



2019 City of Jackson
**LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA**



STATE

The City of Jackson seeks the authority to acquire, hold, manage, and develop tax-foreclosed and abandoned properties for the purposes of establishing a land bank in the State of Mississippi.



The establishment of a land bank in the State of Mississippi would significantly address a growing problem while reducing the amount of blight due to vacated, abandoned, and dilapidated properties within municipalities and counties. These sites have become breeding grounds for illegal dumping and criminal activity, resulting in a number of residents and business owners suffering and thus negatively impacting the tax base. The establishment of a land bank would allow for the sale and/or development of tax-foreclosed properties with the long-term interest of the community in mind simplifying the complicated process related to liens and confused ownership histories. This would be of great assistance to cities and towns in their efforts to build vibrant, revitalized communities throughout the State.



STATE

The City of Jackson seeks the authority to collect delinquent municipal court fines and fees through state income tax refunds issued to the debtor.




If passed, this piece of legislation would allow the City of Jackson to recover longstanding unpaid municipal court fines through state income tax returns. This legislation would also allow the State of Mississippi to collect five percent of all outstanding municipal court fines recovered through this process.



STATE


The City of Jackson seeks the authority to establish Special Local Improvement Districts and to levy the collection of an annual special tax to be used for the purpose of community enhancement and enrichment.

 The establishment of Special Local Improvement Districts in the City of Jackson would allow for neighborhood associations within the city to vote to tax themselves an annual special tax whose proceeds would go directly to the enhancement and enrichment of their own communities. This is part of an effort by the City of Jackson to cultivate new development opportunities, foster more vibrant communities, and rehabilitate blighted areas of the city.



FEDERAL

The City of Jackson supports the passage of the Low-Income Sewer and Water Assistance Program (LISWAP).



Given the needs related to the City of Jackson's water and wastewater system, particularly the affordability of water services to low-income residents, the establishment of a Water Affordability Act would greatly alleviate the financial strain experienced by the City of Jackson due to the substantial amount of unpaid water and sewer bills. The City of Jackson would stand to benefit significantly from the implementation of a federal Low-Income Sewer and Water Assistance Program (LISWAP) which would provide grants to eligible municipalities such as the City of Jackson, to help low-income residents pay their water and sewer bills.

