



EMPOWER
MISSISSIPPI

UNLEASH
MISSISSIPPI

2021 AGENDA

ABOUT US

At Empower, we believe that every Mississippian can rise. Our work focuses on removing barriers to opportunity so that all people in the Magnolia State can earn success, contribute to their families and communities, and live meaningful lives.

Our approach is different. We are focused. We develop and leverage actual expertise on the biggest challenges facing Mississippi.

We are outcome-driven. It's not enough to just be in the arena. There has to be real change that benefits real people.

Our model provides a platform to amplify the voices of people most affected by public policy. We meet with impacted citizens and we share their stories.

Finally, we go beyond public policy to engage communities and develop innovative solutions.

In short, we turn ideas into action, through three focused initiatives on Education, Work and Justice. In the pages that follow, we'll share our priorities for 2021 and some of what drives us as an organization.

EDUCATION



CORE VALUE

Every child is unique, full of potential and deserving of a quality education that meets their individual needs.

Mississippi's children are more than a score on a test. Our education system should nurture the whole student, instilling in each child the desire & skills to be a lifelong learner, and preparing them for success long after they leave the classroom.

Education decisions should primarily be made by families, in our schools, and in our communities. Not in Jackson or Washington, D.C. We need to trust teachers to experiment & innovate in their classrooms, and trust families with the ability to choose the education option best for their individual child.

2021 PRIORITIES:



Improve access to virtual learning for families whose needs are best met through remote learning options.



Expand 'Districts of Innovation' to restore more local control to more school districts across the state and give educators the support and freedom they need.



Launch 'New Schools Initiative' to help education entrepreneurs start new school options in their communities.

WORK



CORE VALUE

Every Mississippian can be a contributor and deserves the opportunity to earn success & find fulfillment in their work.

All work is noble. For Mississippi to rise as a state we must empower our greatest natural resource: Our People.

The accumulated body of regulation in Mississippi makes it hard for many of our people to find work, start a business or grow a business.

Rightsizing regulation alone is not enough. We must actively strive to remove disincentives to work & to create an atmosphere conducive to growth with fair economic and tax policy.



2021 PRIORITIES:

Leverage existing law to begin paring back occupational regulations that discourage entrepreneurship, and build awareness to support larger scale red tape reduction.



Reform regulations that prevent qualified medical providers from delivering health care.



Launch independent Work Task Force with leaders from across Mississippi to identify biggest impediments to economic opportunity and develop feasible solutions.

JUSTICE



CORE VALUE

A fair & equitable justice system that provides a pathway to redemption is foundational to a safe & functioning society.

The rule of law is essential to our system of justice. Laws must be clear, fair & applied equally across the population. Criminal laws must be designed & executed to protect public safety, guarantee that every suspected offender is afforded due process, ensure that any punishment dispensed by the state fits the crime, & when no danger is posed to the community, that there is a path to rehabilitation, restoration & redemption.

With the second highest incarceration rate in the country, coming at substantial cost to the state & our families, Mississippi can do better.

2021 PRIORITIES:



Implement habitual & parole reforms to address Mississippi's prison crisis by safely reducing the inmate population.



Implement expungement & occupational licensing reforms to make it easier for a released offender to find work.



Partner with law enforcement & prosecutors to expand pre-trial diversion tools available to them.



CONTACT US

1000 Northpark Drive
Ridgeland, MS 39157
(601)-980-1897
info@EmpowerMS.org

Visit [EmpowerMS.org](https://www.EmpowerMS.org) to Learn More