

BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI
Guiding Principles

BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI is a collective, independent voice of public, private, professional, and nonprofit organizations, service and citizen groups, businesses, labor and faith organizations and individuals working together to promote better choices for shared prosperity for all Mississippians. It specifically encourages the collaboration of all interested individuals and organizations working to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for education, mental health and other quality of life issues.

The mission of **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** is to strengthen the quality of public services and structures needed to move Mississippi forward.

BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI operates under these guiding principles:

- Mississippi is a great state with tremendous potential and untapped human and natural resources.
- In order for Mississippi to be the best it can for all of its citizens, Mississippi needs a better educated and healthier workforce.
- Mississippi's fiscal crisis is due in part to the global recession but also to our own making. Tax policies and exemptions have left the state with insufficient revenues to fund needed services.
- Cutting alone is not a sufficient solution to balancing our budget. The balanced way to address our current fiscal crisis and invest in our future is to make wise spending choices and modernize our antiquated revenue system.

Membership-There are Organizational and Individual members of **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI**.

Organizational Members are organizations or coalitions who agree to the goals and principles of **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** and sign the endorsement form. Member organizations/coalitions agree to be publicly associated with **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** and support its platform. Individual Members are individuals who agree to the goals and principles of **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** and sign the endorsement form but are representing only themselves and not an organization. Members agree to be publicly associated with **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** and support its platform.

Membership Responsibilities- Members shall actively participate in **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** in the following ways:

- Members shall support the **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI**'s mission and purpose
- Attend **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** meetings
- Serve as a resource or advisor to the **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** steering committee, a committee, or an activity
- Actively engage, encourage, and advocate the need for the mission and purposes of the **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** through direct contact with legislators and other policy makers
- Subscribe to the **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** listserv
- Educate their members and stakeholders about the work of **BETTER CHOICE FOR MISSISSIPPI** through e-mail alerts and/or other communications
- Host a presentation about **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI**
- Include **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI** materials and articles in their publications
- Other duties necessary to advance **BETTER CHOICES FOR MISSISSIPPI**'s agenda