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## **Republicans set to win Mississippi gubernatorial race**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – It will probably come as no surprise to anyone that the Republicans are a near mortal lock to retain Mississippi’s governor’s mansion when Haley Barbour leaves office next year. Except for Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant, all the candidates are disliked and unknown to at least three of every five voters. But the state’s Democrats and independents are so conservative that despite there being an equal number of Democrats as Republicans, any of the three major GOP candidates ought to easily win in November.

Bryant is seen favorably by 32% of voters and unfavorably by 27%. The 41% with no opinion makes him a beloved household name compared to Hattiesburg mayor Johnny DuPree’s 61% (12-28 favorable-to-unfavorable margin), businessmen Bill Luckett’s and Dave Dennis’ 65% (each 13-22), and retired general Hudson Holliday’s 69% (7-24). But even if voters do not know who these candidates are, and those who do say they dislike them, voters still prefer the Republicans across the board.

Bryant already has majority support against either DuPree (56-25) or Luckett (53-27). But Dennis also leads DuPree, 41-28, and Luckett 43-25. Holliday has the lowest profile, and therefore leads DuPree only 37-28 and Luckett by an almost identical 38-28. No Democrat can top 28%, but the more voters know the Republicans, the more willing they are to vote for them. Bryant is pulling 23% or 28% of Democrats and leading with independents by 22 or 23 points. Dennis and Holliday are doing not quite as well with Democrats but a little better with independents.

There is some chance for the eventual Democratic nominee to make up ground by consolidating support from African-Americans, who make up a third of voters, much more than in most states. The best showing is DuPree’s 63% against Dennis. But even boosting that to 90% leaves DuPree four points down, and if the undecided whites and others fall proportionately to where they are now, he trails 59-41, because blacks are already more in his corner than whites are in Dennis’.

“It’s never a good idea for a politician to start measuring the drapes seven months before an election but Phil Bryant is an overwhelming favorite right now to be the next Governor of Mississippi,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 817 Mississippi voters from March 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.4%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



## Mississippi Survey Results

**Q1** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Phil Bryant?

*Favorable*..... 32%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 27%  
*Not sure* ..... 41%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dave Dennis?

*Favorable*..... 13%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 22%  
*Not sure* ..... 65%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Johnny DuPree?

*Favorable*..... 12%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 28%  
*Not sure* ..... 61%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Hudson Holliday?

*Favorable*..... 7%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 24%  
*Not sure* ..... 69%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bill Lockett?

*Favorable*..... 13%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 22%  
*Not sure* ..... 65%

**Q6** If the candidates for Governor this fall were Republican Phil Bryant and Democrat Johnny DuPree, who would you vote for?

*Phil Bryant* ..... 56%  
*Johnny DuPree* ..... 25%  
*Undecided*..... 19%

**Q7** If the candidates for Governor this fall were Republican Phil Bryant and Democrat Bill Lockett, who would you vote for?

*Phil Bryant* ..... 53%  
*Bill Lockett* ..... 27%  
*Undecided*..... 20%

**Q8** If the candidates for Governor this fall were Republican Dave Dennis and Democrat Johnny DuPree, who would you vote for?

*Dave Dennis* ..... 41%  
*Johnny DuPree* ..... 28%  
*Undecided*..... 31%

**Q9** If the candidates for Governor this fall were Republican Dave Dennis and Democrat Bill Lockett, who would you vote for?

*Dave Dennis* ..... 43%  
*Bill Lockett* ..... 25%  
*Undecided*..... 32%

**Q10** If the candidates for Governor this fall were Republican Hudson Holliday and Democrat Johnny DuPree, who would you vote for?

*Hudson Holliday*..... 37%  
*Johnny DuPree* ..... 28%  
*Undecided*..... 35%

**Q11** If the candidates for Governor this fall were Republican Hudson Holliday and Democrat Bill Lockett, who would you vote for?

*Hudson Holliday*..... 38%  
*Bill Lockett* ..... 28%  
*Undecided*..... 34%





**Q12** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i> .....	11%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i> .....	11%
<i>Moderate</i> .....	28%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i> .....	24%
<i>Very conservative</i> .....	26%

**Q13** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i> .....	56%
<i>Man</i> .....	44%

**Q14** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i> .....	40%
<i>Republican</i> .....	40%
<i>Independent/Other</i> .....	20%

**Q15** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i> .....	63%
<i>African-American</i> .....	33%
<i>Other</i> .....	4%

**Q16** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i> .....	12%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	26%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	43%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	19%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Bryant Favorability</b>						
Favorable	32%	15%	18%	25%	41%	43%
Unfavorable	27%	47%	43%	27%	20%	20%
Not sure	41%	38%	39%	48%	40%	37%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Dennis Favorability</b>						
Favorable	13%	12%	11%	8%	14%	17%
Unfavorable	22%	39%	31%	20%	17%	19%
Not sure	65%	49%	58%	72%	68%	64%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>DuPree Favorability</b>						
Favorable	12%	24%	13%	10%	12%	7%
Unfavorable	28%	30%	36%	24%	26%	30%
Not sure	61%	46%	52%	66%	63%	63%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Holliday Favorability</b>						
Favorable	7%	10%	5%	4%	11%	5%
Unfavorable	24%	39%	38%	18%	18%	25%
Not sure	69%	50%	58%	78%	70%	71%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Lockett Favorability</b>						
Favorable	13%	18%	14%	16%	10%	9%
Unfavorable	22%	30%	29%	14%	20%	26%
Not sure	65%	52%	57%	71%	70%	64%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Bryant/DuPree</b>						
Phil Bryant	56%	48%	19%	39%	75%	74%
Johnny DuPree	25%	38%	56%	35%	8%	12%
Undecided	19%	14%	25%	25%	16%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Bryant/Lockett</b>						
Phil Bryant	53%	37%	28%	35%	69%	75%
Bill Lockett	27%	51%	44%	40%	9%	12%
Undecided	20%	12%	28%	25%	22%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Dennis/DuPree</b>						
Dave Dennis	41%	27%	20%	28%	54%	58%
Johnny DuPree	28%	53%	47%	35%	11%	17%
Undecided	31%	20%	33%	36%	35%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Dennis/Luckett</b>						
<b>Dave Dennis</b>	43%	29%	17%	27%	58%	63%
<b>Bill Luckett</b>	25%	55%	35%	33%	9%	15%
<b>Undecided</b>	32%	16%	48%	41%	33%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Holliday/DuPree</b>						
<b>Hudson Holliday</b>	37%	21%	11%	24%	48%	61%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	28%	59%	50%	31%	14%	15%
<b>Undecided</b>	35%	20%	39%	45%	39%	24%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Holliday/Luckett</b>						
<b>Hudson Holliday</b>	38%	25%	10%	21%	49%	64%
<b>Bill Luckett</b>	28%	55%	54%	35%	10%	14%
<b>Undecided</b>	34%	20%	36%	44%	41%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Bryant Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	30%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	24%	32%
<b>Not sure</b>	41%	46%	35%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dennis Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	10%	15%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	20%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	65%	69%	60%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>DuPree Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	12%	11%	13%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	24%	32%
<b>Not sure</b>	61%	65%	55%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Holliday Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	7%	6%	8%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	24%	18%	32%
<b>Not sure</b>	69%	76%	60%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Luckett Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	11%	15%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	19%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	65%	71%	59%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Bryant/DuPree</b>			
<b>Phil Bryant</b>	<b>56%</b>	52%	61%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	<b>25%</b>	25%	26%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>19%</b>	23%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Bryant/Luckett</b>			
<b>Phil Bryant</b>	<b>53%</b>	47%	61%
<b>Bill Luckett</b>	<b>27%</b>	29%	24%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>20%</b>	24%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dennis/DuPree</b>			
<b>Dave Dennis</b>	<b>41%</b>	34%	50%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	<b>28%</b>	30%	25%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>31%</b>	35%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dennis/Luckett</b>			
<b>Dave Dennis</b>	<b>43%</b>	35%	53%
<b>Bill Luckett</b>	<b>25%</b>	27%	22%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>32%</b>	38%	24%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Holliday/DuPree</b>			
<b>Hudson Holliday</b>	37%	28%	49%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	28%	30%	25%
<b>Undecided</b>	35%	41%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Holliday/Luckett</b>			
<b>Hudson Holliday</b>	38%	31%	47%
<b>Bill Luckett</b>	28%	28%	28%
<b>Undecided</b>	34%	41%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Bryant Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	18%	43%	36%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	39%	19%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	41%	43%	38%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Dennis Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	8%	14%	18%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	33%	13%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	65%	59%	73%	61%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>DuPree Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	12%	21%	5%	7%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	32%	25%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	61%	48%	70%	67%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Holliday Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	7%	8%	7%	5%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	24%	37%	15%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	69%	55%	78%	78%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Luckett Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	18%	9%	9%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	27%	18%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	65%	55%	73%	70%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Bryant/DuPree</b>				
<b>Phil Bryant</b>	56%	28%	84%	55%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	25%	49%	4%	23%
<b>Undecided</b>	19%	24%	12%	22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Bryant/Luckett</b>				
<b>Phil Bryant</b>	53%	23%	82%	54%
<b>Bill Luckett</b>	27%	55%	3%	21%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	23%	15%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Dennis/DuPree</b>				
<b>Dave Dennis</b>	41%	16%	64%	45%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	28%	57%	6%	16%
<b>Undecided</b>	31%	28%	30%	39%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Dennis/Luckett</b>				
<b>Dave Dennis</b>	43%	16%	68%	46%
<b>Bill Luckett</b>	25%	51%	5%	13%
<b>Undecided</b>	32%	33%	27%	41%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Holliday/DuPree</b>				
<b>Hudson Holliday</b>	37%	9%	65%	39%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	28%	58%	4%	17%
<b>Undecided</b>	35%	33%	31%	44%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Holliday/Luckett</b>				
Hudson Holliday	38%	9%	65%	41%
Bill Luckett	28%	59%	4%	16%
Undecided	34%	33%	31%	43%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Bryant Favorability</b>				
Favorable	32%	41%	14%	32%
Unfavorable	27%	21%	40%	26%
Not sure	41%	38%	47%	42%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Dennis Favorability</b>				
Favorable	13%	17%	6%	3%
Unfavorable	22%	13%	40%	29%
Not sure	65%	71%	54%	68%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>DuPree Favorability</b>				
Favorable	12%	8%	20%	3%
Unfavorable	28%	25%	33%	26%
Not sure	61%	67%	47%	71%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Holliday Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	7%	8%	4%	6%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	24%	16%	41%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	69%	75%	56%	77%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Lockett Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	12%	14%	16%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	19%	30%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	65%	69%	57%	71%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Bryant/DuPree</b>				
<b>Phil Bryant</b>	56%	74%	22%	39%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	25%	10%	54%	26%
<b>Undecided</b>	19%	15%	23%	35%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Bryant/Lockett</b>				
<b>Phil Bryant</b>	53%	72%	19%	42%
<b>Bill Lockett</b>	27%	12%	54%	29%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	16%	27%	29%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Dennis/DuPree</b>				
<b>Dave Dennis</b>	<b>41%</b>	58%	11%	26%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	<b>28%</b>	11%	63%	26%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>31%</b>	32%	26%	48%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Dennis/Luckett</b>				
<b>Dave Dennis</b>	<b>43%</b>	61%	10%	35%
<b>Bill Luckett</b>	<b>25%</b>	9%	56%	19%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>32%</b>	30%	35%	45%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Holliday/DuPree</b>				
<b>Hudson Holliday</b>	<b>37%</b>	54%	6%	29%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	<b>28%</b>	11%	62%	26%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>35%</b>	35%	32%	45%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Holliday/Luckett</b>				
<b>Hudson Holliday</b>	<b>38%</b>	54%	7%	39%
<b>Bill Luckett</b>	<b>28%</b>	12%	59%	23%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>34%</b>	34%	33%	39%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Bryant Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>32%</b>	28%	27%	33%	38%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>27%</b>	21%	34%	26%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>41%</b>	51%	40%	41%	36%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Dennis Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>13%</b>	9%	9%	15%	13%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>22%</b>	18%	32%	23%	10%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>65%</b>	73%	59%	61%	77%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>DuPre Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>12%</b>	13%	13%	13%	7%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>28%</b>	24%	30%	32%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>61%</b>	63%	57%	55%	77%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Holliday Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>7%</b>	9%	3%	7%	10%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>24%</b>	22%	34%	25%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>69%</b>	68%	63%	68%	79%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Luckett Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	14%	17%	11%	9%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	17%	25%	26%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	65%	68%	58%	63%	79%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Bryant/DuPree</b>					
<b>Phil Bryant</b>	56%	61%	45%	54%	70%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	25%	18%	34%	28%	11%
<b>Undecided</b>	19%	21%	20%	17%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Bryant/Luckett</b>					
<b>Phil Bryant</b>	53%	55%	40%	54%	66%
<b>Bill Luckett</b>	27%	29%	37%	27%	12%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	15%	23%	19%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Dennis/DuPree</b>					
<b>Dave Dennis</b>	41%	44%	35%	39%	51%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	28%	29%	37%	32%	6%
<b>Undecided</b>	31%	27%	28%	28%	42%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Dennis/Luckett</b>					
<b>Dave Dennis</b>	<b>43%</b>	41%	36%	41%	57%
<b>Bill Lockett</b>	<b>25%</b>	24%	38%	24%	11%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>32%</b>	35%	26%	35%	32%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Holliday/DuPree</b>					
<b>Hudson Holliday</b>	<b>37%</b>	38%	26%	38%	51%
<b>Johnny DuPree</b>	<b>28%</b>	26%	37%	31%	12%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>35%</b>	36%	37%	31%	37%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Holliday/Lockett</b>					
<b>Hudson Holliday</b>	<b>38%</b>	44%	26%	39%	49%
<b>Bill Lockett</b>	<b>28%</b>	26%	40%	27%	15%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>34%</b>	31%	34%	34%	36%

