

Mississippi US Senate 2026

THE ISSUES

SCOTT
COLOM

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CINDY
HYDE-SMITH

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Mostly legal. “As a Christian ,...I’ve always been pro-life.” As the father of two daughters, “I’m going to trust them to make the choices that are best for them. I believe that’s important, to trust women.” Supports IVF access.	Ban. “ Believes all children, including the unborn, are guaranteed the right to life by our Creator.” Chairs the U.S. Senate Pro-Life Caucus. Opposes taxpayer funding of abortions. Sponsored a bill to provide resources to pregnant college students to enable them to “ nurture life.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	No position found.	Mostly no. Voted to end Biden-era clean energy tax credits. Supports Trump efforts to increase oil drilling. Criticized the “Democrats’ radical Green New Deal climate agenda.” Supported incentives to fund a new electric vehicle battery plant.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	As a district attorney, expanded pre-trial diversion and victims’ advocacy programs. Established Mississippi’s first restorative justice program. Calls for “ alternatives to incarceration for young people...who committed non-violent first offenses.”	Supported funding to improve technology and training for law enforcement. In the wake of George Floyd’s death, sponsored a bill to use incentives to increase use of body cameras, improve training, and diminish chokeholds, without requiring such reforms.
ECONOMY Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Increase. Would “invest in good-paying jobs and...education.” Wants to end income tax for teachers and police officers who make less than \$75,000 a year. Will fight “for low gas prices.”	Mixed. Voted against funding infrastructure projects, which included \$4.4 billion for MS. Supports “free markets.” Called for subsidies for farmers due to a drop in commodity prices. Introduced the Buying American Cotton Act, providing tax credits to U.S.-based entities.
EDUCATION Use federal funding to support public education in Mississippi?	Yes. Criticized a Trump administration funding freeze cutting \$137 million for Mississippi school districts. Says funding cuts mean “fewer resources, fewer safeguards, and more young lives at risk.”	Mixed. “The federal government should support states’ efforts to improve educational opportunities...but it should not dictate how they get the job done.” Supported a \$600,000 federal grant for Mississippi charter schools.
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulation?	No position found.	Loosen. Voted to end a 20-year protection against mining upstream from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Calls for repealing a Biden-era air quality rule regulating how gasoline is transported to gas stations.
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Tighten. Is concerned about the easy availability of guns and lack of background check for gun purchases. “When young people have guns and they have a conflict,...[t]hey make terrible decisions.”	Loosen. “Is a strong advocate for protecting the Constitutional right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.” Introduced a bill to prohibit states from using federal funds to create gun ownership registries.

ISSUES	COLOM (D)	HYDE-SMITH (R)
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Increase. Criticizes the One Big Beautiful Bill Act , which included cuts to Medicaid. Says the Act will worsen rural hospitals' finances. Supports expanding Medicaid and extending Affordable Care Act tax credits. "We have to cancel those healthcare cuts."	Mostly decrease. Voted for the One Big Beautiful Bill Act , which included cuts to Medicaid. Voted against extending Affordable Care Act tax credits . Voted to raise taxes on ultra-wealthy income earners to help rural hospitals facing Medicaid cuts.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	"President Trump has done a good job securing the border...The Democrats have failed at that." Opposes H-1B1 visas, with companies "firing a bunch of American workers and hiring foreign workers...those jobs need to be in Mississippi."	" Believes America has the right to secure its borders and control who enters our country." Supports Trump border wall. Says ICE is "trying to accomplish...law and order." Introduced a bill to expand the E-Verify system, requiring employers to employ only documented workers.
IRAN WAR Support the war in Iran?	No. "I don't know what the objective is right now in the war in Iran." "The Constitution is clear that you're supposed to have Congress declare war." "It's very important that the people have a voice when it comes to a decision like a war."	Yes. Voted against requiring Congressional authorization for U. S. military action in Iran. Says requiring authorization would "embolden our enemies and endanger our brave fighting men and women." "Trump is taking decisive steps" in Iran.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Mixed. In 2021, as a District Attorney, signed a letter condemning "ongoing efforts to criminalize... gender-affirming healthcare." In 2025 said, "I don't think biological boys should be playing girls' sports. I don't think minors should be getting gender-affirming surgery." "We should not criminalize people's identity."	Limit. Voted against federal recognition of same sex and interracial marriages. Said the bill failed to protect those who "believe in the traditional definition of marriage." Introduced a bill defining an individual's sex as the person's biological sex at birth. " Americans ...do not want boys playing in girls' sports."
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	Yes. "We haven't raised the minimum wage in close to 20 years, and when you raise the minimum wage, you boost all wages."	No position found.
TARIFFS Support or oppose the administration's tariff policies?	Oppose. " Tariffs have been terrible for Mississippi." Says they are leading "to higher prices " and " devastating " farmers. "If you look at the Constitution, it's very clear that Congress is supposed to determine tariffs."	Support. "I support President Trump's effort." Calls tariffs "a really good tool" to address "unfair trading practices." Regarding the " tough time " caused by tariffs, says "You got a mess before it gets better. And we're in the mess."
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Raise. Criticizes the extension of the 2017 Trump tax cuts, which among other cuts included the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate and large tax breaks for the wealthy. Says that extension is "a permanent tax handout to people making more than \$600,000 a year."	Lower. Voted to extend the 2017 Trump tax cuts, which among other cuts included the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate and large tax breaks for the wealthy. Says those tax cuts are "helping unleash a wave of prosperity across America."
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Easier. Criticized the 2026 U.S. Supreme Court decision weakening the Voting Rights Act. "The right to vote in this state was won at a cost." "We have to protect that progress." Opposes a 2026 Mississippi law requiring verification of citizenship for new voters through a federal database.	Harder. Supports requiring proof of U.S. citizenship in order to register to vote in federal elections. Supports requiring voter ID to vote: "It is lawful, it is fair, and it works."

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