

Privatization Forces Seek Takeover of Mississippi Legislature

Mississippi voters face an election season that is increasingly flooded by out-of-state money, much of it coming from **school privatization backers attempting to defeat pro-public education candidates**. The lead actor in the onslaught, Empower MS, actively recruited pro-school choice candidates to run against pro-public school legislators in key Republican races. Empower MS PAC is funding the following Mississippi candidates using \$397,000 from the American Federation for Children (AFC), a national privatization organization that pushes for-profit charter schools and vouchers for private school tuition (see more below).

EMPOWER MS PAC - 2015 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

*Note: Individual totals listed below do not include donations after August 18, 2015. In addition to the direct campaign contributions listed here, **Empower MS PAC has spent \$103,000 in political operations and direct mail campaigns** to oppose pro-public school candidates in targeted races.*

Steve Hopkins \$36,600 (House District 7)	Robert Foster \$2,500 (House District 28)
Dana Criswell \$32,230 (House District 6)	Brad Mayo \$2,500 (House District 12)
Ashley Henley \$30,968 (House District 40)	John Moore \$2,500 (House District 60)
Randall Stephens \$30,474 (House District 61) – <i>Defeated in primary election</i>	Gray Tollison \$2,500 (Senate District 9)
Dan Eubanks \$21,000 (House District 25)	Joey Hood \$2,000 (House District 35)
Rob Goudy \$7,000 (House District 24) – <i>August 25 runoff election</i>	Mark Prince \$2,000 (House District 17) – <i>Defeated in primary election</i>
Carolyn Crawford \$5,000 (House District 121)	Kimberly Campbell \$1,500 (House District 72)
Tate Reeves \$5,000 (Lt. Governor)	Mark Formby \$1,000 (House District 108)
Deborah Dixon \$4,261 (House District 63)	Chris Johnson \$1,000 (House District 87) – <i>August 25 runoff election</i>
Nancy Collins \$3,500 (Senate District 6) – <i>Defeated in primary election</i>	Karl Oliver \$1,000 (House District 46) – <i>August 25 runoff election</i>
Randy Boyd \$2,500 (House District 19)	Noah Sanford \$1,000 (House District 90)
Charles Busby \$2,500 (House District 111)	Cory Wilson \$1,000 (House District 73)

TOTAL EMPOWER MS PAC CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS & REPORTED EXPENDITURES: \$304,533

(Source: Campaign Finance Reports, Mississippi Secretary of State, as of August 18, 2015, filing deadline)

The American Federation for Children was founded by Michigan billionaires Dick and Betsy DeVos. The group turned its attention to Mississippi in 2015 after successfully **bankrolling the wins of privatization candidates** in 2014 elections in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Not limiting its PAC money to legislative races, the AFC has also influenced judicial and local school board campaigns in other states. [Read more](#) about the AFC's wide web of campaign influence nationwide. Click [here](#) to view other funders of the Empower MS PAC.