



Mississippi Secretary of State's Office

Thursday, October 21, 2020

Dear Mississippi educators and administrators,

The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, in partnership with Mississippi Public Broadcasting's (MPB) Education arm, is excited to announce the 2020 theme for our Promote the Vote Program. This year's "**The Future of My Vote**" theme will encourage students to "think outside of the [ballot] box" and imagine how the voting process may change over the next 40 years.

Promote the Vote (PTV) is the Secretary of State's comprehensive K-12 voter education program that consists of a statewide mock election, an essay contest, and an art contest. The art contest is available for Kindergarten through 12th Grade students, and the essay contest is available to any student in grades 6-12. Both contests will ask students to express what they think our voting process will look like in the year 2060. Our office will hold a special awards ceremony for all contest winners and their teachers sometime in early 2021.

All Mississippi schools are encouraged to participate in the statewide PTV Mock Election on Thursday, October 29, 2020. During that time, students will cast their ballot for who they think is the best candidate for President. The names on the mock election ballot will mirror the names on the official 2020 General Election ballot. Our office will provide an online guide filled with instructions and tips to holding your own mock election, as well as additional supplemental materials to use throughout the semester. We encourage you to get creative with your school/classroom's mock election. The goal is for students to get a glimpse of what Election Day feels like and learn more about the importance of voicing their opinion at the polls. Anyone wishing to participate in our PTV program must register online at www.sos.ms.gov/PTV. If you have any questions or need assistance registering for the mock election or PTV contests, please contact our Communication and Publications Division at (601) 359-6344.

Please know that I am incredibly proud of your creativity and resilience during this extraordinary school year. I look forward to working with all of you to help educate the next generation of Mississippi voters.

Accept, sir and madam, my sincere regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Watson".

MICHAEL WATSON
Secretary of State
State of Mississippi