



# *The Thompson Report*

Issue  
March 2022

U.S. CONGRESSMAN

**BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

MISSISSIPPI'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**Black  
History  
Month**



U.S. Small Business  
Administration



Photo Credit: sba.gov

## Welcome...

To *The Thompson Report* on the Second Congressional District of Mississippi. Inside you will find information about the district, grants, legislative actions and more. My monthly newsletter will be distributed by email to constituents.

Spread the word and share this newsletter.

[Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter.

Thank you.

*Bennie G. Thompson*

## **SBA Celebrates and Supports Black-Owned Small Businesses**

The contributions black business owners have made to entrepreneurship in the U.S. are indispensable. According to the most recent data from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), there are over 3 million Black-owned businesses from coast to coast, accounting for billions of dollars in annual revenue to the U.S. economy. Black owned businesses have seen their share of challenges throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, in the first year of the pandemic alone, there were more new Black-owned businesses proportionate to the total population than at any time in the previous 25 years. There are many Black entrepreneurs with unlimited potential across the nation, and the SBA stands ready to help them realize, achieve, and even rebuild their business in 2022.

*continued on page 3*

# CONTENTS

Page:

- 1 SBA Celebrates Supports Black-Owned Small Businesses
- 2 District Calendar of Events  
District Offices
- 3 Legislative Updates  
Water Bill Assistance Program Benefits for MS Families  
2022 Congressional Records Monthly Categories  
SBA Celebrates & Supports Black-Owned Small Businesses con't...
- 4 You Need to Know...
  - MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau
  - Internal Revenue Service Administration
  - USDA Water Systems Funding
  - Passport Services Available Now
- 5 Grants and Funding Opportunity  
Fema Seeks Public Comment to Enhance the Agency's Programs  
Fema Seeks New Members for National Advisory Council
- 6 Constituent Services  
Words of Thanks...  
Stay in Touch - Social Media

## Offices

Washington Office 2466 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515-2402 Phone: 202-225-5876	3607 Medgar Evers Blvd Jackson, MS 39213 Phone: 601-946-9003
107 West Madison P.O. Box 610 Bolton, MS 39041 Phone: 601-866-9003 In State: 800-355-9003	P.O. Box 356 263 East Main Street Marks, MS 38646 Phone: 662-326-9003
910 Courthouse Lane Greenville, MS 38701 Phone: 662-335-9003	Mound Bayou City Hall 106 Green Avenue, Suite 106 P.O. Box 679 Mound Bayou, MS 38762 Phone: 662-741-9003
728 Main Street, Suite A Greenwood, MS 38930 Phone: 662-455-9003	

## District Calendar of Events



### Annual Dates

*February 1st - October 15th  
Congressional Nominations  
for Military Academies*

### Applications Accepted

TO APPLY AND READ  
MORE, CLICK HERE.

*Call: Shander Gund  
(662) 741-9003*

## Legislative Updates

These updates are provided to keep you informed of legislative activities in Washington, D.C.

1. Congressman Thompson cosponsored H.R. 4521, the America COMPETES Act of 2022. This legislation directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to implement a National Engineering Biology Research and Development Initiative to advance societal well-being, national security, sustainability, and economic productivity and competitiveness. Among other activities, the initiative must include sustained support for research centers, individual investigators, technologies, and training.
2. Congressman Thompson sponsored H.R. 5633, the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Transparency Act. This bill addresses reports conducted by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The bill requires the OIG to submit to Congress any report finalized on or after 30 days after the enactment of this bill that substantiates.
3. Congressman Thompson cosponsored H.R. 3755, the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021. This bill prohibits governmental restrictions on the provision of, and access to, abortion services. Specifically, governments may not limit a provider's ability to prescribe certain drugs, offer abortion services via telemedicine, or immediately provide abortion services when the provider determines a delay risks the patient's health.
4. Congressman Thompson cosponsored H.R. 6464, the Hear our Heroes Act of 2022. This legislation provides a presumption of service-connection for hearing-related issues in certain veterans for purposes of wartime disability compensation. Under a presumption of service-connection, specific conditions diagnosed in certain veterans are presumed to have been caused by the circumstances of their military service.

## SBA Celebrates and Supports Black-Owned Small Businesses con't...

Black entrepreneurs show the grit, ingenuity, and resourcefulness to start, grow, and maintain thriving businesses — even in the face of tremendous adversity. SBA celebrates and supports black owned small businesses in honor of Black History Month. The website gives a great timeline on how one of the first black business occurred. Also, on this website you will find great resources on how to start you own business, how to write a business plan, and how to fund your business. This website also offers counseling and training, funding programs, SBA certifications and business development programs. To read more, visit <https://www.sba.gov.com>.



### Water Bill Assistance Program Benefits for MS Families

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) has recieved \$13 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Funds can be used to help income-eligible residents maintain access to drinking water and wastewater services through the end of September 2023. The funding is issued directly to the utility company to support families who meet income requirements. The Mississippi Department of Human Services works to serve aging and low-income populations with their utility assistance throughout the year. There is no cap on the number of times a recipient can qualify for this service. To find the agency near you, visit [www.mdhs.ms.gov/community-services/](http://www.mdhs.ms.gov/community-services/).

### 2022 Congressional Records Monthly Categories

February	Black History
March	Black Organizations
April	Outstanding Students
May	Black Churches
June	Law Enforcement
July	Unsung Heroes
August	Black Professional Women
September	Minority Businesses
October	Local Artists
November	Veterans



# You need to know...

Here is what you need to know about the latest news happening that could affect you and your family or friends.



## MSDH CHILD CARE LICENSURE BUREAU

A license is required if you care for six or more children who are less than thirteen years of age. This is for any amount of time of the day or night, who are not related to you (children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers/sisters, nieces/nephews). It includes day care centers, day nurseries, and any other facilities that fall within the scope of the above description. Obtaining a license to operate a childcare facility requires a serious commitment and investment of not only money but also time.

For more information, visit [www.msdh.ms.gov](http://www.msdh.ms.gov).



## INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers to protect their personal and financial information throughout the year and to watch out for IRS impersonation and other common scams this filing season. Text message scams are sent to taxpayers' smartphones and have referenced COVID-19 and/or stimulus payments. Phone scams are another scam that is used. The IRS does not leave pre-recorded, urgent or threatening messages. For more information, click [here](#).



## USDA WATER SYSTEMS FUNDING

The USDA Rural Utilities Service, acting through USDA Rural Development, has grant funding available now to help rural water systems that have been impacted by an emergency event. Funding can be used to repair existing system damage and to prevent future issues that are imminent. An emergency may include natural events, such as drought, tornados, hurricanes, floods, and more. Applications are accepted year-round using the online system called Rural Development. You can apply at [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov).

## PASSPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE NOW

The time frame for receiving your passport is 8 to 11 weeks. Expedited processing is available for an additional \$60 with a processing time of 5 to 7 weeks. The processing time begins the day your application is received at a passport agency or center. Plan ahead and apply early. Apply at least 4-6 months before travel date. Due to limited availability for urgent travel appointments, the agency cannot guarantee you will receive in person service. A fee is not required for an appointment. For more information, visit [Passport Agency](#).

## Grants and Funding Opportunities/Projects Funded in the 2nd Congressional District

Grants are competitive. Grants have deadlines set by the agency who have money. Below are current grants. For more information, visit the links provided.

### GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES/PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#### \$39,522 awarded to Housing Education and Economic Development, Inc.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded funds through the Housing Counseling Grant Program to Housing Education and Economic Development, Inc. The purpose of HUD's Housing Counseling Grant Program is to provide funds to HUD approved housing counseling agencies that provide counseling and advice to tenants and homeowners. [Read more](#)

#### \$250,000 awarded to Art Organizations in the Mississippi Second District

The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded two grants totaling \$250,000, as part of the American Rescue Plan. [Read more](#)

#### \$500,000 awarded to the Second Congressional District

The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development has awarded \$500,000 in Value-Added Producer Grants to local businesses in the Second Congressional District. [Read more](#)

#### DEA Launches New Initiative to Combat Drug-Related Violence and Overdose in Jackson, MS

The Drug Enforcement Administration has launched a new initiative, Operation Overdrive, aimed at combatting the rising rates of drug-related violent crime and overdose deaths plaguing American communities. [Read more](#)

#### Department of Health and Human Services

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) solicits applications for projects designed to understand molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying cerebral blood flow reduction in Alzheimers disease (AD) and Alzheimers disease-related dementias (ADRD). To read more, please [click here](#).

#### Department of Education

The purposes of the Educational Technology, Media, and Materials for Individuals with Disabilities Program are to improve results for children with disabilities by: promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology; supporting educational activities designed to be of educational value in the classroom for children with disabilities. [Click here](#)

## FEMA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT TO ENHANCE THE AGENCY'S PROGRAMS

As part of its commitment to advance equity in underserved communities, FEMA proposes collecting demographic information from applicants participating in certain FEMA programs. Collecting this information will help FEMA ensure that people who apply for assistance are treated fairly and that FEMA programs comply with civil rights, nondiscrimination and equity requirements. FEMA urges stakeholders, community groups, and the public to comment on the information collection initiative. The deadline to submit comments is March 28. Learn more and submit your comments on the [Federal Register website](#).

## FEMA SEEKS NEW MEMBERS FOR NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

FEMA is seeking qualified individuals to lend their expertise and serve on the agency's National Advisory Council. The National Advisory Council includes a geographically diverse and substantive cross-section of 35 members who advise the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of emergency management, ensuring input from and coordination with state, local, tribal and territorial governments as well as the private and nonprofit sectors. For more information about what each position entails, please see the [council's charter](#).

# Constituent Services

Constituent Services is about being available and willing to assist you when you need it. Below are just some of the ways I can help. If you have trouble with any of the links below, call Alexis Hunter at 202-225-5876.

## HELP WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY

Sometimes dealing with federal agencies can be overwhelming. If you live in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, you can call my office for assistance with a federal agency. We will do our best to help you. I cannot guarantee you a favorable outcome, but I guarantee you my office is willing to try. Click here to fill out a [Privacy Authorization](#) form.

## VISITING WASHINGTON D.C.

Washington D.C. is a beautiful place to visit with lots of educational and tourist attractions. I think everyone should visit the nation's capitol and see how government is operated. If you are planning to visit Washington D.C., my office can assist you with tours of the U.S. Capitol and the White House. Please call my Washington D.C. office at 202-225-5876 at least three months before arrival. On [My Website](#) I have suggested some sites to visit.

## FLAG REQUESTS

If you would like to order a U.S. flag through my office, click here to print and fill out a [Flag Order](#) form. Here you can calculate the price and shipping cost. You may choose to have your flag flown over the U.S. Capitol which comes with a certificate that can be personalized at your request.

## MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

Every year I have the opportunity to nominate a limited number of qualified young people who live in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi to the Military Service Academies. One of the benefits is that graduates come out as commissioned officers in a branch of the military or reserve. Visit the [Military Academies Nomination](#) page on my website.

## WORDS OF THANKS...

Paul Cotton

Friars Point, Mississippi

Thank you Congressman Thompson for going the extra mile. Your hard work and dedication to the 2nd Congressional District will never go unrecognized. You have served our district since 93' and have never let us down. We appreciate you and we are very thankful. Wishing you the best and May God continue to bless you.

Maniyah Brown

Clarksdale, Mississippi

Your hard work is appreciated. Thank you for serving our city and for investing your time. We are thankful and grateful.

## STAY IN TOUCH SOCIAL MEDIA

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