

Mississippi Senate

**CAMPUS
ELECTION
ENGAGEMENT
PROJECT** 
register.
volunteer.
vote.

THE ISSUES

**MIKE
ESPY**

DEMOCRAT



**CINDY
HYDE-SMITH**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT

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

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

[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.