




NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2018 MISSISSIPPI SENATE RACE

	Mike Espy (D)	Cindy Hyde-Smith (R- Incumbent)	Chris McDaniel (R)
<p>For mobile-friendly version & other guides, click here.</p> <p>For more detailed information on candidate positions visit their respective pages at votesmart.org</p> <p>To volunteer, visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • espyforsenate.com/ • mcdaniel2018.com/ • hydesmith.senate.gov/ 			
Abortion: Mostly ban or mostly legal?	Legal. "I'm anti-abortion, but I'm pro-choice." "Women should have the basic right to make their own decisions."	Ban. "100% pro-life."	Ban. Has authored repeated "legislation to protect the unborn." Voted to ban abortions after 15 weeks.
Economy: Support federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth?	Yes. Supports federal spending on infrastructure, broadband & childcare, to grow the economy.	Mixed. Sees value in federal spending on local projects. But "controlling spending" is priority.	No. Federal spending "crowds out private investment & discourages economic growth."
Economy: Support President Trump's imposition of tariffs on Chinese steel & other products?	No. Tariffs need to come to a halt. They harm Mississippi soybean production.	Yes. Hard for soybean growers, but they "just have to hold on... They will be better off in the long run."	Yes. "China First is NOT America First. Mexico First is NOT America first."
Environment: Support restraints on Environmental Protection Administration (EPA)?	No position found.	Yes. Supports the deregulatory path taken by Trump EPA.	Yes. Calls for "regulatory reform of the Environmental Protection Agency."
Financial Regulation: Support cutbacks in Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)?	No. Need "laws against waste, fraud & corruption" to protect people. "Wall Street seems immune from any restraint."	Unclear. Voted to roll back CFPB rule limiting potentially discriminatory auto loan rates.	Unclear on CFPB. End "burdensome regulations." Require Congress to approve new regulations.
Gay Marriage: Support gay marriage?	Yes. "Committed to ALL Mississippians having access to their rights of citizenship," regardless of sexual orientation.	No. "Personally believes marriage is between a man & a woman."	No. Supreme Court gay marriage decision "has absolutely no basis" in Constitution or common law.
Gun Control: Support more restrictive gun control legislation? Restrict semi-automatic weapons?	Yes, up to a point. "I believe in the Second Amendment... but things have changed." No assault weapons to anyone under 21 or "declared a danger to himself or others."	No. Says, "Right to bear arms is essential to American Liberty... No law-abiding Mississippian should EVER be denied their constitutional rights."	No. Will never takes away rights of law-abiding gun-owners. Allow citizens to purchase & carry firearms without government permission.
Healthcare: Support or Repeal Affordable Care Act (ACA), known as Obamacare?	Support. Protect while expanding mental health & prescription drug coverage & offering preventive services without cost-sharing.	Repeal Obamacare. Help families afford health insurance coverage without expanding government role.	Repeal. "I WILL support & vote for the full repeal of Obamacare."

	Mike Espy (D)	Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Incumbent)	Chris McDaniel (R)
Healthcare: Allow Planned Parenthood to receive public funds for non-abortion health services?	Probable yes. Says will fight for women’s rights & reproductive health care... including the availability of medical services.	No. Opposes public funds going toward family planning services at healthcare organizations that also provide abortions.	No. “Defund Planned Parenthood.” Doesn’t matter that their clinic doesn’t offer abortion, because their money is fungible.
Healthcare: Require people to work to receive Medicaid?	No. “Mississippians should have full access...” Expand funding of Medicaid & CHIP.	Unclear. Support Farm Bill amendment adding a work requirement to food stamp programs.	Probable yes, though no Medicaid mention. “I WILL support & vote for work requirements for welfare recipients.”
Immigration: Response to family separation policy being used as a deterrent to illegal immigrants. (Only immigration issue where all three candidates took a stand)	“Separating children from their families is misguided... We can have secure borders WITHOUT punishing innocent children.”	“Distressing to me as a mother, but we cannot lose sight that US immigration laws must be enforced.”	Obama “separated children from families & the national press said NOTHING. Democrats were silent. But now there is outrage.”
Marijuana: Legalize or decriminalize marijuana?	Wouldn’t say absolutely no. Maybe medical first. “I would just have to know if it was safe” & “a financial benefit to the state.”	Likely no. Voted to block amendment that would have allowed banks to work with legitimate cannabis businesses.	Leave it up to the states.
Minimum Wage: Raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 hr?	Yes. Strongly support increased minimum wage & increased Earned Income tax credit.	No position found.	No. Would eliminate employment opportunities but do little to reduce poverty or inequality. Government shouldn’t dictate employer wages.
Renewable Energy: Support government subsidies for renewable energy?	No position found.	Supports biofuels. No other position found.	No. Opposes funding inefficient sources of energy like ethanol & solar energy. Government shouldn’t pick winners & losers.
Student debt: Help students refinance student loans at lower rates? Increase financial aid, like Pell Grants?	Yes. Would increase interest subsidies on student loans. Also protect students from predatory for-profit schools.	No position found.	No. Has said federal government should have no role in education, not even to pay for it.
Taxes: Support President Trump’s tax cut bill ?	No position found.	Yes. Supports Trump’s tax cuts.	Mixed. Called early drafts “an embarrassment.” Called final version “a good first step,” but said taxes needed to be reduced further.”
Voting Rights: Support voting rules that prioritize preventing the possibility of fraud, even if they limit access?	Probable No. Says “I stand firmly for civil rights, voting rights & women’s rights.”	Yes. Voted for legislation requiring specific forms of voter identification in order to vote.	Yes. Helped defeat bill giving felons the right to vote & instituting early voting. Instead, pushed for a stronger voter-ID bill.

We can’t include [Tobey Barte](#) due to space limitations & his polling less than 15%, but do check out his website.

Created by [Campus Election Engagement Project](#), a nonpartisan effort to help college administrators, faculty, & student leaders engage their schools in elections. Sites consulted included [Votesmart.org](#), [Ontheissues.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#), & public candidate statements. For more local guides, see [Vote411.org](#) from the League of Women Voters & [Ballotready.org](#).