

Gov. Reeves announces appointments for MDOC and DPS Commissioners to ensure the safety of Mississippians

Press Release

On Wednesday, May 20, Governor Tate Reeves announced Burl Cain as his appointment for the permanent Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) and Judge Sean Tindell for Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Following a months-long nationwide search for a qualified leader to reform MDOC, Governor Reeves has selected one of the country's most experienced, battle-tested leaders. Having led reform efforts to transform the "Bloodiest Prison in America" into a place of hope, Burl Cain is a corrections giant who is uniquely qualified to ramp up reform efforts and rehabilitation within MDOC.

"We took an important step forward to continue restoring the integrity of the Department of Corrections. I am grateful to my fellow Mississippians who helped in this task to scour the nation for the right candidate," said Governor Tate Reeves. "We need a strong, experienced leader that Mississippians can trust, and I believe that person is Burl. I do not make this decision lightly. The safety and dignity of all within our system is at stake. Burl's impressive, decades-long career in corrections, leading prison facilities and ushering in progressive measures to improve conditions is exactly what we need. We still have a long



BURL CAIN



JUDGE SEAN TINDELL

road ahead of us, but Burl will lead MDOC in the right direction."

"I promise to do a great job, to help the Department of Corrections, and to do the four components essential to have a good prison. That's good food, good praying, good playing, and good medicine," said Burl Cain. "We're going to have those four components, and that's going to balance it out. I look forward to the challenges, I look forward to the job and lead Mississippi to have a great system. I thank you Governor for the faith and confidence to appoint me to

Commissioner of the Department of Corrections."

Burl Cain, CCE recently retired from an extensive 40-year career in the Louisiana Department of Corrections. He began his career in corrections as Assistant Secretary of Agribusiness for the Louisiana Department of Corrections from 1976 to 1981. He served at the Senior Warden level for a total of 34 years, including 4 years as Warden of Dixon Correctional Institute from 1981 to 1995 and 20 years as the Warden of Louisiana State Penitentiary from 1995 to 2015, Louisiana's largest maximum-security prison. From 2007 to 2015, Cain also served as Regional Warden for the Louisiana Department of Corrections, supervising the administration of 5 Louisiana prisons, including the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women.

Once known as the "Bloodiest Prison in America," Louisiana State Penitentiary (LSP), under Cain's leadership, became one of the safest, most secure, and progressive maximum security prisons in the nation. LSP houses over 6,300 inmates with over 4,000 of these men serving life sentences for violent crimes.

At LSP, Cain founded and facilitated the Accredited Hospice Program and Bible College in conjunction with the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He also raised private funds to build 7 chapels for inmate

use on the prison grounds. Cain worked with Awana to establish the Malachi Dad's program as well, which re-connects inmates with their children and trains them to become positive role models. Through these progressive, rehabilitative programs, LSP's violence rate dropped over 60%, and gang affiliation disappeared during Cain's time as warden.

Cain currently serves as CEO and Founder of Global Prison Seminaries Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes a positive changing prison culture through theological education programs in prisons throughout the United States and internationally.

Governor Reeves also announced his pick for the Commissioner of DPS to ensure the ongoing protection of the safety and well-being of all Mississippians.

"I have known Sean for many years and consider him a good friend and strong, capable leader. Having worked with him in the Senate, I know how dedicated he is to serving the people of Mississippi," said Governor Tate Reeves. "From the Senate to the bench, Sean has spent many years fighting for the rights and safety of our people. I am grateful to have him accept this task to lead DPS and protect the safety of all who call our great state home."

"I look forward to the opportunity to continue to

serve the State of Mississippi as the next Commissioner for the Department of Public Safety. The Department of Public Safety has a storied history of excellence in our state, and I will work tirelessly to maintain and improve that history of excellence," said Judge Sean Tindell. "I also look forward to working with the other branches of government to ensure the safety of not only the fine men and women who work at the Mississippi Department of Public Safety but also all Mississippians."

Judge Sean J. Tindell currently serves on the Mississippi Court of Appeals representing District 5, position 2 since 2017. Previously, Judge Tindell served in the Mississippi Senate, representing District 49, from 2012 until his appointment to the bench. He was Chair of the Senate Judiciary A Committee and Vice Chair of the Senate Tourism Committee. From 2002 to 2007, he was an assistant district attorney for the Second Circuit District of Harrison, Hancock and Stone counties. Judge Tindell entered private practice in 2007, also serving as a prosecutor for the City of Biloxi and as city attorney for the City of Diamondhead.

Judge Tindell is the recipient of various awards and honors over the years for his work protecting the people of Mississippi, including 2016 Law Enforcement Officers Association Legislator of the Year, 2016 Municipal Leg-

islator of the Year, and 2016 MADD Legislator of the Year.

Judge Tindell earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. He earned a Juris Doctorate in 2001 from Mississippi College School of Law, where he earned honors in counseling and negotiations and domestic relations.

A native Mississippian, Judge Tindell grew up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He is the son of Dora and the late Tom Harvey of Biloxi, and the late Sidney Tindell of Biloxi. He and his wife Claire live in Gulfport with their four children, Sam, John Thomas, Meredith and Henry.



Nikki Merchant
Trent Boutwell
June 26

Eryca Edwards
Andrew Gilmore
August 8

Peoples
Drug Store
Court Square 834-2721 Lexington

2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Pickens
PWS#: 0260013
May 2020

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Town of Pickens have received a moderate susceptibility ranking to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please William Primer, Jr. at 662.468.2171. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall @ 163 N. Second Street.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2019. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2019, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contamination.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

PWS # 260013		TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/LCL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
10. Barium	N	2018*	0058	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
13. Chromium	N	2018*	1.8	No Range	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2015/17**	.1	0	ppm	1.3	AL=13	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride**	N	2018*	916	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	2015/17**	1	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection By-Products								
81. HAAS	N	2019	24	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
82. THM (Total trihalomethanes)	N	2019	29.3	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	N	2019	1.8	.62 - 3.3	ppm	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Unregulated Contaminants								
Sodium	N	2019	83000	79000 - 83000	PPB	NONE	NONE	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents

* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2019.
** Fluoride level is routinely adjusted to the MS State Dept of Health's recommended level of 0.6 - 1.2 mg/l.
As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have informed through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, the EPA has determined that your water is SAFE at these levels.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. We did complete the monitoring requirements for bacteriological sampling that showed no coliform present. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7562 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The Town of Pickens works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker commends Class of 2020

Our education system is adapting to the COVID-19 crisis

This month, thousands of young people across Mississippi are celebrating their graduation from high school or college. Normally they would have the chance to gather for commencement, walk the stage, and throw their caps into the air in celebration. But the ongoing pandemic has meant a lot of folks are celebrating at home with family members.

I commend our most recent graduates on their academic achievement. They have worked to reach this milestone and have earned the right to take a bow. The Class of 2020 represents a new decade of graduates who will serve and lead our society long into the future. And we have a lot riding on their success. We all stand to benefit from the contributions they will make as nurses, doctors, teachers, soldiers, business owners, and ministers. We also look to them as the future

mentors, coaches, moms, and dads who will raise the next generation. These are worthy callings, and I believe the Class of 2020 is up for the challenge.

Schools Pivot to Meet Education Needs

As this year's graduates begin a new chapter of life, many students who are still in school remain uncertain about what the fall will bring. Parents, teachers, and school administrators are preparing for a school year that may look different from years past.

Classrooms at all levels have had to pivot toward online distance learning during this crisis. Although not ideal, this mode of learning has enabled students to stay on track with their studies. Teachers are sending lessons by video, and students are becoming adept at using the technology involved. Such a technological feat would

have been hard to imagine just 20 years ago.

Unfortunately, some schools lack the resources to take full advantage of this technology and adapt their operations. Congress recently addressed this need by providing emergency K-12 funding to states, including \$170 million designated for Mississippi. Schools may use this money to purchase computers, software, and internet access for their students, in addition to other measures to address health concerns.

Helping Students Amid the Crisis

Congress has also worked to provide targeted relief for college students. Like other Americans forced out of work by this pandemic, many students have lost jobs that were helping them pay for school. These unemployed students are eligible for the same benefits Congress provided to all Americans through the Paycheck Protection Program and expanded unemployment benefits. And for those who held a campus job through the Federal Work-Study Pro-

gram, Congress has allowed colleges to continue paying them if they lost their job because of the closures. We also provided over \$6 billion in emergency cash grants to help students adjust to campus disruptions.

For other students who have had to drop out of school because of this crisis, Congress recently removed their obligation to pay back federal aid money. We also made sure any classes they dropped will not count against their eligibility for future aid. And to give former students financial breathing room, we suspended all federal student loan payment deadlines until September.

This crisis has not been kind to teachers and students. But the creativity they have shown in overcoming severe obstacles should be a source of pride for us all. As scientists continue their work on a vaccine and testing equipment that will enable us all to return to normal life, I remain committed to providing students and schools with the resources they need to persevere through this pandemic.