

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“I am glad the ACLU of Mississippi is here.”

BY JENNIFER RILEY COLLINS

Dear ACLU of MS
Members and Supporters,

While many Mississippians ended 2018 in a bit of a daze after the U.S. Senate races, the ACLU of Mississippi, however, did not have the luxury of being stunned. The 2019 legislative session was looming and we knew we had to be prepared to operate in both an offensive and defensive mode. We prepared our legislative agenda and were ready.

We proposed legislation that would end the injustice of wealth-based incarceration. Mississippi's current pre-trial detention and bail processes disproportionately penalize and target Black people and those who are economically disadvantaged, jeopardizing their families, jobs, and homes while they await justice. We elevated the interconnection of the need for bail reform and barred access to participate in democracy for pre-trial, not yet convicted, detainees. We educated and advised legislators and stakeholders on the importance of expanding access to the ballot box. Mississippi is one of a handful of states that has not implemented online voter registration nor early no excuse voting. During the ACLU of MS's response to the 2019 State of the State address, we called on legislators to take action on bills that would positively impact freedom, justice and equity in our state. In response, we heard repeatedly, “This is an election year, so we are not going to take up anything controversial.”

Nothing could have been further from the truth.

There was a refusal to recognize that gender justice demands that women receive equal pay for equal work. There was an all-out assault on women's reproductive freedom. On the same day federal officials introduced the “Equality Act to Close Gaps in Federal Non-Discrimination Protections,” state officials pushed forward a Constitutional Convention to restrain the federal governmental actions. With a final deceptive tactic, state officials robbed public school teachers of a minimal pay increase, putting at risk the public education and economic opportunity of the children of this state. The ACLU of Mississippi was there working with our partners to oppose these bills.

The Capitol is not the only place we showed up as the year began. We responded when the City of Jackson announced it would deploy surveillance technologies to fight crime. We cautioned the mayor and other city officials against utilizing body-worn cameras and other surveillance technologies before devising a policy that ensures residents are included in the decision-making process. When Tremont Attendance Center's prom registration form required all guests must be ‘of the opposite sex,’ we quickly reminded the Itawamba County School District that such a rule violates the right to free expression guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S.

Constitution. In addition, we warned that any policy prohibiting same-sex couples from attending prom or school dances would have equal protection implications. The form was changed. Also, because of our strong relationships with community partners, we organized a press event in 24 hours to call on legislators to reject a constitutional convention resolution that would deepen the political divide and put at risk our civil rights and civil liberties.

Some bad laws were passed, and even more could have gone unchallenged. I shudder to think what Mississippi would be like if the ACLU of Mississippi were not here. A small staff of warriors, who are committed to justice, fairness and equal treatment under the law, is accomplishing this work and so much more. None of it can be done without your support. That is why I am asking you to join me in saying “I am glad the ACLU of Mississippi is here!”

Resistance is important in the current divisive environment, but we must also take offensive action to preserve freedom. In recognition of the affiliate's tireless efforts over the last 50 years and to ensure we are here for the next 50, please give a special \$50.00 donation to help us continue this fight forward for freedom.

JENNIFER RILEY COLLINS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LIFELINE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM DURING THE 2019 #MSLEG

BY ZAKIYA SUMMERS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY

Mississippi leaders took a step forward in criminal justice reform with House Bill 387 during the 2018 session. We applauded the effort, but we knew that much more work needed to be done. We began to lay the groundwork to compel state leaders to continue efforts that help bring more justice back into the criminal legal system.

In September 2018, we released the *Blueprint for Smart Justice*, which provided the state of the criminal legal system in Mississippi and provided some needed reforms to reduce the jail and prison population by 50% while also reducing racial disparities. Mississippi ranks 3rd with the highest incarceration rate in the nation. Black men make up 65% of the male prison population.



Legislative Advocacy Day 2019

Liberty Lobbyists from across the state joined us for our annual Legislative Advocacy Day. We kicked the day off with a lobbying training. Then we broke off into three activities: a mock meeting with a senator, poster writing in support of our equity agenda, and filling jars with rocks to indicate the heavy burden of the average number of days in pre-trial detention due to the inability to afford bail. Afterwards, we convened at the State Capitol for our news conference, followed by one-on-one meetings with legislators.

We were excited to be invited to the Criminal Justice Reform Summit hosted by Governor Bryant and fwd.us because it showed great bi-partisan interest in

putting forth measures during the 2019 session that would continue strides forward. The governor's support for the federal First Step Act made us feel secure that he would not hold up efforts that save taxpayer dollars, promote public safety, and deprioritize incarceration as a sentencing option. After all, the state is spending \$350 million in corrections cost.

Meanwhile, we developed the Coalition for Smart Justice, a diverse coalition of like-minded organizations centered on a collective effort to reduce the use of pretrial detention and to eliminate wealth-based incarceration. Our target: bail reform.

Based on our analysis of state corrections data, we found that 14 out of 25 individuals held in county jails across Mississippi have not been convicted of a crime. They are languishing behind bars because they can't afford bail. The inability to pay bail puts individuals at risk of losing their jobs, their home, their family, and even their lives. Right before the holidays, Lanekia Brown, charged for a nonviolent offense in Madison County, died after sitting 27 days in jail on a \$1 million bail. She was four weeks pregnant. Her story and the data exemplified the need to take a front-end approach. It is important that we keep people out jail in the first place who pose no risk to society.

The whole purpose of bail is to secure appearance in court, not to punish those too poor to pay for their freedom. So, we aggressively advocated for bail reform in the form of HB 949 and 1081. Both bills were killed in committee. Yet, we know that a bill is never dead until SINE DIE.

HB 1352 includes bail reform...sort of

Through many talks and hours upon hours of meetings and negotiating, we were able to convince legislators to amend HB 1352 to include bail language. What came out of conference, however, was a much more diluted form of bail reform.

HB 1352 gives discretionary power to judges to determine how bail is set. So, the legislation may allow people charged with misdemeanors to avoid jail time because of the inability to afford bail, but it includes several requirements before they can be released on their own recognizance, and does not make provision for an ability to pay hearing. This is especially problematic because without a standard procedure,

bail could be implemented in a way that does more harm than good.

House Bill 1352 – the Criminal Justice Reform Act - is reentry reform. It removes certain barriers that make it harder for people to return to the community after leaving the prison system. It is good legislation, but here again, it is limited to people already incarcerated.

Here are some of the pros of the bill:

- Expands the state's drug court system into intervention courts that provides mental health, veterans support, and other types of drug interventions.
- Eliminates mandatory suspension of driver's licenses over control substance violations unrelated to driving a vehicle and for unpaid fines and fees.
- Stops the practice of not allowing people with drug convictions to receive workforce training and nutrition assistance.
- Extends time from 30 days to 60 days to allow people released on parole or probation more time to find a job before they must start paying supervision fees.
- Allows judges to help more people get old convictions removed from their records.

However, HB 1352 will still require individuals to pay off all fines and fees associated with convictions before those offenses can be expunged from criminal records. In addition, individuals only get one expungement, although it can be used for multiple offenses tied to one event.

Let's be clear: HB 1352 will not reduce Mississippi's prison population.

HB 1352 does not include any sentencing reforms. Reducing the amount of time people serve, even by just a few months, can lead to thousands of fewer people in Mississippi's prisons.

The bottom line is that if Mississippi really wants to be the leader on criminal justice reform, state leaders must include reforms that help drive down our state's prison and jail population to include bail, sentencing, and supervision. Re-entry reform is important, but we cannot continue to take a back-end approach and be satisfied without doing something to address the drivers of incarceration.

Please see the next page for a list of bills that passed.

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It's the Law: Bills that Became Law in the 2019 Legislative Session

SCR 596 – CONVENTION OF THE STATES RESOLUTION

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



HB 1352

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM ACT

- Removes certain barriers for reentry
- Expands state's drug court system



SB 2781

MISSISSIPPI FRESH START ACT

- Removes any automatic bars to occupational licenses due to prior felony conviction.



SB 2141

CREATES TERRORISTIC THREAT OFFENSE

- Creates a new crime with an automatic 10-year sentence
- Criminalizes crude speech

EDUCATION



HB 654

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

- Requires runoff election in county school board trustee elections if no candidate receives majority of votes cast



HB 1182

- Prohibits corporal punishment in public schools to discipline students with a disability

VOTER REFORM



SB 2237

INELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

- Automatically disenfranchises citizens convicted of certain crimes from qualifying as a candidate

VOTER REFORM (CONTINUED)



SB 2030

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTIONS

- Codifies residency requirements for city and county offices at 2 years, and 5 years for transportation and agricultural commissioners and district attorneys

EQUALITY



SB 2328

FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH ACT OF 2019

- Aligns with the criminal rules of procedure
- Provides constitutional protections for individuals charged with a felony and deemed incompetent to stand trial due to a mental health issue



SB 2116

"HEARTBEAT" BILL

- Limits a woman's right to make her own personal reproductive healthcare decisions
- Bans most abortions once a fetal heartbeat can be detected, typically at about six weeks

FREE SPEECH



SB 2922

MEAT LABELING BILL

- Prohibits the labeling of plant-based, like veggie burgers, and cell-based meat, thereby censoring speech
- Unnecessary as federal law already prohibits false or misleading labels

Please note this chart is reflective of legislation that is relevant to the ACLU of Mississippi's centers of focus.

DECRIMINALIZING MARIJUANA

BY LONDON THAMES, STAFF ATTORNEY

We have continued the fight to decriminalize marijuana by speaking to the Hattiesburg City Council about an ordinance that would reclassify simple possession of marijuana (30 grams or less) to a citation. The maximum penalty would be just a fine instead of jail time. The proposed ordinance is very similar to the ordinance we helped to get passed by the city Jackson in 2018.

Every **1.07 hours** someone in Mississippi is arrested for having marijuana; a Black person is **3.85 times more likely** to be arrested than a white person.*

Drug offenses are the primary driver of Mississippi's bloated prison and jail population, and marijuana laws in Mississippi have generated some of the most striking racial disparities. In Mississippi, a black person is almost four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than a white

person, despite approximately equal rates of use. Those arrests not only can have an irreversible impact on the person arrested, marijuana arrests overwhelm court systems and waste taxpayer dollars. Mississippi's criminal justice system should use its vital resources to protect its people from serious and violent crimes, instead of ruining the lives of non-violent marijuana users.

"They stop you, profile you, and then they lock you up to support the system."

Patrick Beadle's case highlights the need for Mississippi to reevaluate its marijuana policies. Beadle, a 46-year-old father, son and musician, was sentenced to 8 years in prison without the possibility of parole for possessing 2.8 pounds of marijuana, legally purchased in his home state, while driving through Madison County. In Oregon, where he is from, Beadle would have likely received a fine for possessing a quantity of marijuana over the legal limit.

A judge recently threw out Beadle's conviction for drug trafficking and Beadle was allowed to enter a guilty plea to simple possession of drugs. He was re-sentenced to 12 years in prison, and will be eligible for parole in three years. Even still, Beadle, a non-violent offender, will be forced to serve prison time for marijuana he legally purchased. Only because of Mississippi's addiction to prison is Patrick Beadle serving jail time at all.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to watch Mr. Beadle's mom testimony, sharing her experience with the criminal legal system in Mississippi.

33

states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico have legalized medical marijuana

10

states plus the District of Columbia have legalized recreational use of marijuana

62%

of Americans support marijuana legalization, according to a September 2018 Pew Research poll.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COURTS

BY JOSHUA TOM, LEGAL DIRECTOR

CURTIS FLOWERS, TRIED SIX TIMES FOR MURDER, APPEARS BEFORE THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

The prosecution of Curtis Flowers for the 1996 shooting deaths of four people in Winona, MS made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court in March of 2019. Justices are determining whether racial bias played a role in the sixth trial. That trial, which included eleven white jurors and one black juror, resulted in Flowers' conviction.

District Attorney Doug Evans has tried Flowers six times for the murders. Four of the trials resulted in a guilty verdict. However, the Mississippi Supreme Court overturned three of those verdicts, two times for prosecutorial misconduct and once for unconstitutionally striking jurors on the basis of race during jury selection. Two trials ended in a mistrial, as the jurors could not come to a unanimous decision.

During oral argument in March, the U.S. Supreme Court signaled that they

were likely to rule in Flowers' favor. Chief Justice John Roberts referred to the case as "extreme," and the attorney arguing the case for the state of Mississippi admitted the case's history was "troubling." Indeed, in Flowers' sixth trial, 41 of 42 potential black jurors were struck during jury selection.

The Mississippi Supreme Court upheld Flowers' conviction from his sixth trial, holding that there had been no racial discrimination in jury selection. The U.S. Supreme Court appears poised to reverse that holding.

STATE CONTINUES EFFORT TO RESTRICT OR ELIMINATE ABORTION

Governor Phil Bryant signed a bill into law that bans abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which is usually around six weeks into pregnancy. Many women do not know they are pregnant at six weeks. Under long-standing U.S. Supreme Court precedent, states cannot ban abortion before fetal viability outside the womb, which is usually

around twenty-four weeks. After he signed the bill, Governor Bryant told reporters that he fully expected to be sued.

Last year, Mississippi passed a fifteen-week abortion ban, which a federal court quickly declared unconstitutional. Several other states, including Georgia and Tennessee, are considering similar laws. Iowa and Kentucky passed similar "heartbeat" laws, but courts declared those laws unconstitutional.

Abortion opponents, emboldened by the new conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court, are making a concerted effort to pass overly restrictive abortions laws hoping one of them makes its way to the Supreme Court. Once there, the wish is that the justices will overturn *Roe v. Wade* or allow additional restrictions on abortion rights. *Roe v. Wade* is the Supreme Court case decided 46 years ago, which found the Constitution protected a woman's decision to have an abortion.



LEGAL UPDATES

BROWN V. MADISON COUNTY, MS

The ACLU of Mississippi, and its co-counsel, Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett and the ACLU, continue to press the purported class-action lawsuit against Madison County and its Sheriff. The judge originally assigned to the case, Judge William Barbour, assumed inactive status early this year. The case was re-assigned to Judge Carlton Reeves.

PROM DATE RULE DISCRIMINATORY

The Tremont Attendance Center, a school in the Itawamba County School District, required that dates

to its upcoming prom be "of the opposite sex," a requirement written twice on the school's two-page prom registration form. Itawamba County School District in 2010 cancelled prom rather than allow student Constance McMillen wear a tuxedo or bring her girlfriend. The ACLU sued and won in Constance's case. Shocked to see the same school district engaging in the same discriminatory policies, the ACLU released a media statement condemning this "opposite sex" policy and demanding the school change it. Within a day, the school backtracked and issued a revised form removing the "opposite sex" language. The school

claimed the requirement for "opposite sex" dates was not discriminatory.

MISSISSIPPI RANKS 20TH WITH HIGHEST STUDENT ARREST IN THE NATION, NEW REPORT REVEALS

Recently, the ACLU released *Cops and No Counselors: How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff is Harming Students*, an analysis of federal data that examines the first state-level student-to-staff ratio comparison of mental health personnel and law enforcement in schools. The data is not surprising.

[LEGAL UPDATES CONTINUES, P. 6](#)



LEGAL UPDATES (CONTINUED)

The ACLU of Mississippi has been a champion of children's rights, historically advocating for policies that keep students safe inside schools. Through several reports, we have illuminated the extreme and destructive approaches to school discipline that have harmed students, families, and the community at-large. We have pushed back on efforts to put school resource or law enforcement officers inside schools minus standard training and clear policies that inform their role and responsibilities. We led an advocacy campaign to minimize the use of restraint and seclusion techniques, which the state department of education eventually established a policy in 2016. In addition, we led the Sunflower County Systems Change Project to create narrative change

for young men and boys of color and to establish restorative justice approaches as school policy that would decrease the number of youth court referral cases.

The data strongly suggests that much more work needs to be done. In Mississippi, there are more law enforcement and security guards inside Mississippi schools than nurses, psychologists, and social workers combined. More law enforcement presence leads to a more threatening school climate, and the most vulnerable students funneled into the school to prison pipeline. As a result, students with disabilities and students of color are disproportionately sent into the criminal system.

There are, however, steps that can be taken to provide students with the supports they need.

RECOMMENDATIONS

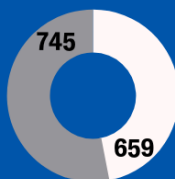
- Increase funding for student support services, including mental health staffing and programming. Prioritize education funding for student support services over law enforcement.
- Ensure that all schools have at least the recommended staff-to-student ratios for each school-based mental health staff, including as counselors, psychologists, social workers and nurses.
- Provide equal protection for students, ensuring that school discipline and law enforcement involvement is not administered unfairly or in ways that discriminate against students of color, students with disabilities, or others who may face disparate discipline (i.e., LGBTQ students).
- Ensure that law enforcement officers are provided with comprehensive and appropriate training on critical topics, such as child/adolescent development, implicit bias, and de-escalation tactics.
- End practices like school arrests and law enforcement referrals that criminalize youth for common adolescent behaviors, including misdemeanors like disorderly conduct.
- Adopt school codes of conduct that reject zero tolerance policies for more appropriate, child-centered responses to challenging behavior.

Read the full report at www.aclu.org/copsandnocounselors.



The glaring deficit of mental health staff combined with the growing use of law enforcement in Mississippi schools is unacceptable.

Law Enforcement & Security
Guards
53.1%



Nurses, Psychologists, Social
Workers
46.9%

Keep our students safe and out of the school to prison pipeline.

Learn more at www.aclu-ms.org/publications/copsnocounselors

We Must Include the Transgender Community in the Gun Violence Prevention Movement

BY MARY HELEN ABEL, MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER OF MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA



International Transgender Day of Visibility was on March 31, and with it came a chance to increase awareness for a critical issue in the transgender community: gun violence. Though gun violence prevention is incredibly important to me, I didn't know anyone who identified as transgender and did not fully understand the impact gun violence has on the transgender community.

In April of 2018, I became the leader of the Mississippi chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a bipartisan grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. That same month, we began to plan for Gun Violence Awareness Day, our biggest event of the year. We know that all marginalized groups are disproportionately affected by gun violence and including voices from many of those communities in our speaker line up was paramount in the planning process. I reached out to the ACLU of MS's Transgender Education and Advocacy Program (TEAP) and was introduced to the program's Coordinator, Jensen Luke Matar. Not only did Jensen agree to speak, but he

also helped plan the event, eventually joining our leadership team and ultimately becoming a dear friend to my family.

It's one thing to intellectually know the facts: at least 26 transgender or gender non-conforming people were killed nationwide in 2018, at least 18 of the victims were killed with guns, and at least 22 victims were women of color. It is an entirely different thing to know that my friend is at greater risk of being a victim of gun violence simply because he chooses to be visible as his authentic self.

This year, March 31 meant something different to me. On that Sunday, I celebrated Jensen, the estimated 13,650 other Mississippian adults and 1,600 Mississippi youth who identify as transgender or gender-nonconforming. And just as Jensen joined Moms Demand Action as an ally for gun safety, my family and I joined Jensen on Sunday as allies of TEAP and the Mississippi Human Rights Campaign for a community beautification project. As we planted flowers in the colors of the trans flag and celebrated the visibility of our trans neighbors, we did so knowing

that that visibility comes with risks: risks of discrimination, risks of hatred and risks of violence.

Gun violence is a complex issue that affects all of us, though it affects different communities in different ways. As a heterosexual, cisgender, middle class, white woman, gun violence greets me unexpectedly—when a friend dies by suicide by gun or a school like one my children might attend becomes the latest scene of a mass shooting. Meeting Jensen opened my eyes to how this complex social issue impacts the trans community.

The truth of gun violence is that none of us can hide from its impact; not in the middle and not on the margins. Now, I am committed to ensuring that as we advocate for gun safety and common-sense gun legislation in Mississippi, we take extra care to make sure the transgender community is included in the conversation. Together, we are working to make Mississippi a safer place for all, where no one lives in fear of gun violence.

Mary Helen Abel is a member of the TEAP-MS Coalition. This op-ed originally ran in the Clarion Ledger.



TRANS UNITY

ACLU of MS & TEAP collaborated with The Spectrum Center for a Trans Summit in Hattiesburg, MS in January. TEAP Advocate Jensen Matar (front row, center) provided information about the Mississippi Civil Right Act proposal, how to engage with policymakers, and the ID Me Project, which helps individuals match their identification with their identity.

We have been working in partnership with The Spectrum Center and local activist Hannah Stratos (front row, 3rd from the left) to get the Hattiesburg City Council to pass a non-discrimination ordinance to provide local civil rights protections inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity. To help us with this effort, please email teapms@aclu-ms.org.



FROM NEW YORK TO MISSISSIPPI

Students from Hunter College in New York City, NY visited with us as part of The Grove Mississippi Service Corps, a prestigious and rigorous opportunity to learn from accomplished community leaders and scholars through a comparative lens about community cohesion, direct service, and urban development. Students conducted research in support of bail reform and learned about the important work that the ACLU of MS is doing to create a more just Mississippi. Pictured are Director of Communications and Advocacy Zakiya Summers; students Asmeron Nur, Poonam Das, and Sharon Young, and Advocacy Coordinator Shalonda Spencer at the Mississippi State Capitol.



WINSTON COUNTY NAACP KING CELEBRATION

ACLU of MS Executive Director Jennifer Riley Collins provided an inspirational keynote at the Winston County NAACP Branch Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program. She is pictured here with Branch President Dean Miller and former State President Charles Hampton.



WAAM & ITA-MS MAKES STAFF CONFERENCE APPEARANCE

The We Are All Mississippi Campaign and TEAP-MS's I Too Am Storytelling Project was featured during the ACLU Staff Conference in Houston, Texas this past February. Zakiya Summers provided a presentation that walked southern regional affiliates and colleagues through the journey of both programs from inception to today.

INTERN SPOTLIGHT



Gracie Gadow

is a Jackson, Mississippi native and St. Joseph High School graduate. She earned a B.A. in art history from Millsaps College,

where she also studied political science. She is currently in her second year at Mississippi College School of Law. Gracie is interning with the legal department at the ACLU because she is passionate about the work of the ACLU of Mississippi and believes that everyone should have access to justice.

LET MISSISSIPPI VOTE



2019 ELECTION DATES

AUG. 6: PRIMARY
AUG. 27: PRIMARY RUN-OFF*
NOV. 5: GENERAL
NOV. 26: GENERAL RUN-OFF*

***IF NECESSARY**

Polls open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.



VOTER ID

You must show photo ID to vote in-person in Mississippi.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Register in-person at your county circuit clerk's office by 5 p.m. or postmark your application by these dates in order to participate in the upcoming elections. See Election Dates to the left.

FOR PRIMARY ELECTION: JULY 8

FOR PRIMARY RUN-OFF ELECTION: JULY 29

FOR GENERAL ELECTION: OCT. 7

FOR GENERAL RUN-OFF ELECTION: OCT. 28

To register to vote in Mississippi, you must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be a resident of Mississippi
- Be 18 years old at the time of the next election
- Live in the town where you are registering for at least 30 days
- Not be disenfranchised by one of the 23 crimes listed below

Voter Rights

- No one can refuse your right to vote if you are legally eligible to vote.
- You cannot be threatened, intimidated, or paid to vote by anyone.
- If your name does not appear in the poll book or you lack a photo ID, you are entitled to an affidavit ballot. If you vote by affidavit ballot because you did not present a photo ID, you have **five** business days immediately following Election Day to present a photo ID or religious exception at your county circuit clerk's office.
- You may receive assistance if you have a disability, are blind or are not able to read or write. Some exceptions apply.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Absentee Voting

You may vote by absentee at your county circuit clerk's office if:

- you will be away from your county on Election Day;
- you have temporarily relocated for educational purposes;
- you have a temporary or permanent physical disability;
- you will be with your spouse, child, or dependent who is hospitalized;
- you are 65 years of age or older;
- you are required to work on Election Day;
- you are a member, spouse, or dependent of the congressional delegation;
- you are a disabled war veteran (or spouse/dependent of) in a hospital;
- you are affiliated with the U.S. Armed Forces

Absentee Voting is available starting **June 22** for the *Primary Election* and **September 21** for the *General Election*.

For more information, visit our Voting Resource Center at www.aclu-ms.org/letMSvote

DISENFRANCHISING CRIMES

1. Arson
2. Armed Robbery
3. Bigamy
4. Bribery
5. Carjacking
6. Embezzlement
7. Extortion
8. Felony Bad Check
9. Felony Shoplifting
10. Forgery
11. Larceny
12. Murder
13. Perjury
14. Obtaining Money/Goods under False Pretenses
15. Rape
16. Receiving Stolen Property
17. Robbery
18. Theft
19. Timber Larceny
20. Unlawful Taking of Motor Vehicle
21. Statutory Rape
22. Larceny Under Lease or Rental Agreement
23. Voter Fraud

- Disenfranchised crimes take away citizens' voting rights for life due to a specific criminal conviction.
- Voting rights can only be restored if the state legislature passes a suffrage bill in your name or the governor issues a pardon.
- Federal and out of state convictions do **NOT** impact your voting rights in Mississippi.