

Mississippi Association of Supervisors

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www.mssupervisors.org



MEMORANDUM

To: MAS Membership

From: Derrick Surrette, Executive Director

Date: 7/26/2018

Re: Resolution Requesting New Revenue to be diverted to Counties for the Repair, Replacement, Maintenance of County Roads and Bridges

Due to several new U.S. Supreme Court decisions, such as the overturn of sports betting and the taxation of interstate internet sales, the State of Mississippi is in a unique position to begin collecting new streams of revenue not previously available. The resolution attached, respectfully request that a portion of any new revenue collected, be diverted directly to MS counties for the sole purpose of repairing, replacing, and maintaining county owned roads and bridges.

MAS ask that your county consider adopting the attached resolution in support of diverting directly to the counties, a portion of the new revenue collected under the use tax, sports betting or any new additional revenue, to be used on county roads and bridges.

If the board adopts this resolution, please mail a signed copy to the Governor, LT. Governor, Speaker of the House, Clerk of the House, Secretary of the Senate and to local and Statewide press. Below are the mailing addresses for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House:

Honorable Phil Bryant
Office of the Governor
State of Mississippi
PO Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205-0139

Lieutenant Governor Tate
Reeves
Office of the Lieutenant
Governor
PO Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215

Office of the House of
Representatives
Honorable Speaker Philip
Gunn
P.O. Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215

***We have attached a resolution format for your convenience.**

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO DIVERT A PORTION OF THE USE TAX COLLECTED FROM INTERSTATE INTERNET SALES TO BE TRANSFERRED TO MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Mississippi county roads and bridges across the state are in constant need of repair and replacement, and improving roads and bridges is vital for the safety and wellbeing of Mississippi's citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi counties are responsible for the maintenance and repair of over 69% of the State's road miles with 52,000 miles of roads and 59% of the State's bridges with 9,865 bridges (of which over 400 are currently closed and over 1,600 are posted for low weight vehicles); and

WHEREAS, the demand for mandated county government services has increased rapidly, while the county ad valorem tax structure is struggling to generate revenues sufficient for counties to fund their obligations to provide for education, public safety, infrastructure, etc; and

WHEREAS, recent developments, including U.S. Supreme Court decisions affecting sports betting and taxes on interstate internet sales provide the Mississippi Legislature a unique opportunity to provide additional revenue for counties to use in making much needed repairs and replacement of county roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, if the Legislature does not provide additional funding to counties for critical road and bridge repair, counties will be forced to continue closing bridges, to make dramatic cuts for other services such as law enforcement, public safety, health and welfare of the citizens of Mississippi, or to raise property taxes. Each of these options would harm citizens and businesses throughout the State.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY _____ COUNTY THAT:

Section One: All recitations made above are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted, ratified, and incorporated herein.

Section Two: The _____ County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the Mississippi Legislature, Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House to take advantage of the recent developments to provide counties with the additional funding necessary for maintaining, repairing, and rehabilitating county owned roads and bridges.

Section Three: The Clerk of the Board is directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House, with our respectful request that it be distributed to all members of the Legislature. The Clerk of the Board is further directed to email copies of this resolution to each member of the County's Legislative Delegation and to local and statewide press.

Section Four: This resolution shall take effect and be enforced from and after passage.