

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Looks Ahead to the 2020s

Solid Fundamentals Give Reasons for Optimism

The 2020s have begun, and this decade has the potential for solid progress. Communities should be able to grow and develop alongside businesses small and large. New inventions will undoubtedly alter people's daily lives, and events across the world will create opportunities and challenges for our nation and our allies.

America is entering this new decade on a solid foundation with a surging economy, a stronger military, and constantly improving technology. Our Constitution is now the oldest governing document for a major country, underpinning the rule of law here at home. And, with nearly 200 new conservative federal judges confirmed to the bench in the last three years, my colleagues in the Senate and I are working to guarantee that the United States' constitutional system will endure.

Technology, Rural Broadband, Defense, and the Next Giant Leaps

A new year is a time for resolutions. As a policymaker, I remain focused on building on this American progress and resolved to make this another great era for our country.

An immediate area for growth is 5G – the fifth generation of wireless technology. When 4G came out in the 2010s, it unleashed whole new industries. For example, it allowed

tops to access the internet and enabled wireless video streaming and new applications. Thousands of companies and hundreds of thousands of jobs were created. 5G has enormous potential today, with the promise to bring more than \$500 billion in economic growth and 3 million new jobs.

Winning the race to 5G is one of my top priorities as chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee. At the same time, as the United States takes this next step in wireless connectivity, our country should continue the work to connect every home and business to the internet. That starts with expanding rural broadband, which will require a concentrated national effort. I am leading that fight in the Senate by advocating for renewed funding and investments to close the digital divide between rural and urban America.

The United States also needs to maintain our military edge over potential rivals like China and Russia. The Trump Administration showed the way forward with its National Defense Strategy in 2018. Congress recently approved the National Defense Authorization Act, advancing the administration's efforts. That law makes it clear that we are pushing for updated equipment, more investments in personnel, and new programs – including building up a 355-ship fleet for our Navy.

In addition, the 2020s will see strategic competition in space, and our country is set to put the first woman and the next man on the Moon by 2024. This will be followed by manned missions to Mars. The first space race of the 1960s gave us technologies that later enabled GPS, CT scans, and smart phones. This next effort could be just as revolutionary.

A Remarkable Turnaround

Giants leaps like the ones I have described did not seem possible at the start of the last decade, when some thought the worst of times were here to stay. Unemployment was up in 2010, the stock market and wages were down, and recession and uncertainty made many Americans pessimistic.

Today there is every reason for optimism. America is entering the 2020s with so many exciting possibilities accompanied by pro-growth policies which have unleashed the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of our people. The United States is well positioned to ensure that the best of times are still to come.



How to make goals and resolutions become reality

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have our budget ready for next month, and we'll be following your plan in 2020 to pay off debt and get our finances in order. Do you have any tips for setting and sticking to goals in general?

Rick

Dear Rick,

That's a fantastic goal. Living on a monthly budget, and telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went, is an important step toward gaining control of your finances. Combine that with getting out of debt, and you'll be in charge of your most powerful wealth-building tool—your income.

If you're following my plan, you already have goals in front of you where your money is concerned. For most Americans, though, a new year means nothing more than new resolutions without real plans. Don't get me wrong. It's good to make resolutions and set goals, but

you can't stop there.

You have to formulate a plan that turns your dreams into bite-sized pieces of progress that will gradually create a big event in your life.

If you want to achieve your goals, then keep these next things in mind.

When setting goals, be very specific in what you want to achieve. Include steps that will help you get there, too. Being vague will only cause you to feel directionless and overwhelmed. Most people give up when these feelings arise.

Make your goals measurable. If you want to lose weight, don't simply write down "lose weight" as a goal. Exactly how much weight do you want to lose? What will it take in terms of exercise and dietary changes to make it happen?

Are your goals your goals? Only you can realistically set your own goals. If your spouse, co-worker, or friend sets a goal for you, chances are you're not going to achieve it. Taking ownership

will give you more opportunity to meet your goal.

Also, set time limits for your goals. Putting a time frame in place will help you set realistic goals. If you want to save a certain amount of money for a particular event, break it down and determine how much cash you need to put into your savings account each month leading up to that event.

And finally, put your goals and resolutions in writing. Putting them in writing will make you more likely to achieve them. Write down your goals, and review them often. This will give you motivation to make them reality.

I believe this is the process for success, Rick. Successful people reassess their lives regularly, and start living intentionally, in writing, and on purpose. Happy New Year!

—Dave

**Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1) "The Treasure of the Sierra _____"
- 6) Spanish snacks
- 11) Vegetable share letters
- 14) 43,560-square-foot units
- 15) Tosses the horsehide
- 16) Divining device
- 17) Dr. Joe Gannon portrayer
- 19) Singleton
- 20) Skirt line
- 21) "____, poor Yorick!"
- 22) Work hard
- 23) "Penguin Island" novelist
- 28) How chipped beef is often served
- 30) Wet weather
- 31) Invalidates, as a ticket
- 32) Enthusiasm
- 36) And so on and so forth
- 37) "Poly" add-on
- 39) China's Chairman
- 40) Firmly determined
- 43) Wedding keepsake
- 45) Kitty's satisfied sound
- 46) Prohibited
- 48) Oscar winner for "Jerry Maguire"
- 52) "And others," briefly
- 53) Late night TV host Jay
- 54) Agile deer
- 57) English corp. letters
- 58) Ex-wife of Charles Bronson
- 62) Chicken bucket choice
- 63) Slightly inclined
- 64) Moisten the turkey
- 65) Mined matter
- 66) Parsonage
- 67) American buffalo

DOWN

- 1) Speed of sound measure
- 2) Charley horse result
- 3) Histrionics, say
- 4) Matador's cape color
- 5) Suffix with "legal"
- 6) Every bit of it
- 7) Pertaining to hearing
- 8) Place where game is protected
- 9) Spacebar neighbor
- 10) Retired fast plane (abbr.)
- 11) Sing like Harry Connick Jr.
- 12) Sound-related
- 13) She did a Bond song
- 18) Chocolate-factory sights
- 22) Aimee or Herbie
- 24) "Yes" gesture
- 25) ____ in apple
- 26) Event with rides and livestock
- 27) Get ____ of (eliminate)
- 28) Higher than
- 29) Musical symbol
- 32) Ended a hunger strike
- 33) Cause shame to
- 34) Mideast king deposed in 1964
- 35) Unspecified amount
- 37) Overseas money
- 38) Enter casually
- 41) October birthstone
- 42) Carry with difficulty
- 43) Bolivia's neighbor (abbr.)
- 44) JFK follower
- 46) Having limits
- 47) ____ about (approximately)
- 48) Violin relative
- 49) Absolute, as nonsense
- 50) Emblem carried on a beat
- 51) Some computers
- 55) "____ bigger and better things!"
- 56) Early garden spot
- 58) Jelly kin
- 59) Give-go filler
- 60) Recede, as the tide
- 61) Chou En-____

COUNTRY FOLKS

By Mitch Hubbs

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Public Notice

All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Holmes County, are hereby advised that the **City of Tchula** is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, for the provision of Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Service (is being) (would be) provided within Holmes County. This program consists of three vans.

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit and paratransit operators, of the service being planned for providing transportation services for the elderly and disabled within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a program would not represent a duplication of current or of proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.

Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time within fifteen days from the date of this notice. All comments should be addressed to General Vann, Mayor of The City of Tchula, P.O. Box 356, Tchula, MS 39169.