

# Mississippi Senate

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## THE ISSUES

**MIKE  
ESPY**

DEMOCRAT



**CINDY  
HYDE-SMITH**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT

See <a href="#">Guides.vote</a> for online guides with links and sources	Volunteer for Mike Espy <a href="http://espyforsenate.com">espyforsenate.com</a>	Volunteer for Cindy Hyde-Smith <a href="http://cindyhydsmith.com">cindyhydsmith.com</a>
<b>ABORTION</b> Legal or ban?	Legal. <a href="#">“I’m anti-abortion, but I’m pro-choice.”</a> “Women should have <a href="#">the basic right to make their own decisions</a> about their personal health.”	Ban. Believes <a href="#">“all children, including the unborn, are guaranteed the right to life by our creator.”</a> Opposes taxpayer funding of abortions. Will confirm anti-abortion judges.
<b>CAMPAIGN FINANCE</b> Require political ads to disclose their largest funders?	Unclear. <a href="#">“Laws against waste, fraud and corruption are to protect the American citizenry</a> and should be dutifully ... enforced.”	No position found.
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Consider human-caused climate change a serious threat?	Yes. <a href="#">“It’s beyond time we get serious about tackling climate change</a> and preventing the worst possible effects of the climate crisis.”	No. <a href="#">Voted to repeal the Clean Power Plan</a> , which established carbon dioxide emission guidelines for existing power plants.
<b>CONTRACEPTION</b> Require health plans to cover birth control?	Yes. <a href="#">“Will fight for women’s rights”</a> to sufficient insurance and medical care, including birth control and basic services for pregnant women.	No position found.
<b>COURT</b> Supported nomination of Brett Kavanaugh? See <a href="#">Supreme Court Guide</a> .	No. <a href="#">“Kavanaugh lacks the judicial temperament to be on our nation’s highest Court. ... He’s quick to anger.”</a>	Yes. Voted to <a href="#">confirm Kavanaugh’s nomination</a> to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court.
<b>COVID-19</b> Support administration’s response to coronavirus pandemic?	No. <a href="#">“Our federal leaders’ reluctance to act resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans that could have been avoided.”</a>	Unclear. <a href="#">Asked Trump to withhold COVID relief to states that prevent religious institutions from reopening.</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> Use public funding to send children to private schools?	No. Does not oppose charter or private schools, but <a href="#">says public funds should be reserved for public schools.</a>	Yes. Supported bill to <a href="#">expand federal grant funding for charter schools in rural areas.</a>
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Tighten or loosen environmental regulations?	Mixed. <a href="#">Fought EPA regulations that would have hurt Mississippi’s farming industry, but pushed for food safety regulations.</a>	Loosen. <a href="#">Supports the deregulatory path taken by Trump EPA</a> to cut time delays that add costs to infrastructure projects.
<b>FINANCIAL REGULATION</b> Tighten or loosen regulation of banks and credit card companies?	Tighten. Need laws against waste and fraud since <a href="#">“Wall Street seems immune from any restraint or accountability.”</a>	Unclear. Sponsored bill to <a href="#">eliminate Federal Insurance Office</a> , and voted to restrict <a href="#">Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s regulatory authority.</a>
<b>GAY RIGHTS</b> Support same-sex marriage?	Yes. <a href="#">“Committed to all Mississippians having access to their rights of citizenship, regardless of sexual orientation.”</a>	No. <a href="#">“Personally believes marriage is between a man and a woman.”</a>

ISSUES	ESPY (D)	HYDE-SMITH (R)
<b>GUN RULES</b> Enact more restrictive legislation on guns?	Yes. Believes in the Second Amendment, but <a href="#">“anyone who is a danger to himself or others should not own a firearm.”</a> No assault weapons to anyone under 21.	No. Is the owner of an enhanced-carry permit, enjoys hunting and works <a href="#">“to prevent the federal government from infringing upon”</a> the right to bear arms.
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> Support path to citizenship for “DACA” residents brought to U.S. as children?	Yes. Says they <a href="#">should be allow to stay in the country “because it is the only place they’ve ever known.”</a>	No. Regarding DACA, says, <a href="#">“there must be consequences for breaking our immigration laws.”</a>
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> Support border walls and reduced immigration?	No. Border wall cost can’t be justified. Supports <a href="#">“secure border and enforced immigration laws that are fairly applied.”</a>	Yes. <a href="#">Supports Trump’s plans to build a wall on southwestern border and to increase funding to enforce U.S. immigration laws.</a>
<b>IMPEACHMENT</b> Supported U.S. Senate calling witnesses and voting to convict President Donald Trump and remove him from office?	Yes. <a href="#">“I would have voted for a fair and full trial where witnesses and documents would have been heard.”</a> But unclear on whether to <a href="#">remove Trump from office.</a>	No. Voted against conviction, saying, <a href="#">“Those prosecuting the president failed ... to produce the evidence required ... to remove a duly elected president from office.”</a>
<b>IRAN</b> Opposed military attacks on Iran without congressional approval?	No position found.	No. <a href="#">Voted against a resolution</a> that would prohibit military action against Iran without authorization from Congress.
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Decriminalize or keep illegal?	Unclear. <a href="#">“I would just have to know if it was safe,”</a> and <a href="#">“a financial benefit to the state.”</a>	Unclear. <a href="#">Voted to block amendment that would have let banks work with legitimate cannabis businesses.</a>
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Raise federal hourly minimum wage?	Yes. <a href="#">Supports a \$15-per-hour minimum wage.</a>	No. Says <a href="#">state and local leaders are best suited to determine wage policies.</a>
<b>OBAMACARE</b> Repeal Affordable Care Act (ACA)?	No. <a href="#">Wants to strengthen the ACA. “I’m committed to expanding affordable, accessible health care for every Mississippian,”</a> with <a href="#">Medicaid expansion.</a>	Yes. <a href="#">Wants to help families afford health insurance coverage without expanding government role. Would repeal ACA.</a>
<b>PLANNED PARENTHOOD</b> Support organization receiving public funds for non-abortion-related care?	Probable yes. <a href="#">Will fight for women’s rights and reproductive health care ... including availability of medical services.</a>	No. <a href="#">Supports legislation to prevent any federal funds from going to Planned Parenthood.</a>
<b>POLICE REFORM</b> Restrict police use of force and increase public oversight?	Yes. <a href="#">Calls for transparency with body cameras, a national database of police officers who misbehave and banning such police tactics as the choke hold.</a>	Unclear. <a href="#">Co-sponsored legislation that includes incentives to ban choke holds and to engage in “de-escalation training,” but does not require such reforms.</a>
<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b> Block arms sales to Saudi Arabia?	No position found.	No. <a href="#">Voted against congressional disapproval of weapons transfer to Saudi Arabia.</a>
<b>STUDENT LOANS</b> Support lower interest or forgiveness on student loans?	Yes. <a href="#">Would increase interest subsidies</a> on student loans, and protect students from predatory for-profit schools.	No position found.
<b>TARIFFS</b> Support administration tariffs on steel and other products?	No. <a href="#">“Trump’s tariffs killed jobs, increased prices, and hurt our economy.”</a> State’s farmers and workers <a href="#">deserve better.</a>	Yes. Tariffs have hurt soybean growers, but they <a href="#">“just have to hold on. ... They will be better off in the long run.”</a>
<b>VOTING RIGHTS</b> Support stricter ID requirements and other rules on voting?	No. Need to <a href="#">“remove barriers to voting and guard against voter suppression.”</a> <a href="#">“Voting should be easy, efficient and equitable.”</a>	Yes. <a href="#">Voted</a> for legislation in 2009 making Mississippi one of eight states requiring <a href="#">specific forms of photo ID to vote.</a>

[Campus Election Engagement Project](#) is a nonpartisan effort to help colleges engage students in elections. Sources include [Votesmart.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#) and candidate statements. [Vote411.org](#) and [Ballotready.org](#) offer guides to local races.