



Position: Senior Vice President

Office located in Ridgeland, Mississippi

At Empower, we are passionate about creating the opportunity for every Mississippian to rise. It shouldn't matter what neighborhood a kid is born into or what his or her parents do for a living; every Mississippian deserves an opportunity to pursue the American dream. We remove barriers to opportunity in **education, work, and our justice** system so that all Mississippians can flourish.

Empower was built to be different, with a laser focus on tackling the biggest challenges facing the state. We put people over divisive politics, and we work to give voice and hope to those most impacted by public policy decisions, especially parents, students, entrepreneurs, and those who are working to rebuild their lives.

The Empower team is led by Mississippians who understand both the blessings and challenges of the Magnolia state. With decades of experience in the public policy arena, we have built the largest and most influential advocacy organization in the state. Over the last nine years, we have grown to a nearly \$2 million operation that includes 8 full-time team members and multiple separate entities, including: Empower Mississippi, Empower Mississippi Foundation, Empower PAC, and our latest project, Embark LLC, a new school incubator.

Our aim is nothing short of making Mississippi the most opportunity-rich state in the nation, and we're well on our way!

ROLE

Empower seeks a Senior Vice President (SVP) to lead the advocacy team, oversee policy, communications, and government affairs at one of the most innovative and pioneering organizations in the South.

The right candidate will be a leader, a champion for sound policy change, a bridge builder, a strategist, someone who is motivated by results, and will keep the team focused on our strategic objectives while adjusting tactics and priorities within those objectives in real time.

The position requires some travel, will report to the CEO, and will work out of Empower's Ridgeland office.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Strategic Planning:** Oversee the development and implementation of the policy sections of the organization's strategic plan. SVP will ensure that all Empower projects, publications, and events are aligned with the strategic plan.
- **Policy** – Oversee the development of each of Empower's three policy areas (education, work, and justice) and the strategy for achieving the objectives. SVP would advocate through public speeches, radio, op-eds, and other avenues as deemed necessary.

- **Government Affairs** – Build relationships with legislators and state-wide elected officials as needed to lead Empower’s government affairs strategy, which will include managing all organization lobbying and contract lobbyists.
- **Communications** – Oversee and approve all Empower mass communication to ensure consistent messaging in line with Empower ideals.
- **Coalition Building** – Bring together issue coalitions of other organizations to advance the policy agenda.
- **Development** – Assist the CEO with development when necessary, especially when Empower is requesting grant funding for a policy-specific project.
- **Team:** The SVP will supervise the Communications, Outreach, and Policy team members, as well as the team of contributing fellows.
- **Board** – Attend all Board of Directors meetings and make reports as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS

- 10+ Years of experience in public policy or government affairs leadership
- Deep understanding of and commitment to the mission of Empower Mississippi
- Ability to effectively interact with legislators, media, stakeholders, and public
- Familiarity with Mississippi legislators and legislative process important, but not required
- Experience managing staff and building teams
- Entrepreneurial spirit and ability to be a self-starter
- Excellent writing, editing, and public presentation and communication skills
- Must be well-organized, self-directed and goal oriented; able to manage multiple projects

BENEFITS

- Salary will be highly competitive, commensurate with the experience, expertise, and skills of the candidate
- Family coverage health insurance provided
- Matching retirement plan up to 3%
- Cell phone or reimbursements for needed mobile technology

HOW TO APPLY

- Qualified candidates should submit the following in one PDF document to Gina Metzger at gina@empowerms.org:
 - Cover letter detailing your interest in the position and the organization’s mission and your salary requirements
 - Resume