettleton from 2001 to 2007. In 2007, he was elected Public Service Commissioner for the Northern District of Mississippi. As Public Service Commissioner, Presley opened closed meetings to the public, worked to bring high-speed internet to remote parts of Mississippi, and created the Hire Mississippi program to encourage utility companies to hire Mississippi workers instead of out-of-state workers.

A central theme in the campaign is his personal narrative: Presley often mentions and stresses his own working-class upbringing in rural Mississippi, using this to hopefully resonate with Mississippians in similar conditions.

Presley is focused on healthcare and tax policy. He additionally hopes to make the state's bureaucracy more transparent.

He recently advocated for expanding Medicaid to cover more than 220,000 Mississippians in response to the state's 2021 infant mortality, the highest rate in five years, and the increasing closures of hospitals within the state, particularly in rural areas.

To reduce taxes, Presley intends to eliminate the 7% state tax on groceries. Presley also supports cutting car tag fees in half.

Presley connects his time as a public service commissioner and opposing large utilities corporation to his "war on corruption." Presley plans to limit gifts that politicians can receive from lobbyists, create a Task Force on Public Integrity to review and evaluate state spending, empower the Mississippi Ethics Commission, and prevent donations to political campaigns by companies who are actively seeking a license, permit, or non-competitive contract.

Presley encouraged Governor Reeves to remove himself from any decisions related to the ongoing welfare funding scandal in the state and called for an independent investigator or the attorney general to comb through any communications between Governor Reeves and defendants in the case.

Trivia: Brandon is the second cousin of Elvis Presley.