

November 23, 2022



FROM THE DESK OF
COMMISSIONER
BRENT BAILEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

Brent Bailey



For nearly three years with very few exceptions, on these pages you have witnessed me offer my opinions, share key information, report on utility matters, advocate for programs, document my travels and so much more. It has been my honor and pleasure to bring you weekly updates from the Central District of the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

However, this week I wanted to switch gears a bit and put more of a focus on the things outside of the typical daily workday routine. Therefore, I asked the staff of the Central District to share their thoughts on what Thanksgiving means to them, offer a short story, or reveal how they plan to spend the Thanksgiving holidays. I appreciate them for taking the time to express their sentiments. I hope you enjoy their reflections, as I am sure these resonate with many of you:

George-Anthony Butler, Consumer Complaint Specialist

Thanksgiving for me is really about stopping to recognize each and every blessing in my life. I am so grateful for everything God has given me, from a great place to work with caring people, to all my family and their happiness. I'm always especially grateful that they are safe, happy, and healthy. I'm also grateful for the freedoms we have in this country and the moments we can gather to share with and love one another.

Natalie Woods, Consumer Complaint Specialist

Thanksgiving is a day of family and friends. I'm grateful to have a roof over my head, and able to get up every day and to breathe the breath of life. I'm grateful to be able to be around my mom and fiancé during the holidays. Meanwhile, my mother and I begin Thanksgiving morning with our traditional cooking. Afterwards, we watch our favorite classic movies for the rest of the day.

Tina Carter-Sawyer, Director of Consumer Services

Thanksgiving for me means three very specific things; Family, Food, and Finding awesome Black Friday Specials! I am so thankful for my family and friends. I thank God daily for the many blessings he has bestowed upon me. I am thankful for great health, a prosperous career, and the ability to be able to help Mississippians on a daily basis! On that note, I leave you all with a short Thanksgiving poem I will say before I eat my feast!

Mr. Turkey, nice and fat. I'm going to eat you, and that is that! Happy Thanksgiving Day!

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Gail Strength, Administrative Assistant

What am I thankful for this Thanksgiving? I'm thankful for my Lord and Savior, my mom, my daughter, my son-in-law, and becoming part of the Mississippi Public Service Commission Central District family! What a blessing to work with an awesome group of folks. This year has brought so many new and good changes to my life! My holiday plans include the annual Fleet Feet Thanksgiving Day 8K, road tripping, good eating and sleeping late!

Susan Watkins, Director of Operations

I love the Thanksgiving holiday! It brings my family together to share meals and memories. It is also a time when I pause to reflect on all the things and people for which I am thankful. Lots of hustle and bustle, good food, lots of laughs, parades, games, people I love all together fills my heart with gratitude and thankfulness.

Davis Gates, Legal and Policy Advisor

Thanksgiving means three things to my family and I, and that's Family, Food, and Football. It may sound cliché, but it holds true at the Gates household. Every year is different, but that one thing has always remained the same. Family members from all over the country travel miles and miles back to their Mississippi roots where they fellowship, overeat delicious foods, and talk trash to each other during the Ole Miss vs. MS State Egg Bowl game. There will never be anything quite like it, and I always love and cherish my time with my family and friends. Well, at least until everyone leaves and I'm stuck cleaning up the mess they left.

Rachael Ring Watts, Public Affairs Director

My Thanksgiving holiday usually starts off with me going to Kroger first thing in the morning the day before Thanksgiving (in my pajamas) to catch the crazy show of the last-minute shoppers fighting over the last turkey. On the other hand, Thanksgiving means that I am able to see my family from all over Mississippi, some I only see this one day of the year. It also symbolizes a time of the year that I'm reminded daily of the many blessings I'm so very grateful for throughout the year, including my husband, my two amazing daughters, our home, our supportive family and friends, our church family, our work families, and our ability to battle the many storms throughout the year with the strength from our Lord. Thanksgiving is a celebration for us to commemorate the many gifts that life delivers to us daily.

Brent Bailey, Commissioner

I am thankful to have such a wonderful, attentive and caring staff. Did you notice that the common word used in each of the staff's submission is "family?" Whether it is your home family, work family, church family, sports family or other, it is important to have people in your life who you can look after and who can look after you.

Like so many of my staff above, I also look forward to gathering with friends and family, enjoying typical autumn dishes, rooting for my MSU Bulldogs, and spending some time in the woods. I am very thankful to have your support and your interest in our work. **On behalf of the staff of the Central District, I'm wishing you and your loved ones a safe, relaxing and Happy Thanksgiving!!!**



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **29** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	21
Water/Sewer	4
Telecommunications	3
Natural Gas	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **204** complaints from consumers against potential telemarketers through our no call app, website and mail-ins.

We encourage consumers to file telemarketing complaints with the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.donotcall.gov/> in addition to filing complaints with the Mississippi Public Service Commission.