

Shanda Yates

Mississippi House of Representatives District 64

ABOUT THE CANDIDATE



LEARN MORE

SHANDA YATES

www.yatesforhouse64.com



Shanda is a working mother, a small business owner, an attorney, a proud public school graduate and the first in her family to obtain a college degree. Shanda understands, first hand, the struggles and hardships faced by working families and small business owners in Mississippi. Shanda also understands and values the importance of providing the children of Mississippi with a quality public education and a system that promotes and encourages the teachers who are educating the future of Mississippi.

Shanda obtained her law degree from Mississippi College School of Law in 2007, where she graduated cum laude and served as an editor of the Law Review. Her undergraduate studies were completed at Hinds Community College and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Shanda's legal career has been equally divided between representing small business owners, Fortune 500 companies, and injured Mississippians. Having advocated on behalf of such a wide range of clients, Shanda has a unique, balanced perspective that allows her to understand the concerns of a diverse constituency. Her experience as an attorney will allow her to effectively advocate for the children, teachers, and working families of Mississippi.

Shanda is married to Yancy Burns, a combat veteran deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom with the Mississippi Army National Guard. They are the proud parents of Evan, their very spirited four-year-old son.

SOCIAL MEDIA + LINKS

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DATA ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Median Income	Below Poverty Line	Unemployed	College Grads	HS Grads	No HS Grad
24152	10062	16.6%	58.2%	37.3%	2.4%	67091	7.8%	3.60%	62.00%	34.50%	3.60%

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PAST RACES

Congressional Districts

Nested Congressional Districts: CD3 (Cook PVI: R+13); CD2 (Cook PVI: D+14)

Learn more about Cook Political Ratings (Partisan Voting Index): <https://cookpolitical.com/ratings>

2015 House of Representatives Election Results

Bill Denny (Incumbent)	100%	5,695
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2015 House of Representatives Fundraising

Democrat	\$0
Republican	\$9,224

2015 Attorney General

Jim Hood	50.41%	3,599
Mike Hurst	49.59%	3,540

2016 President

Hillary Clinton	44%	1,422
Donald Trump	53%	1,703

- The median household income is \$42k, and 19.8% of people are in poverty (591k people). The national median household income according to the 2016 U.S. Census Bureau is \$55,516 and the national poverty rate was 12.7%
- In 2013, the unemployment rate was 8.4%. It has been steadily declining. In 2018, the unemployment rate was 4.8%. By comparison, The US unemployment rate was unchanged at a 49-year low of 3.7% in November 2018.

Senate and Congress

One Senator and four Representatives whose seats will be up for election in 2020. This includes Republicans Cindy Hyde-Smith, Trenty Kelly, Michael Guest, Steven Palazzo, and Democrat Bennie Thompson.

Gubernatorial

Mississippi limits governors to two terms. The current governor, Republican Phil Bryant, completes his two terms in 2019. The Republican candidate for governor is the current lieutenant governor, Tate Reeves, who is considered the heir-apparent by Republicans. When he announced his intention to run at the GOP headquarters, he had already raised more than \$5 million. But Attorney General Jim Hood, known as the "last Democrat in Dixie" announced his intent to run in October. He is considered very popular and has strong support in rural and North Mississippi.

District Lines:

Both congressional and state district boundaries are drawn by the state legislature. State legislative district boundaries must be approved as joint resolution and are not subject to governor veto, however congressional boundaries are approved by regular legislation and as such are subject to veto by the governor of Mississippi.

45% of the population is registered Republican and 37% Democrat in 2017. Based on historical patterns, Mississippi's districts have been gerrymandered to favor Republicans, but as of March 2019, 36% of seats in both the state Senate and state House of Representatives are held by members of the Democratic Party.

Mississippi's gerrymandering has been the subject of recent litigation. Mississippi District 22 was recently ordered to redraw the district based on Thomas v. Bryant. The proposed district line change would increase the black voting age population for 50.8% to 60%, reversing the dilution of African American votes. In February, there was an appeal made to the court by the defendants and a stay of remedial map drawing has been requested, but that stay has been denied and the new maps will be implemented for the 2019 elections.

ON THE ISSUES:

Shanda is ready to move Mississippi forward. Her policy priorities include adequate funding for public schools, competitive pay for teachers, and placing the working families and small businesses of Mississippi over and above out-of-state corporate interests.

ABOUT THE STATE

General Demographics:

- As of July 2018, there is estimated to be 2.99 million people living in Mississippi, per the US Census.
- The state population has not grown substantially in the past ten years, due to a decline in birth rates and because Mississippi is not a destination for immigrants or migration from other states.
- 56.7% of the state is non-Hispanic White (1.7 million people) and 37.8% of the state is Black/African American (1.13 million people).
- 76.1% of the state is over the age of 18 (2.27 million people). 15.5% of the state is 65 years or older.
- In 2008, 347,400 people were 65 years old or older in the state—a number that has been steadily rising. In 2017, there were 451,200 people 65 years or older.
- In 2013, there were 325,300 adults age 26-34—a number that has been steadily declining. In 2017, there were 303,900 adults age 26-34.

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Voter Registration:

To register to vote you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a resident of Mississippi
- Be 18 years old at the time of the next election
- Live in the town in which you are registering to vote for at least 30 days prior to election
- Not be disenfranchised because of conviction for one of 22 listed crimes (see below)

Last Day:

Registration must be completed 30 days prior to the election.

The primary is on August 6, 2019, the primary runoff is on August 27, and the general election is on November 5. The filing deadline for candidates was March 1, 2019.

- For the November Election you must register by Tuesday, October 7th, 2019.
- The last day for Voter Registration is Monday, May 20, 2019 for the June Primary.
- Primary: Aug. 6
- General election: Nov. 5
- Voter registration deadline: Oct. 7
- Early voting: N/A
- Absentee voting deadline: Nov. 4
- Online registration: No
- Same-day registration: No
- Voter ID: Photo ID required
- Poll times: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Absentee Voting:

Mississippi does not permit early voting or no-excuse absentee voting. Valid excuses for voting absentee rather than physically going to the polls are:

Scheduled travel on Election Day

Being a student or teacher

Having a disability or caring for someone with a disability

Being 65 years old or older

Being required to work on Election Day.

There is no specific deadline for applying for an absentee ballot, assuming you are already registered to vote. The absentee ballot must be returned by 5 p.m. on the day before the election.

Since a 2011 amendment which took effect in 2014, Mississippi voters are required to present photo identification in order to vote in person, but not to vote absentee. Acceptable IDs include:

- Driver's license
- Photo ID card issued by a branch, department, or entity of the State of Mississippi
- United States passport
- Government employee ID card
- Firearms license
- Student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college, or community/junior college,

- United States military ID
- Tribal photo ID
- Any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the United States government or any State government
- Mississippi Voter Identification Card

Voter Suppression:

There is significant voter suppression in Mississippi, both through the criteria that makes one eligible to register to vote and the requirements to actually exercise their right. In terms of eligibility, individuals convicted of one of 22 specific felony crimes permanently lose the right to vote, even after they have served their time. In 2016, 218,181 people—which includes one in six African American adults in the state—were disenfranchised due to this restriction. Additionally, restrictive voter ID laws (see above) make it difficult for many eligible voters to actually exercise their right.

There is ample evidence that these voter suppression tactics are employed by the right in order to suppress Democratic votes. For example, in 2018 a video of Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith speaking with a small crowd was leaked on Twitter. "And then they remind me that there's a lot of liberal folks in those other schools who maybe we don't want to vote," she says in the video. "Maybe we want to make it just a little more difficult. And I think that's a great idea." Original tweet.

There is currently a lawsuit arguing that this change to criteria was intended to discriminate on the basis of race and violates the First and Eighth Amendments of the US Constitution as well as the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

The 22 felonies that permanently disenfranchise Mississippians are: armed robbery, arson, bigamy, bribery, carjacking, embezzlement, extortion, felony bad check, felony shoplifting, forgery, larceny, murder, obtaining money or goods under false pretense, perjury, rape, receiving stolen property, robbery, statutory rape, theft, timber larceny, and unlawful taking of a vehicle.

All others retain their voting rights, even while in prison. Re-enfranchisement for those who have lost the right to vote can only be granted through a bill passed by both houses of the legislature or through the Governor.

Current State Legislature

Mississippi is a Republican trifecta; Republicans control the Governorship and both chambers of the legislature. The entire Mississippi state legislature is up for election in 2019, and these are all "Last Chance" races – the legislators who are elected in 2019 will draw district lines during the 2021 redistricting. The current Governor is a Republican, but is term-limited in 2019 and cannot run again. The Governor does not have the power to veto district maps drawn by the state legislature.

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