



# STENNIS SPOTLIGHT

The latest updates on SIG, policy, and community

## 2023 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

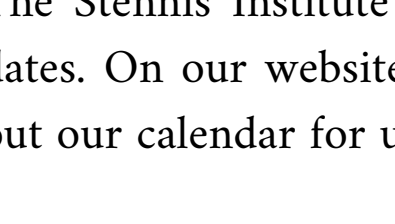
The summer is upon us as we head towards a new academic school year. My talented team and I are delighted to bring you up to date with some of our activity from the past few months and prepare you for the months ahead. We have been extremely busy at the Institute, traversing the State while educating, training, and collaborating with the great people of Mississippi.

Inside this spotlight, I hope you will pay close attention to the graduating students from the Stennis Institute, as they are poised to do incredible things in their future careers. Also, I hope you will see the great work we provide for the people of Mississippi as we continue to provide public service, research, and training for all in this region.

It is an honor to work alongside and with such terrific faculty, staff, and students at the Institute. Contact us at the Institute if we can assist you or anyone that may need our help. We are here for the people of Mississippi and the region.

Sincerely,

Joseph "Dallas" Breen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director & Asst. Research Professor



### GEAR UP FOR THE 2023 ELECTION

with our Elections Hub!

The Stennis Institute's Elections Hub is your one-stop shop for statewide candidates and election dates. On our website, click on your district's tab to find out who is running for office, and check out our calendar for upcoming dates as we approach the 2023 general election.

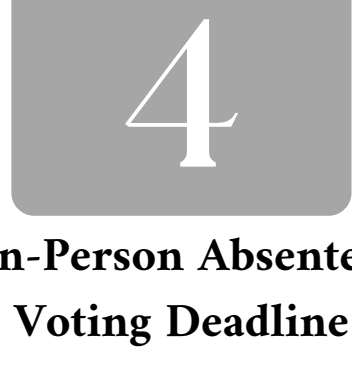
### UPCOMING DATES



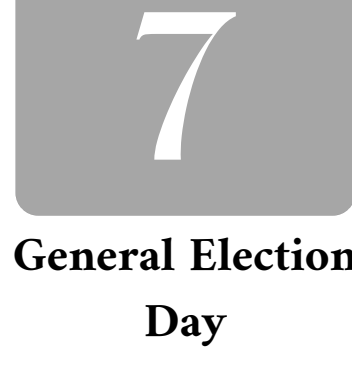
**Primary Runoff Election Day**



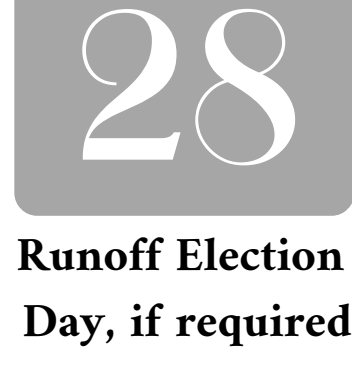
**Voter Registration Deadline for General Election**



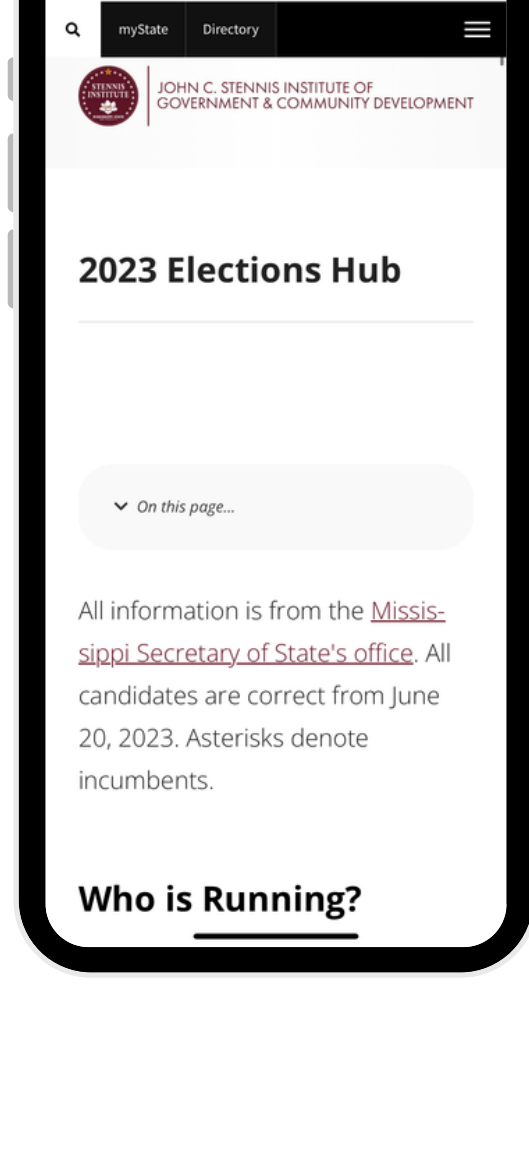
**In-Person Absentee Voting Deadline**



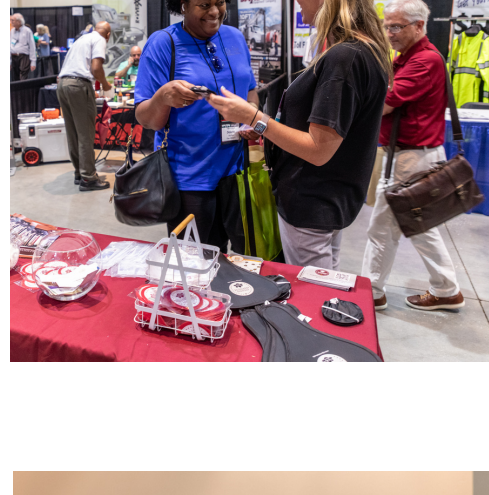
**General Election Day**



**Runoff Election Day, if required**



### 2023 MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE



The Mississippi Municipal League held its 92nd Annual Conference in Biloxi, MS, from June 26-28. Stennis Institute staff presented and networked with various municipalities and agencies. The Institute encourages leaders to embrace innovation, education, and partnerships creating leaders to best serve those that they represent.



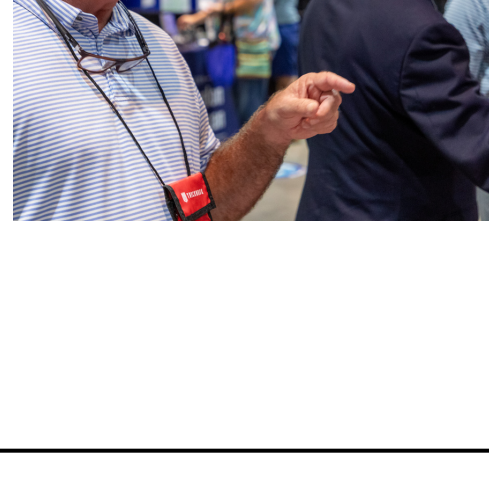
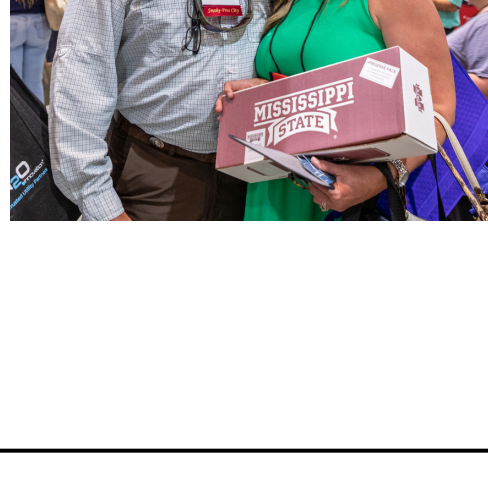
Dr. Joe Fratesi led two sessions during the conference: the first on municipal land use, and the other on engaging and aligning community groups.



Dr. Matt Peterson led a roundtable discussion on Classification and Compensation Studies for Local Government Officials, where he highlighted the 2023 Municipal Salary and Benefits Salary Summary.



Dr. Dallas Breen led his annual presentation on municipal organization. This session highlights the different forms of municipal governments in Mississippi.



### MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPAL SALARY & BENEFITS SURVEY

Don't miss the Stennis Institute's latest salary survey! The 2023 Mississippi Municipal Salary & Benefits survey is a partnership between the Stennis Institute and the Mississippi Municipal League. The purpose of the salary and benefits survey has always been to provide current market-based compensation data for many common local government positions.

Under the publications tab on our website, the Salary Survey can be viewed three different ways: statistical summary, municipalities listed alphabetically, or municipalities listed by population. The statistical summary provides a quick overview of each category divided by population ranges. The salary survey is also available to be viewed by each job title category for fast and easy access.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Joe Fratesi, Lauren Gardner, and Chance McDavid lead a Strategic Doing workshop in Natchez, MS.

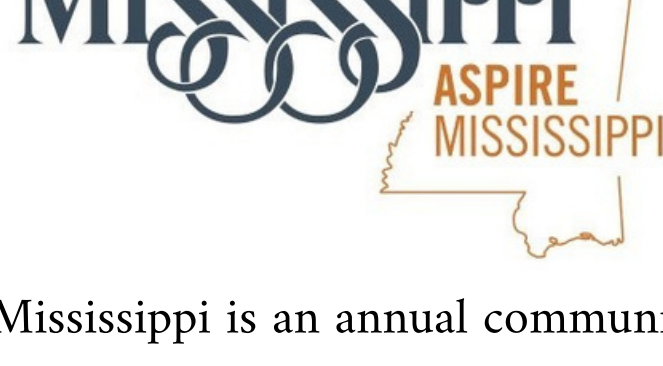


Dr. Joe Fratesi, Lauren Gardner, and Chance McDavid attended the Mississippi Economic and Development Council's Annual Conference in Biloxi, MS.



Leadership Natchez attendees collaborate and discuss group work concerning future goals and objectives for their community.

Check out the Community & Economic Development page on our website to learn more about bringing these programs and more to your community.

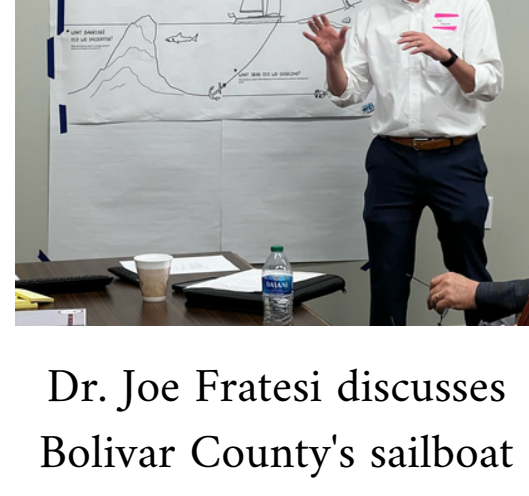


### ASPIRE MISSISSIPPI

Aspire Mississippi is an annual community development program sponsored by the Mississippi Development Authority and the Stennis Institute. The 2023 cohort includes Union, Bolivar, Pearl River, Hinds, and Amite counties. Through the technical assistance expertise offered by the Stennis Institute, including education and training opportunities, local teams have been able to identify and drive sustainable projects forward to positively improve long-term economic development efforts. Through the Institute's education and training opportunities, local teams can develop sustainable projects in order to improve long-term economic development efforts.



Active leaders in Hinds County discuss their goals and moving forward.



Dr. Joe Fratesi discusses Bolivar County's sailboat perspective activity with team members.



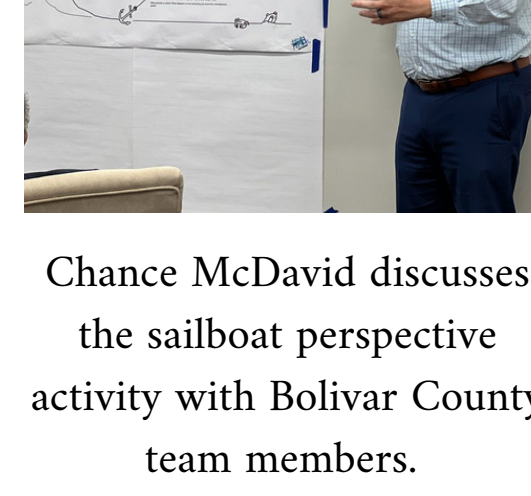
Pearl River County team members begin their meeting with a team building activity.



Union County team members work on a mapping project.



Tim Climer with Mississippi Development Authority welcomes the Amite County team members.



Chance McDavid discusses the sailboat perspective activity with Bolivar County team members.

### GRADUATING STUDENT WORKERS

We are proud of our Class of 2023 student workers!



**JOHN BOX**  
Master of Science  
in Information  
Systems



**BRITNEY NELSON**  
Master of Public  
Policy and  
Administration



**MARY MARTHA WILLSON**  
Bachelor of Arts in  
Communication and  
Political Science



**GRACE TROUTMAN**  
Bachelor of Science  
in Psychology