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# POLITICAL BRIEFING



WINTER 2018

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## POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

We are entering into a period of political turmoil & uncertainty in Mississippi. A host of federal and judicial elections in 2018 just concluded are serving as a massive precursor to statewide elections in 2019 and the face of state government may flip on its head in the next 24 months. After 7+ years of stability for organized medicine, the next 12 months are crucial to ensuring that stability continues for the next 4 years.

## KEY 2018 MMPAC RACES

### UNITED STATES SENATE

The American Medical Association participated in the two U.S. Senate Races in Mississippi in 2018, supporting both incumbent Senators, Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith. Both of these efforts were made in support of successful campaigns and we look forward to continuing our great relationship with both U.S. Senators from Mississippi.

### COURT OF APPEALS

#### DISTRICT 4, Place 2

- Jeff Weill, Sr. was endorsed by BIPEC, MMPAC, and other aligned groups as the best to serve on the Court of Appeals but in a very tough district, Weill was defeated by Justice-elect David McCarty of Jackson. The courts continue to be a major battleground to defend the practice of medicine against the aggressive plaintiff's attorney bar.

*\*\*Of Note: In the past year, several attempts to undo key components of the 2004 Mississippi Tort Reform Act (MTRA) have made their way through the Mississippi Court System, including one decision by the Mississippi Supreme Court which weakened the important "Venue" component of Tort Reform. This will continue to be a key battleground where MMPAC can make a difference to support physicians. Specifically, Attorney General Jim Hood, a key opponent of the 2004 MS Tort Reform Act and 2019 candidate for Governor, is expected to be heavily funded by groups working to undo MTRA in the courts.*

## 2019 STATEWIDE RACES

A number of statewide candidates have already announced for 2019, including candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Agricultural Commissioner and Auditor. After the February 2019 Filing Deadline, we will send out a full landscape update for 2019 elections.

## 2017-2018 MMPAC GIVING

### NEW COMPONENT SOCIETY GIVING

One new piece added to MMPAC over the past year has been the introduction of giving from the Component Societies across the state. We have seen a number of Component Societies step up to the plate and as a result overall giving has increased. The following Societies have given to MMPAC in the 2017-2018 cycle:

Delta Medical Society - \$7,500 (Over two years) \* Northeast MS Medical Society - \$2,500 \* West MS Medical Society - \$3,000  
Singing River Medical Society - \$2,000 \* Coast Counties Medical Society - \$1,500 \* **North MS Medical Society - \$2,500**

Thank you to these generous groups for recognizing the important role that MMPAC plays in the advancement of organized medicine!

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