



# Exchange



January 2026

Issue #17



**662/471  
AREA CODE  
OVERLAY:  
KEY FACTS**

- Telephone numbers, including the current area code, will not change.
- Telephone numbers with the new 471 area code will only be assigned for new services after the existing 662 area code is exhausted.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- What is considered a local call now will remain a local call.
- Customers will continue to dial 10 digits for local calls within and between the overlay area codes and 1+10 digits for long distance calls.
- Customers can still dial just three digits to reach 911 and 988, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711, and 811 if those are currently available in their community.

## WORKING FOR YOU: NEW 471 AREA CODE COMING TO NORTH MISSISSIPPI

To meet growing demand for phone numbers, the Mississippi Public Service Commission has approved a new 471 area code to overlay the existing 662 region, which includes cities like Southaven, Tupelo, Greenwood, Greenville, Oxford, Horn Lake, Starkville, Columbus, Corinth, and Memphis as well as many other smaller communities.

### What You Need to Know:

- Starting January 30, 2026, new numbers may be assigned the 471 area code once 662 numbers run out.
- Both area codes will co-exist, and 10-digit dialing will continue for all local calls.
- Current phone numbers will not change, and call rates or local calling areas remain the same.
- Emergency and service numbers (911, 988, etc.) are unaffected.
- Customers should ensure any equipment or systems recognize the new 471 area code. [Read more>>>](#)

### Upcoming at the Commission

- FEB 17** Commission's February Open Meeting 11:00 a.m.  
*Commission's Hearing Room*
- FEB 4-6** MAS 2026 Mid-Winter Legislative Conference  
*Flowood, MS*
- FEB 18-19** MS Natural Gas Association 38th Annual TradeShow  
*Tupelo, MS*

### JANUARY OPEN MEETING

The Commission conducted its January Open Meeting Tuesday, January 13 to consider items on the docket.

**AGENDA**

**WATCH NOW**



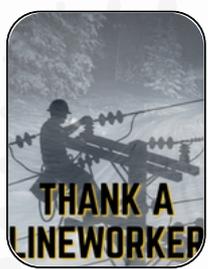
**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**




**Working For You!**




Our Pipeline Safety Division **joined** Mississippi 811, Inc., Paradigm, and several others Thursday for a pipeline safety training in Pearl. Paradigm partners with communities to pre-plan and effectively respond to pipeline emergencies, ensuring safety and preparedness.



## SAFETY

**BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A WINTER STORM**

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL REMINDERS OF WAYS TO STAY SAFE THIS WEEKEND IN ANTICIPATION OF WINTER WEATHER



[WWW.PSC.MS.GOV](http://WWW.PSC.MS.GOV)

### Mississippi Public Service Commissioners Host Mississippi's ENERGY WORKFORCE & EDUCATION SUMMIT

**POSTPONED**



Central District Commissioner  
De'Keither A. Stamps



Northern District Chairman  
Chris Brown



Southern District Commissioner  
Wayne Carr

Exclusive Breakout Session for Students immediately following the summit 12:00-12:30 p.m.

**POSTPONED** DUE TO WEATHER

For more information and to register for the Summit, visit: [WWW.PSC.MS.GOV](http://WWW.PSC.MS.GOV)

**SAVE THE DATE** Thursday, April 2 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

MPSC Courtyard  
Woodruff Building  
501 N West Street, Jackson

**The Commission's Energy Workforce & Education Summit has been postponed due to the winter weather event.**

**New Date: April 2, 2026**

**View the Agenda**

**REGISTER NOW >**



CHAIRMAN

WWW.PSC.MS.GOV



# Chris Brown

Northern District



## Highlights from the Northern District:



### Winter Storm Fern

Over the past week, North Mississippi and much of our state has been facing a severe winter weather event consisting of ice, snow, and dangerous travel conditions that have disrupted daily life, damaged utility systems, and created serious public safety challenges for thousands of families.

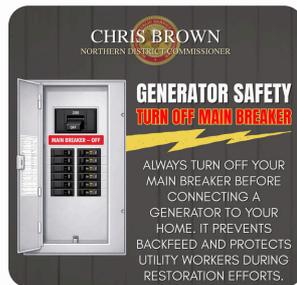
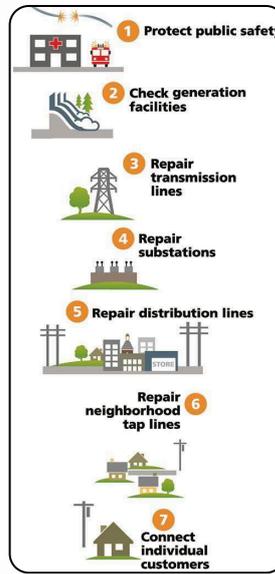
Tragically, lives have been lost because of this storm. Our hearts and prayers are with the families who are grieving and with the communities impacted by these heartbreaking losses. These events remind us that severe weather is not only inconvenient, it can be life-threatening, and must always be taken seriously. Many residents continue to experience power and water disruptions as crews work through hazardous conditions and widespread system damage. The scale of the impact has been significant, particularly in areas served by aging infrastructure that remains vulnerable during extreme weather.

I am deeply grateful for the linemen, utility crews, first responders, and National Guard who have worked tirelessly, in dangerous conditions, to protect lives and restore essential services. Their professionalism, courage, and commitment to public service reflect the very best of Mississippi. We are also thankful for the leadership and rapid response of the Mississippi Rural Water Association, which has coordinated the deployment of emergency generators to small and rural water systems across the region to help maintain water service and protect public health during prolonged power outages. These efforts have been critical in stabilizing vulnerable systems when they were needed most.

Tennessee Valley Authority crews have worked around the clock to repair damaged transmission infrastructure, including the use of helicopters to access hard-to-reach areas and accelerate repairs. Effective coordination and information sharing are essential during large-scale events, and we are grateful for our strong working relationship with TVA that has greatly helped us ensure information reaches the public as soon as possible.

Throughout this event, our office has remained focused on keeping the public informed, supporting coordination among agencies and utilities, and helping ensure that critical resources are directed toward restoring reliable service as safely and efficiently as possible. Transparency and timely communication remain a priority, especially during emergencies that directly impact public safety and daily life. As recovery continues, we remain committed to accountability, preparedness, and strengthening the reliability of our utility systems.

Above all, we continue to lift our state in prayer. For the families who have suffered loss, for those still without essential services, for the men and women working long hours in difficult conditions, and for the safety and resilience of our communities: May God grant comfort, protection, wisdom, and strength as we continue our recovery.



**CLICK HERE TO CONNECT WITH THE NORTHERN DISTRICT**

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1-800-356-6428





# De'Keither Stamps

Central District



## Highlights from the Central District:

> As we welcome a new year, I want to begin by acknowledging the winter storm that impacted communities across Mississippi. My prayers are with the families who lost loved ones and with all those still recovering. I also want to sincerely thank our linemen, first responders, emergency management teams, utility crews, and everyone working behind the scenes who responded swiftly and selflessly to help our state during and after the storm.

This month, my work included the following:

- Proposed a resolution at the Commission docket advocating for the elimination of fluoride, continuing important discussions around public health, transparency, and cumulative exposure.
- Met with members of the Legislature to discuss FY 27 budget priorities and advocate for the needs of Mississippi residents.
- Spoke at the Brandon Rotary Club about the work of the Public Service Commission and key issues impacting utilities and infrastructure across the state.
- Attended the Gulf Coast Legislative Conference to engage with legislators, stakeholders, and partners on policy priorities affecting the Gulf Coast and the state as a whole.
- During the winter storm response, I could not simply sit by. I went directly into impacted communities in Sunflower and Humphreys counties to assist residents, pass out aid, and meet with local elected officials, including supervisors, mayors, a state representative, and aldermen, to discuss major challenges related to power restoration and utility services.

As we move forward into this new year, I remain committed to being present, responsive, and engaged, both in policy discussions and on the ground in our communities, while continuing to serve the people of Mississippi.

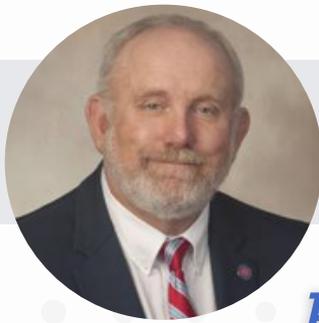


#DeKeitherStamps #ManOnAMission #CommissionerDeKeitherStamps

**CLICK HERE TO CONNECT WITH THE CENTRAL DISTRICT**

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# Wayne Carr

Southern District



## Highlights from the Southern District:



➤ **January Docket Highlight:**

One important issue highlighted at this month's docket was the growing workforce shortage. With far more people leaving the workforce than entering it, this places strain on our economy and essential services. Emphasizing the need to advocate not only for traditional college but also for vocational and trade schools is an important aspect to the future of our communities.

➤ **Mississippi Power Meeting Update:**

We had an engaging productive meeting with Mississippi Power focused on collaboration and transparency. Open communication and accountability matter, and we remain committed to ensuring the needs of the people always come first. Serving the citizens of our great state is not just a responsibility, it is a commitment we take seriously.

➤ **Prayer Breakfast at First Baptist Church of Jackson:**

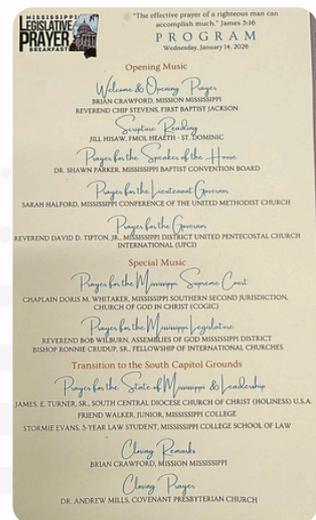
We are grateful for a wonderful prayer breakfast at First Baptist Church of Jackson where believers came together to bow their heads and seek God in prayer. Moments like these remind us of the power, strength, and direction that come when God's people unite and put prayer first.

➤ **Thankful to Our Utility Workers:**

We are incredibly thankful for the utility companies and line crews who stepped up without hesitation and who are helping restore power for our neighbors in the northern part of our state. These men and women are working long hours in harsh conditions, leaving their own homes and families to bring light and warmth back to others. Their dedication is a powerful reminder of what service, teamwork, and looking out for one another truly means.



#ThankALineworker



**CLICK HERE TO CONNECT WITH THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

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