

# State Supreme Court rules AG Lynn Fitch, not Auditor Shad White, has power to sue over misspent welfare money

Mississippi Today by Taylor Vance  
 The Mississippi Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously ruled in favor of Attorney General Lynn Fitch in a dispute she had with State Auditor Shad White over which of them has the legal right to try to claw back state welfare money they believe was misspent. Justice Jenifer Branning wrote that Mississippi law tasks the attorney general

with being the “chief legal officer” of the state, while the state auditor’s duties include accounting, auditing and investigation. “The attorney general must be an attorney, and the auditor has no such requirement,” Branning wrote. All six of the other current justices agreed with Branning’s opinion. There are currently two vacancies on the nine-member court. White, in a statement, said

now that the Supreme Court has ruled Fitch has the sole authority to file lawsuits to recover misspent taxpayer money, he can only assume she will “now change course and begin to aggressively fight in court for the recovery of all the welfare money.” “Maybe she will fight as hard to do that as she fought to stop me from recovering the money,” White said. “Mississippi taxpayers de-

serve nothing less.” Fitch’s office declined to comment, other than pointing to a passage in the ruling that stated state law. The issue at the center of the legal fight between the two statewide officials is about \$730,000 that White claims Pro Football Hall of Fame athlete Brett Favre owes the state because of unpaid interest. Fitch’s office, on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Human Services, sued dozens of defendants, including Favre, to try to recoup allegedly misspent welfare money. But it did not include funds that White’s office is pursuing. White, then, attempted to sue Favre to recoup a portion of allegedly misspent welfare money, which prompted Fitch to sue White to block the suit from going forward.

The legal disagreement between the two offices stems from a section of Mississippi law stating that the auditor is “to institute suit, and the attorney general shall prosecute the same in any court of the state,” when recovering misspent money. Fitch, as the state’s top legal officer, wrote in court papers that she had the exclusive right to file a civil lawsuit on behalf of the state, and it would be unrealistic to compel the attorney general to file litigation she doesn’t believe is legitimate. White’s attorneys said in court earlier this year that the plain reading of the state law clearly gives him the authority to initiate lawsuits and requires the attorney general to follow through and prosecute on his behalf. A Hinds County chancery judge initially sided with White, so the attorney general appealed to the state’s high court. The two officials have said they’re considering running for governor and have clashed in recent years over the handling of Mississippi’s massive welfare scandal, which has seen multiple people plead guilty to state and federal crimes.

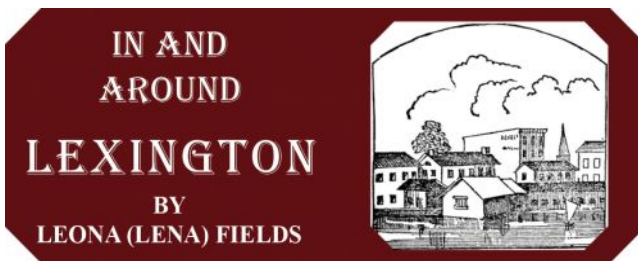
its vision effectively,” the press release said. States’ program budgets are currently being reviewed by CMS. Mississippi’s budget has not yet been approved, according to the state’s program website. According to the website, information about how to apply for funding will be posted once details are finalized. The \$206 million awarded to Mississippi last year by the federal government must be spent by September 2027 or it will be redistributed to other states, according to CMS.

# Reeves establishes Miss. office for Rural Health Transformation Program funds

By Gwen Dilworth Mississippi Today  
 Gov. Tate Reeves on Wednesday announced he’s creating an office to oversee distribution of hundreds of millions of federal dollars aimed at improving rural healthcare. The new office will be overseen by the governor and led by certified public accountant Richard Grimes. Reeves also unveiled a website he said will provide the public with a transparent and accessible view of the state’s initiatives, funding opportunities and progress. “This is a massive step forward for healthcare in Mississippi,” Reeves said in a press release. “By establishing a dedicated office and launching this

website, we are putting the structure and transparency in place to deliver real, lasting improvements for our rural communities.” In December, Mississippi was awarded nearly \$206 million as part of the federal Rural Health Transformation Program. States will receive payments over five years as a part of the \$50-billion program. The effort was designed to support rural healthcare and offset the disproportionate impact already-struggling rural hospitals are expected to face as a result of federal spending cuts Congress passed last summer. Reeves’ office led the state’s application for the federal funds last fall and is overseeing distribution of the money. Mississippi’s plan includes a

statewide rural health assessment and other initiatives that focus on coordinating care, strengthening the workforce, creating a statewide health information exchange, expanding telehealth opportunities and improving infrastructure. Some state legislators have expressed frustration at the limited role they have played in the application and appropriation of the funds and criticized what they see as Reeves’ lack of transparency in administering the program. Lawmakers passed an oversight bill in March to ensure the program’s funding is directed toward rural communities and require the spending be reported to the Legislature. Reeves vetoed the bill, arguing it could jeopardize the state’s access to the money by slowing down its distribution and potentially result in a loss of up to \$1 billion over five years. Lawmakers failed to override his veto. In a Wednesday press release, Reeves said the funding will be subject to oversight from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and federal procurement regulations. “Governor Reeves and his staff worked to address and push back on proposed state legislation that could have introduced unnecessary complexity or slowed implementation, ensuring the State remains well-positioned to execute



To get your news in this paper, call 662-834-1489 or 662-458-5788. Rev. Lenoria Meekye’s nephew was not brought to Lexington for burial. He was funeralized and buried in Chicago. Elder Charles Jefferson is gradually improving from the accident he was in. He is still paralyzed from the waist down, but he is in rehab. Keep praying for him.

The Rose Hill District Association will convene June 28 - July 2 at the Union Grove MS Church on Rhyne Street in Lexington. They are looking for the lax churches to return. For more information, contact Moderator Dan March at 662-834-4888, Rev. Leroy Gibson, or the Executive Secretary Mrs. Leona Fields at 662-834-1489 or 662-458-5788.

## 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Town of Goodman PWS ID# 0260008 June 2026

We are pleased to present to you this year’s Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year’s water quality. Included are details about where your water comes, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. 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 and to providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies. Our water source is groundwater. Our wells draw from the Meridian Upper and Middle Wilcox Aquifers.

**Source of Water**  
 A Source Water Assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of the drinking water supply and to identify potential sources of contamination. The general susceptibility rankings assigned to each well of this system are provided immediately below. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water supply and is available upon request. The wells for The Town of Goodman have received lower to moderate susceptibility rankings.

**Contact and Meeting Information**  
 If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Town of Goodman at 662-472-2263. 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 at 5:30 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month at Town Hall.

**Covered Period by Report**  
 We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for the particular contaminant group. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, (2025). In cases where monitoring wasn’t required in 2025 the table reflects the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. All drinking water, including bottled water may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

**Terms and Abbreviations**  
 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:

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)** - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L)** - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - 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 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.

### TEST RESULTS

#### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Year Water	Range of detects or # of samples exceeding MCL/ACL	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
10. Barium (ppm)	2025	N	0.0234	0.0225-0.0236	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper (ppm)	2023*	N	0.2	0	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
17. Lead (ppb)	2023*	N	2	0	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

#### Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Year Water	Range of detects or # of samples exceeding MCL/ACL	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
81. HAA5 (ppb)	2025	N	7.0	No Range	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
82. TTHM (ppb)	2025	N	0.5	No Range	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	N	1.40	0.60 - 1.80	0	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

#### Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Year Water	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	2024	N	70.8	68.3-70.8	20	None	Road Salt, Water treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents

\*Most recent sample. No sample required for 2024. Sodium. EPA recommends that drinking water sodium not exceed 20 milligrams per liter(mg/l). Excess sodium from salt in the diet increases the risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants monthly. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of where our drinking water meets health standards. To ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any samples prior to the end of the monitoring period.

Some people who drink water containing Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

In addition to the above contaminants, we tested for additional chemicals for which the state and EPA have set standards. We found no detectable levels of those chemicals.

TT VIOLATION	EXPLANATION	DURATION OF VIOLATION	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS	HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE
Ground Water Rule	Failure to address deficiency	01/29/2021-4/4/2025	The system has completed corrective actions and is no longer in violation of this rule.	Inadequately treated water may contain disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps diarrhea and associated headaches.

#### Violations

We are required to monitor your drinking water for contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 11/01/2025 through 12/31/2025, we received a violation for record keeping without rule code. This has since been completed.

#### Significant Deficiencies

During a sanitary survey conducted on 9/17/2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health cited the following significant deficiency(s): Pressure. This system is scheduled to complete corrective actions by 1/28/21 using a compliance plan or are within the initial 120 days minimum.

During a sanitary survey conducted on 6/22/2022, the Mississippi Department of Health cited the following significant deficiency(s): Automatic controls. This system is scheduled to complete corrective actions by 11/13/22 using a compliance plan or are within the initial 120 days minimum.

#### Enforcement Action

On 5/27/2022 this system was required by the MS State Department of Health, Bureau of Public Water Supply to participate in an administrative hearing due to violations of the Ground water rule, TTHM/HAA5. This system is schedule complete corrective action using a compliance plan or within the initial 120 days minimum

#### Lead Information

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and your children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The West Madison Utility District 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>.

Our system has completed the Lead Service Line Inventory, and no lead lines were found. The methods used to make that determination were visual inspections, water operator knowledge and archived records. This inventory report is available for viewing at our office upon request.

#### Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulations are warranted.

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 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 (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 (800-426-4791).

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