

Mississippi Legislator REPORT CARD

2006 Grades

Includes 2006 Regular Session
Special Sessions in 2005 and 2006

<u>Dist</u>	<u>Senator</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Eval</u>
20	Charlie Ross [R]	Brandon	96
13	Willie Simmons [D]	Cleveland	52
34	Billy Thames [D]	Mize	74
21	Joseph Thomas [D]	Yazoo City	49
9	Gray Tollison [D]	Oxford	59
16	Bennie Turner [D]	West Point	48
43	Shannon Walley [D]	Leakesville	77
12	Johnnie Walls, Jr. [D]	Greenville	42
29	Richard White [R]	Terry	91
5	J. P. Wilemon, Jr. [D]	Belmont	82
18	Gloria Williams [D]	Philadelphia	38

Political *FIRSTS* from BIPEC . . .

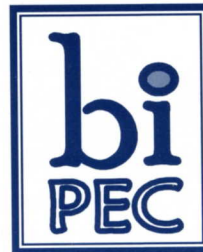
- √ Numerical grading of legislators - 1980
- √ P-Base Study - 174 districts - 1981
- √ #-based employer unification - 1983
- √ Led employer judicial involvement - 1994
- √ Numerical grading SC Justices - 1996
- √ Unified legislative election targeting by 30 trade associations - 1999
- √ IMPAC's *Independent Expenditure* in Judicial Elections - 2000
- √ 3-race sweep - 2002 Judicial Elections

"High scoring legislators support economic growth and jobs."

researched and calculated for
MISSISSIPPI CITIZENS
by

Business & Industry Political Education Committee

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"Published grades earned not given."

Details about evaluation process

What are the four performance levels?

Lawmakers are grouped into four performance levels. Each level indicates to business leaders how, in general, legislators support economic growth, jobs and other broad job-related issues.

BUSINESS CHAMPION	76 - 100
MODERATE BUSINESS SUPPORT	56 - 75
MARGINAL BUSINESS HELP	41 - 55
ANTI-BUSINESS	0 - 40

What does a performance evaluation mean?

BIPEC's performance evaluation (Eval.) is a measuring stick used to determine each legislator's business philosophy, attitude and effectiveness in supporting growth of jobs in Mississippi. Over 60 business and professional leaders participate in the rating process. Key factors of the assessment are:

- Legislator's votes on clearly identified economic principles and employer issues
- Leadership in committee and floor debates on job-related legislation
- Encouragement of other legislators to support economic growth and build coalitions

What types of votes are used in the ratings?

It is important to note that no single issue dominated BIPEC's ratings. A great deal of effort is made to ensure that the votes chosen represent a broad cross-section of employer-related issues. Votes impacting operating costs and restriction of management choices are viewed as very important. Key subject areas include:

- Government growth
- Government regulation
- Privatization of government services
- Lawsuit reduction
- Environmental protection
- labor/management issues
- incentives for job growth
- Workers Compensation
- business taxation
- government spending controls

Who is BIPEC?

BIPEC was founded in 1980 by Mississippi business leaders to provide the solid research to identify legislative candidates who have a base of business knowledge. Members of BIPEC include individuals, hundred of small and large Mississippi businesses, and more than 35 trade associations.

BIPEC represents overall employer interest in Mississippi and is not tied to one industry. It is non-partisan, not a lobbying group, and not a political action committee (PAC). BIPEC can freely research, rate and recommend business-minded individuals who will promote economic growth and Mississippi jobs without worrying about party politics or lobbying for particular issues.

