Lynn Fitch

STATE TREASURER

2016 Debt Affordability Study

March 11, 2016

Lynn Fitch
STATE TREASURER

Dear Fellow Mississippians:

It is my great honor to present to you Mississippi's 2016 Debt Affordability Study. For many states, an annual debt affordability study is a practice required by law or even state constitution. While it is not a required practice in our state, it is one which credit rating agencies have noted favorably as a tool of good budget management. And, that is why I initiated the practice in 2014.

In this report, you will find a profile of our outstanding debt, an overview of our constitutional and statutory debt policies, information on how credit rating agencies view our state's debt and debt management, forecasts of debt service and revenue, and more.

Mississippi has above average debt levels amongst the 50 states. In fact, while most states have experienced a reduction in their Net Tax Supported Debt per Capita (NTSD), Mississippi's has continually and gradually increased. While the U.S. median NTSD is $1,012, ours stands at $1,747. That represents the amount of debt assigned to every man, woman, and child in this state.

Thus, while our total general obligation bond indebtedness of $4.19 billion (as of December 31, 2015) is well within our constitutionally-mandated debt limit, rating agencies remain concerned about the prospect of taking on more debt than we can handle in the long-term. Think of it this way: Just because you haven't maxed out your credit card, doesn't mean you should go on a shopping spree to reach that limit.

The Debt Affordability Study is meant to be a tool for your elected leaders in the Legislature to use as they make important decisions about funding our state's future needs and wants. In a broader sense, however, I want it to be a resource for you, the taxpayers. It ensures that you have the data necessary to make informed decisions about economic development projects and capital spending priorities pursued by the state on your behalf.

Sincerely,

Lynn Fitch

Lynn Fitch
Treasurer
State of Mississippi

Table of Contents

Tables and Charts

"Most of the AAA States have a clearly articulated debt management policy. Evaluating the impact of new or authorized but unissued bond programs on future operating budgets is an important element of debt management and assessing debt affordability." - Standard and Poor's

Executive Summary

The purpose of a Debt Affordability Study is to be a tool to help guide policymakers when assessing the impact of bond programs on the State's fiscal position, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding capital spending priorities and economic development needs. The data discussed and illustrated herein has been separated into the categories that represent the largest historical borrowing needs: Capital Improvements, Transportation, and Economic Development. Guidance on current as well as forecasted revenue has been provided by the State's Economist. The development of a financial model has also been created to help measure the impact of changes in the annual debt service payment and the amount of revenue available for debt service.

The information presented not only gives our agency an invaluable look into the advantages of debt forecasting, it also gives our local and national community a look into the State's finances, our current debt burden along with our long term debt obligations, our revenue strengths, and a glimpse at our credit rating and standing amongst our peer states.

As of June 30, 2015, the total General Obligation debt outstanding for the State of Mississippi was $4,185,105,000. This debt is backed by the full faith and credit of the State and represents 31.44% of our Constitutional Debt limit for fiscal year-end 2015 ($13,312,193,788). The State remains a very strong credit in the eyes of the rating agencies (AA+: Fitch Ratings Service / Aa2: Moody's Investor Service / AA: Standard and Poor's). This strength relates well in the marketplace when issuing debt and for the past several years, the State has had more interested buyers of our General Obligation debt than what we have had available to sell. Our outlook remains strong, as well, with Fitch recently revising their position from Negative to Stable. This stance mirrors the thoughts of the other rating agencies, also. Most of this positive feedback can be attributed to the State's fiscal improvement and a strong budgetary and governmental framework that has allowed Mississippi to *"quickly regain its financial footing after the recession, despite the lackluster economic recovery"* (Moody's Investor Service).

The remainder of this study will provide more detail regarding the State's bond indebtedness, debt policies, estimated annual debt service requirements, credit ratings, and estimated debt issuance along with revenue collections (both current and projected). We have also included a comparison of debt ratios that illustrate how Mississippi compares to our peer states as well as to national averages in net tax supported debt per capita and net tax supported debt as a percentage of personal income.

Any questions regarding the Debt Affordability Study or the information contained within may be directed to the Office of the State Treasurer (Laura Jackson, Deputy Treasurer (laura.jackson@treasury.ms.gov) or Ricky Manning, Bond Director (ricky.manning@treasury.ms.gov)).

Profile of Outstanding General Obligation Debt

Total Net Direct General Obligation Bonded Debt outstanding as of June 30, 2015 was $4,185,105,000 (an increase of $42,430,000 in outstanding debt compared to June 30, 2014). The debt represented by the issuance of these bonds is backed by the full faith and credit of the State of Mississippi. As of June 30, 2015 the State did not carry any revenue or self-supporting bonds. Long-term fixed-rate debt comprises $4,014,545,000 of outstanding debt, while variable rate debt is $170,560,000 of total outstanding debt. This exposure to variable rate debt is in the form of 5 Year Floating Rate Bonds (benchmarked to LIBOR for the taxable bonds and to SIFMA for the tax-exempt bonds). All outstanding fixed-rate debt will mature from 2015 to 2037. Furthermore, debt issued outside of the purview of the State Bond Commission is not reflected in this total (some bonds issued by the Mississippi Development Bank carry the moral obligation pledge of the State and not the General Obligation). For purposes of this report, this type of debt is excluded from any analysis performed by the Debt Affordability Study. In addition to debt outstanding, the State currently has a number of projects authorized by the Legislature that have not been issued (see Appendix A: Authorized but Unissued). The balance at June 30, 2015 for projects authorized but not yet issued was $1.058 billion.

Figure 1

FYE	Net Direct General Obligation Bonds & Notes	Self-Supporting General Obligation & Revenue Bonds	Total Bond Indebtedness
2000	2,030,086,000	238,687,000	2,268,773,000
2001	2,434,252,000	216,095,000	2,650,347,000
2002	2,670,148,000	196,670,000	2,866,180,000
2003	2,823,654,000	181,815,000	3,005,469,000
2004	2,956,490,000	156,360,000	3,112,850,000
2005	2,934,090,000	131,950,000	3,066,040,000
2006	2,987,335,000	106,925,000	3,094,260,000
2007	3,158,200,000	81,950,000	3,240,150,000
2008	3,084,125,000	79,315,000	3,163,440,000
2009	3,422,840,000	3,790,000	3,426,630,000
2010	3,485,982,000	2,885,000	3,488,867,000
2011	3,784,525,000	1,955,000	3,786,480,000
2012	4,130,470,000	995,000	4,131,465,000
2013	4,055,890,000	0	4,055,890,000
2014	4,142,675,000	0	4,142,675,000
2015	4,185,105,000	0	4,185,105,000

Debt Policies

Limits on the issuance of general obligation debt are governed constitutionally in Mississippi. Section 115, Paragraph 2 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 provides that *"Neither the State nor any of it direct agencies, excluding political subdivisions and other local districts, shall incur a bonded indebtedness in excess of one and one-half (1 ½) times the sum of all the revenue collected by it for all purposes during any one of the preceding four fiscal years, whichever year might be higher."* The Constitutional Debt Limit at June 30, 2015 was $13,312,193,788. When compared to outstanding general obligation debt during the same period, the percentage of debt to the Constitutional Limit was 31.44%.

The issuance of general obligation bonds begins with the authorization of projects by the State of Mississippi's Legislature. During the Legislative session, various capital improvement and/or economic development projects are authorized by the voting members and then signed into law by

Figure 2

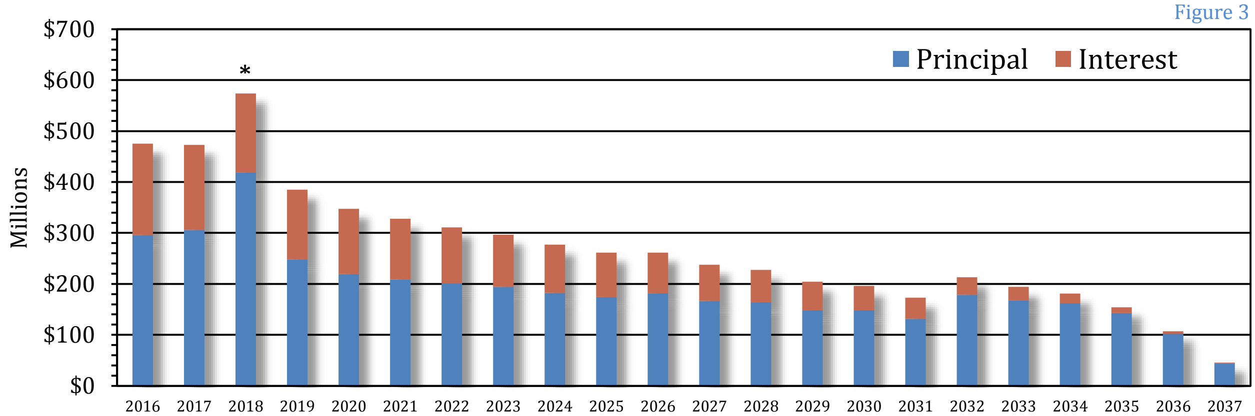
FYE	Constitutional Debt Limit	FYE Total Bond Indebtedness	Debt as % of Limit
2000	7,643,476,079	2,268,773,000	29.68%
2001	7,994,128,992	2,650,347,000	33.15%
2002	8,108,981,631	2,866,818,000	35.35%
2003	8,429,054,541	3,005,469,000	35.66%
2004	8,632,162,200	3,112,850,000	36.06%
2005	9,906,570,900	3,066,040,000	30.95%
2006	10,930,261,350	3,094,260,000	28.31%
2007	12,009,366,365	3,240,150,000	26.98%
2008	12,451,109,180	3,465,750,000	27.83%
2009	12,451,109,180	3,417,205,000	27.44%
2010	12,451,109,180	3,488,867,000	28.02%
2011	12,451,109,180	3,786,480,000	30.41%
2012	12,451,109,180	4,131,465,000	33.18%
2013	12,505,103,786	4,055,890,000	32.43%
2014	12,823,921,730	4,142,675,000	32.30%
2015	13,312,193,788	4,185,105,000	31.44%

the Governor. The State Bond Commission, comprised of the Governor (Chairman), Attorney General (Secretary), and State Treasurer, considers those projects authorized in current and past legislation and issues the appropriate bonds to fund these projects. When Refunding Bonds are being considered, MS Code § 31-27-13 provides that at least 2% net present value savings be attained in the issuance of this debt. To further ensure nominal savings on Refunding Bonds, State Bond Commission policy requires at least 3% net present value savings before the issuance of this type of debt.

Estimated Annual Debt Service Requirements

The Office of the State Treasurer is assigned the task of managing debt service for the State. This agency ensures the timely payment of principal and interest (along with associated fees) for all outstanding debt by maintaining debt service schedules for each issue. Funds to pay the annual debt service requirements are appropriated by the State Legislature through the General Fund. In addition to the General Fund appropriation, debt service is also funded through the use of Special Funds. Funding from Special Funds is derived from interest earnings on unspent bond proceeds, repayments from loan programs issued on behalf of the Mississippi Development Authority, and other recurring and non-recurring transfers (such as tax credits from the Build America Bonds or early loan pay-offs). As illustrated below in Figure 3, amortization for all outstanding general obligation debt is payable through FY37.

Figure 3



*A balloon payment from the floating rate bonds is due in FY 2018, however the intent of the State Bond Commission at that time is to restructure those bonds and extend the maturity.

Credit Rating Review

Credit ratings play an important role in the issuance of debt and are one of the factors that affects the State's cost of capital on debt issuance. During the spring bond sale in February 2015, the State's general obligation bond ratings were affirmed at AA+ (Fitch Ratings Service), Aa2 (Moody's), and AA (Standard and Poor's). While Moody's and Standard and Poor's affirmed the State's stable outlook, Fitch Rating's negative outlook remained in place. In their official ratings report, Fitch praised the State for its conservative financial management and stringent budget control mechanisms, but the agency maintained its negative outlook. Fitch's concern was the State's slow fiscal recovery from the recession and a pattern of continued reliance on one-time resources to cover recurring expenses. Subsequent to this outlook revision, State leadership acted swiftly to move to a policy that does not rely on nor budget with one-time resources. During the issuance of general obligation debt in November 2015 (past the scope of this study), all three agencies affirmed the State's double-A credit status and Fitch revised its outlook to stable from negative. This is an action that is in line with both Standard and Poor's and Moody's outlook evaluation. Also noted in the Fitch report as a troubling sign is Mississippi's unfunded pension liabilities. When measured as a percentage of personal income, Mississippi is among the highest of all states in the U.S.. Areas where credit strengths were noted by the rating agencies include the diversification of the economy and successful economic development initiatives, as well as the Rainy Day Fund currently maintained at its statutory cap.

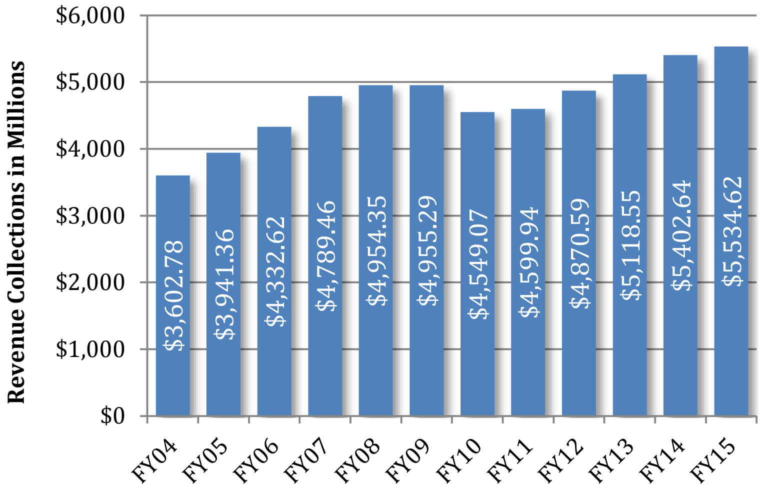
Estimated Debt Issuance

The Office of the State Treasurer collected data from the agencies that represent the largest borrowing needs in the State. These agencies were asked to review or examine their long term needs and assess the importance and time sensitivity in funding those needs through borrowing. The data in this study represents the 5 year estimated borrowing needs for the Mississippi Development Authority, the Department of Finance and Administration – Bureau of Buildings, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation. Gathering these 5 year plans are necessary to insert into our forecasting model to illustrate how future borrowings would affect current indebtedness. The effects of these future borrowings when combined with existing debt will be discussed later in this study.

Revenue Collections

In order to fund projects within the state, a healthy revenue stream is important. Whether the project at hand is an improvement to capital facilities or the construction of a manufacturing site, the ability to collect, control, and forecast future revenue streams is vital to financing. As reported by State Economist, Darrin Webb, at the 2015 Legislative Economic Briefing, Mississippi's economy is following a similar pattern of growth and gradual improvement as seen in the U.S. economy. Revenue projections along with information regarding the State's economy were provided by the Mississippi University Research Center. Although income growth has been more modest, the state has reported the strongest employment growth since 1999. It is believed that as the national economy continues to improves, Mississippi economy will experience similar improvement.

Figure 4



Collections by the Department of Revenue representing Total General Fund revenues at June 30, 2015 were $5,534,615,400. These collections were 1.37% higher ($74,815,400) than the FY15 Revenue Estimate and 2.44% higher ($131,978,426) than revenue collections at June 30, 2014.

Debt Ratios

Figure 5

2015 Comparison of Mississippi to Peer Group and National Medians

	Net Tax-Supported Debt per Capita	Net Tax-Supported Debt as a % of Personal Income	Debt Service Ratio
Mississippi	$1,747	5.1%	6.2%
Peer Group Mean	$1,557	3.8%	6.2%
Peer Group Median	$1,333	3.2%	5.9%
National Mean	$1,419	3.1%	5.5%
National Median	$1,012	2.5%	5.3%

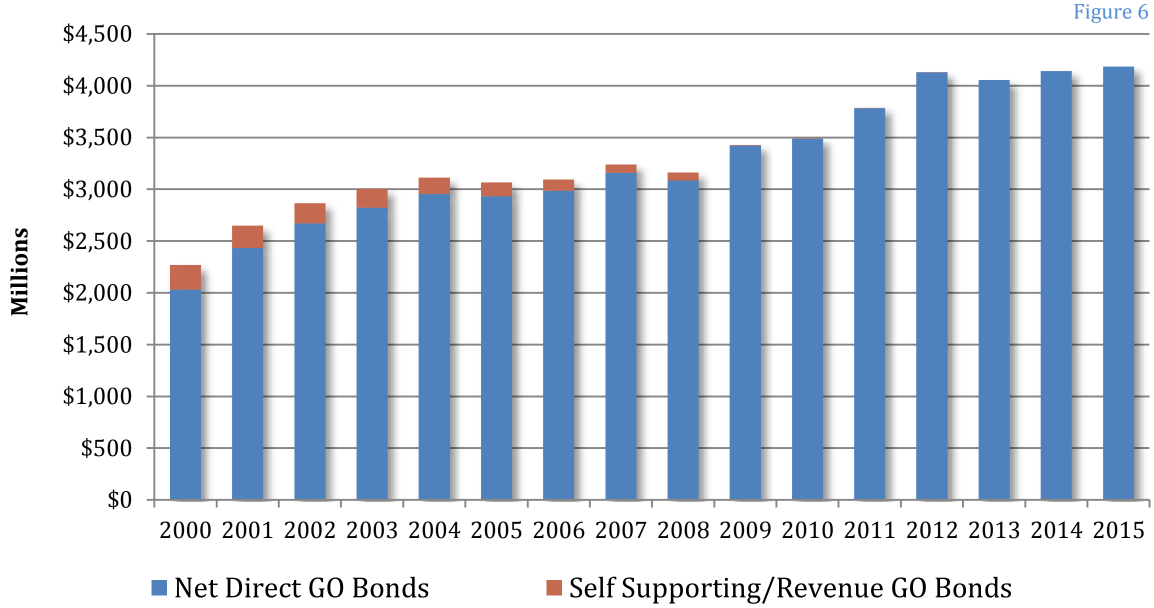
The information provided above is prepared by Moody's Investor Services annually. The data illustrates state-by-state comparisons and rankings for net-tax supported debt as it relates to various financial criteria. Mississippi lags its peer group and national mean and median in Net-Tax Supported Debt per Capita. In FY15, $1,747 represents the amount each Mississippian is "responsible" for in order to cover all Net-Tax Supported Debt for the State. As it relates to what residents earn annually, this debt is 5.1% of personal income in the State – the highest not only in its peer group, but also higher than the national mean and median. The debt service ratio (which is derived from debt service on net tax supported debt divided by operating fund revenues plus pledged revenues) measures net tax supported debt as a percentage of revenues. Although not the highest on an individual basis in its peer group, the State's debt service ratio of 6.2% is higher than the mean and medians of its peer group and in the nation. The rankings of Mississippi nationally for Net Tax Supported Debt per Capita, Net Tax Supported Debt as a Percentage of Personal Income, and the Debt Service Ratio are 14th, 11th, and 17th, respectively. As provided by the information found in the Moody's State Debt Medians report, the scale slides from 1-50 (with 50 being the state with the best averages and 1 being the state with the worst averages)

● STATE BOND INDEBTEDNESS ●

It is important to monitor the trend in Mississippi's outstanding debt to evaluate how debt levels have changed over time. Figure 6 below illustrates **Historical Bond Indebtedness** (*as of June 30th) each year from fiscal years 2000 to 2015.

Historical Bond Indebtedness

Figure 6



Although the State has seen growth in bond indebtedness over the last several fiscal years, Total Net Direct General Obligation Bonds increased slightly in FY15 from FY14 by approximately $42.4 million. Self-Supporting General Obligation Bonds (primarily those of the Deer Island Project) have been paid off and are no longer part of the State's total indebtedness. It is important to note that in FY16, the State issued $200,000,000 in Gaming Tax Revenue Bonds. The issuance of these bonds falls outside the scope of this Study, but can be found in summary in the Appendix and will be addressed within the 2017 Debt Affordability Study.

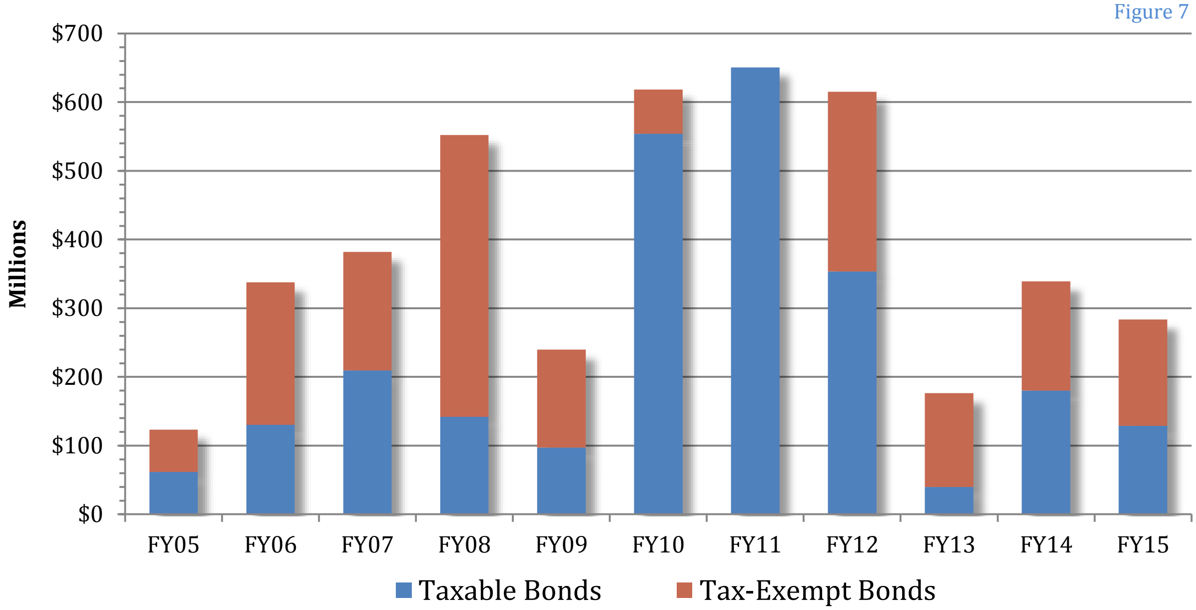
"New money" issuance actually decreased in FY15 when compared to FY14 (a decrease in year-over-year new money issuance of approximately $55.5 million). In FY15, the State issued a total of $283,635,000 (comprised of the $154,685,000 State of Mississippi General Obligation Bonds, Series 2015A (Tax-Exempt) and the $128,950,000 State of Mississippi Taxable General Obligation Bonds, Series 2015B). The State leadership has indicated that they plan to balance bond issuance with debt service; in other words, they prefer to limit the amount of new debt issued to no more than the state will pay off in any given fiscal year. This stance does not include large economic development projects that could bolster Mississippi's economy and increase employment opportunities.

Over the last several years, the State has taken advantage of the historically low interest rate environment and the issuance of new money has provided funding for various economic development, capital improvement, and transportation needs. Projects benefiting from these savings include Yokohama Tire, Universities and Community Colleges (including the new medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center), museums (Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History), and various state and local projects.

As illustrated in Figure 7 below, the issuance of new money has fluctuated a great deal historically. The peak years on the graph primarily relate to the issuance of large economic development projects in the State. The issuance of this debt helps to improve the State's economy by creating/adding jobs in addition to creating a larger tax base for the Department of Revenue.

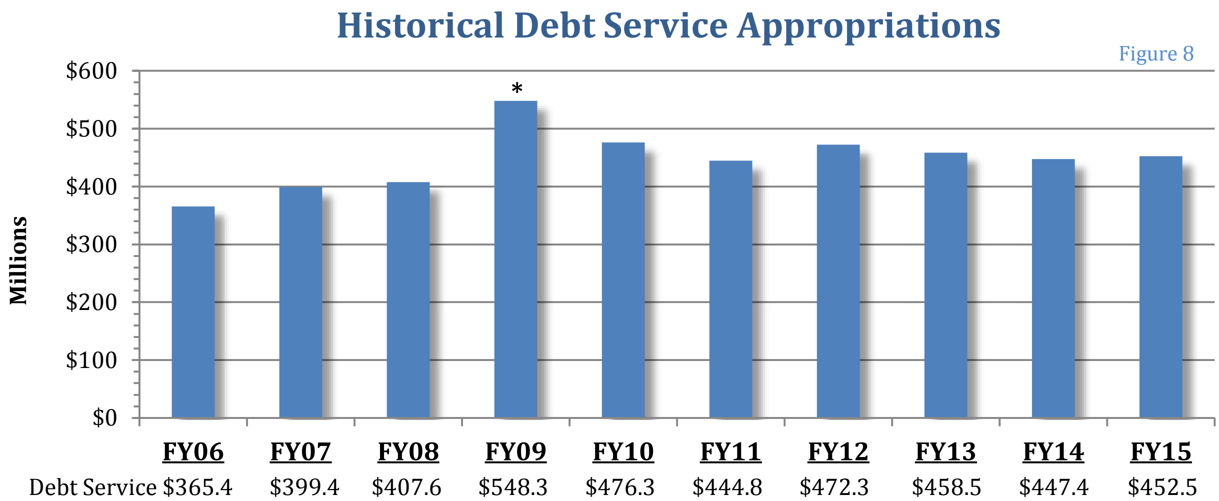
New Money Issuance by Fiscal Year (Taxable vs. Tax-Exempt)

Figure 7



● ANNUAL DEBT SERVICE ●

Over the past 10 years, annual general obligation debt service requirements have grown approximately 24%, increasing from $365.4 million in FY06 to $452.5 million in FY15. From a budgetary perspective, measuring the growth in debt service indicates how much of the State's resources are obligated to pay debt service before providing for other essential government services. The graph below (Figure 8) shows debt service appropriations (received from General Fund and Special Fund appropriations) for the last ten years.



*includes $7 million deficit appropriation and a debt service payment from Special Funds for $100 million from Gulf Tax Credit

Annual debt service payments for the State's existing net tax-supported General Obligation debt for FY15 is approximately $452 million. As depicted in Figure 9 on the next page, current debt service payments over the next several fiscal years remain relatively flat, assuming no future issuance. The spike in FY18 is due to the maturity of the State's 5-year floating rate bonds (variable rate debt). The Office of the State Treasurer anticipates that these bonds will either be converted into another similar instrument at that time or the floating rate bonds will be rolled into long-term fixed rate debt. Subsequent to the spike in FY18, and assuming no future issuance, debt service over the next five fiscal years begins to decline and payments are reduced in those fiscal years by as much as 10%.

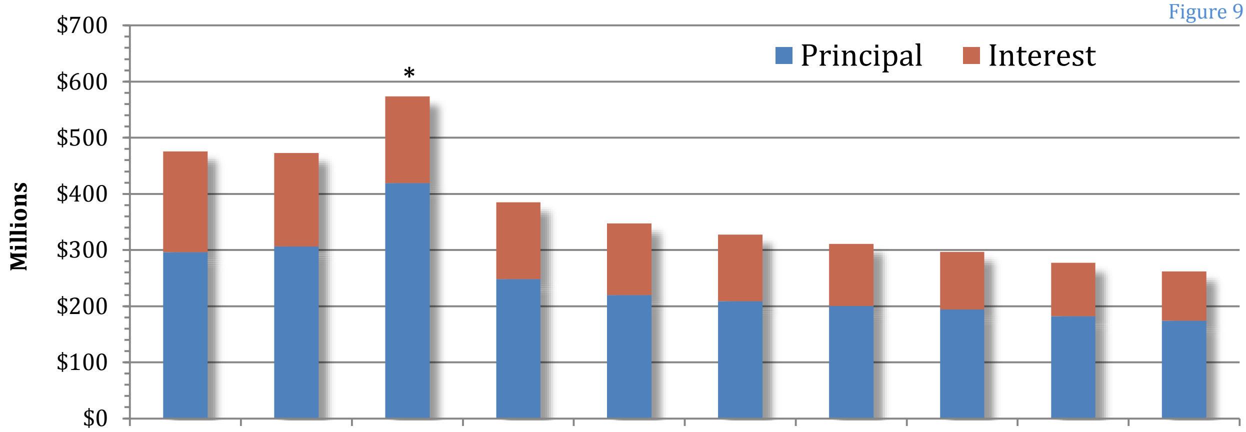
Debt service payments on existing outstanding debt for the next ten years total $3.729 billion, with principal and interest payments totaling $2.449 billion and $1.280 billion, respectively.

Future Debt Service Requirements on Existing General Obligation Debt

(10 Year Calculation)

As of June 30, 2015

Figure 9



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Principal	$296.2	$306.1	$419.0	$247.9	$219.7	$208.7	$200.6	$194.2	$182.3	$174.3
Interest	$179.4	$166.8	$154.8	$136.8	$127.5	$118.9	$110.5	$102.6	$95.0	$87.4
Total	**$475.6**	**$472.9**	**$573.8**	**$384.7**	**$347.2**	**$327.6**	**$311.1**	**$296.8**	**$277.3**	**$261.7**

*A balloon payment from the floating rate bonds is due in FY 2018, however the intent of the State Bond Commission at that time is to restructure those bonds and extend the maturity.

Build America Bonds (BABs) and Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds (RZEDBs) were authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and issued with taxable interest rates with the Federal Government reimbursing the issuer for 35% of the interest cost for the BABs and 45% of the interest cost for the RZEDBs. The State issued approximately $470 million in BABs during fiscal years '10 and '11 and $45 million in RZEDBs in FY11. Debt service is shown net of the BABs and RZEDBs subsidy for purposes of this report. Due to federal sequestration during FY13, the subsidy was reduced initially by 8.7% and then revised to a reduction of 7.2%. In FY14, the federal government further revised the subsidy to a 7.3% reduction. The amount of subsidy the State receives from the federal government is budgeted and used for the annual payment of debt service for the BABs and RZEDBs.

● DEBT ISSUANCE AND DEBT SERVICE FORECAST ●

Estimated future bond issuance has been provided by the three agencies that represent the majority of historical borrowings in the State: Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), the Department of Finance and Administration – Bureau of Buildings (BoB), and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Based on historical data provided by MDA, the numbers provided are estimates for the average annual usage in key programs over the next 5 years (such as the Industry Incentive Financing Revolving Fund, the ACE fund, and the Development Infrastructure Program). According to the agency, information they provided for this study *"shows what MDA estimates the average annual usage to be in our key bond programs over the next five years. It is important to note that these are merely projections based on previous years' program usage, as well as our current funding availability*."

The Bureau of Buildings is tasked with the management and maintenance of all State-owned facilities. Proceeds from previous bond issues have benefited the state in repair and renovation, capital improvement, and preplanning needs for state institutions.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is the operational agency of the Mississippi Transportation Commission tasked to maintain and improve the highway, rail, maritime, public transportation, and aviation infrastructure in the state. The Mississippi Department of Transportation is responsible for providing a safe intermodal transportation network that is planned, designed, constructed and maintained in an effective, cost efficient, and environmentally sensitive manner.

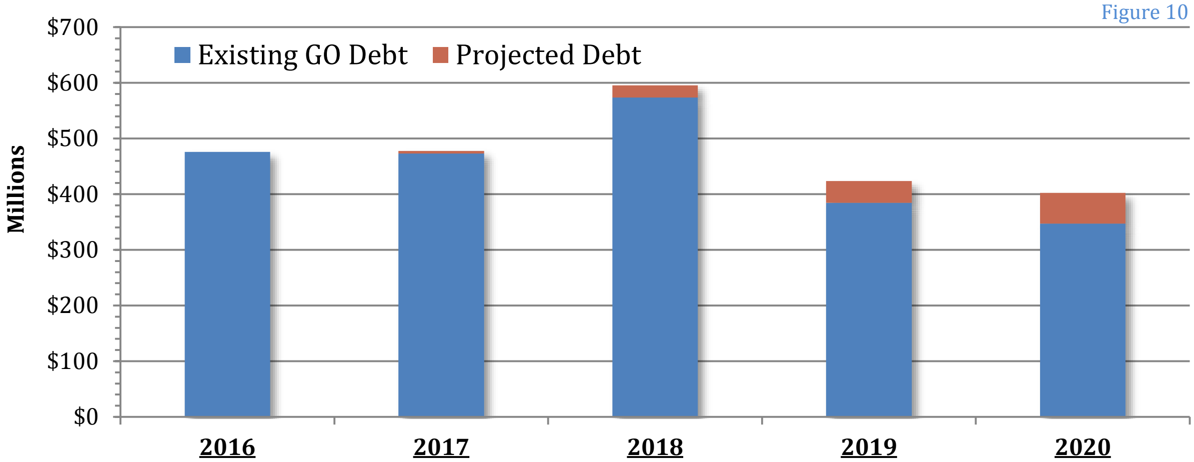
Approximately $1.97 billion in new money debt issuance is projected over the next five years for these three agencies alone. These numbers do not include various other agencies' financing projections and/or programs.

Figure 10 on the next page illustrates **existing debt service** and the **estimated annual debt service** for projected financing needs over the next 5 fiscal years. These projections include projects administered through MDA, BoB, and MDOT. Information provided by each of these agencies was used in the calculation of future estimated debt service requirements.

Existing and Projected Debt Service Payments

(in thousands)

Figure 10



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Existing	$475,654	$472,939	$573,865	$384,752	$347,229
Projected	$0	$4,496	$21,454	$39,112	$55,242
Total	**$475,654**	**$477,435**	**$595,319**	**$423,864**	**$402,471**

Please note that a balloon payment from the Floating Rate Bonds is due in FY18; however, the intent of the State Bond Commission at that time is to restructure those bonds and extend the maturity.

Through these estimated bond issuances, annual debt service payments would increase an estimated .95% (FY17), 3.74% (FY18), 10.17% (FY19), and 15.91% (FY20) over existing debt service requirements.

● REVENUE FORECAST ●

Actual General Fund Revenue collections for FY 2015 exceeded FY 2014 collections by almost $132 million or 2.44%. Growth in revenue obviously has a positive impact on the amount available to support debt service. However, a volatile economy complicates the decision making process. Although FY 2015 collections ($5,534.6 billion) exceeded the Sine Die estimate ($5,459.8 billion) by 1.37%, FY 2016 collections have fallen short of the estimate resulting in budget cuts.

Historical Revenue Available for Tax-Supported Debt

(in millions)

Figure 11

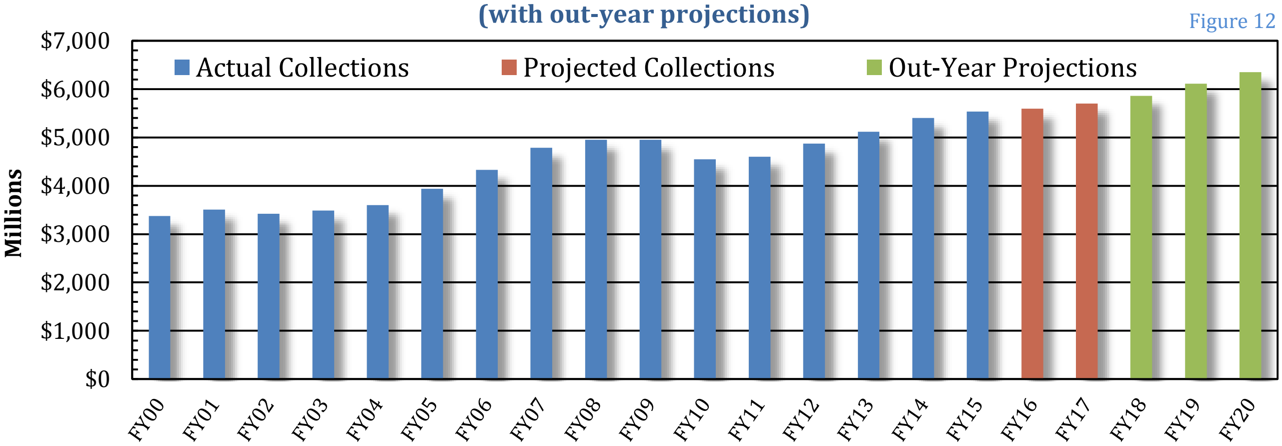
	ACTUAL COLLECTIONS				PROJECTED COLLECTIONS				
	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
General Fund Collections									
Sales Tax	1,854.7	1,911.1	1,955.1	2,034.3	2,095.2	2,179.0	2,262.7	2,354.1	2,447.3
Individual Income Tax	1,489.1	1,650.1	1,666.8	1,743.4	1,830.0	1,903.2	1,976.3	2,055.0	2,137.4
Corporate Income Tax	505.3	524.1	677.0	714.1	692.5	635.0	598.7	628.7	662.0
Use Tax	215.8	233.4	246.3	226.5	231.5	236.1	247.3	259.8	272.9
Gaming Fees and Taxes	152.1	139.6	127.8	131.3	133.2	135.2	139.3	143.4	147.7
All Other Sources	653.5	660.2	729.6	685.0	612.8	614.7	638.6	668.1	686.2
TOTAL GENERAL FUND COLLECTIONS	**4,870.5**	**5,118.5**	**5,402.6**	**5,534.6**	**5,595.2**	**5,703.2**	**5,862.9**	**6,109.1**	**6,353.5**

The chart above labeled Historical Revenue Available for Tax-Supported Debt (Figure 11) illustrates the Actual Collections for the most recently completed four fiscal years, plus the FY 2016 and FY 2017 projections adopted by the Legislative leadership in November 2015. For purposes of this report, we requested information from the State's Economist regarding out-year projections and were provided the numbers shown above for the fiscal years 2018 through 2020. The projections have not been recommended by the Revenue Estimating Committee (REC) or the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC), but are simply a reflection of the long term growth anticipated by the State's Economist.

Historical General Fund Collections

(with out-year projections)

Figure 12



While there are some specific special fund revenues dedicated to the payment of debt service (interest earnings, loan repayments, subsidies), the majority of the funding for the payment of debt service comes from the General Fund revenue collections. The projection of revenue (Figure 12 above) reflects a forecast of funds that could be available for debt service. **An increase in total available revenues could result in an increase in the amount available for debt service.**

● COMPARISON OF DEBT RATIOS ●

The State's debt position is evaluated in the municipal bond market with three primary debt ratios: 1) net tax supported debt per capita, 2) net tax supported debt as a percentage of personal income, and 3) debt service to revenues. State debt ratios are helpful because when comparing the state to its peer group or the nation, absolute values are more useful with a basis for comparison.

Figure 13

2015 Comparison of Mississippi to Peer Group and National Medians

	Net Tax-Supported Debt per Capita	Net Tax-Supported Debt as a % of Personal Income	Debt Service Ratio
Mississippi	$1,747	5.1%	6.2%
Peer Group Mean	$1,557	3.8%	6.2%
Peer Group Median	$1,333	3.2%	5.9%
National Mean	$1,419	3.1%	5.5%
National Median	$1,012	2.5%	5.3%

Mississippi's debt ratios lag the national averages as well as those in its peer group (see table below for comparison to other Aa2 states).

Figure 14

2015 Comparison of Mississippi to Peer Group

	Rating	Net Tax Supported Debt per Capita		Net Tax Supported Debt as a % of Personal Income		Debt Service Ratios	
Mississippi	Aa2	$1,747	14	5.1%	11	6.2%	17
Hawaii	Aa2	$4,867	3	10.8%	1	13.0%	1
Rhode Island	Aa2	$1,985	10	4.2%	12	7.5%	15
Kentucky	Aa2	$1,921	11	5.3%	9	9.1%	9
Wisconsin	Aa2	$1,794	13	4.2%	13	7.9%	12
Louisiana	Aa2	$1,566	16	3.9%	15	4.7%	29
Kansas	Aa2	$1,099	23	2.5%	25	3.3%	34
Maine	Aa2	$942	29	2.3%	29	5.7%	22
Arizona	Aa2	$846	31	2.3%	28	5.6%	23
Michigan	Aa2	$758	33	1.9%	33	3.2%	35
Nevada	Aa2	$665	37	1.7%	36	6.1%	18
Oklahoma	Aa2	$493	41	1.2%	42	2.4%	42

Mississippi is 12.20% higher than its peer group average in net tax supported debt per capita and 23.12% higher when compared to the national average. The State is also behind in net tax supported debt as a percentage of personal income by 1.3% and 2.0% for the peer group average and the national average, respectively. The ratio is a little tighter when comparing the State's debt service to revenues: .03% higher than its peer group average compared to .90% higher than the national average.

● CREDIT RATING REVIEW ●

The State's credit rating is the forward looking opinions about credit risk by the nation's three most widely recognized rating agencies: Moody's Investor Services, Standard and Poor's, and Fitch Ratings. Credit ratings express the respective agency's opinion about the ability and willingness of an issuer to meet its financial obligations in full and on time. Each agency applies its own methodology in measuring creditworthiness and uses a specific rating scale to publish its ratings opinion. Four primary factors are considered in credit analysis: governance, debt and liability profile, budget and financial management, and economic indicators.

During the spring of 2015, the three major rating agencies (Moody's, Standard and Poor's, and Fitch) each affirmed the State's Aa2, AA, and AA+ general obligation ratings, respectively. Along with the relative ratings that are published with each bond issue, the agencies also submit their rationale for the ratings along with the issuer's strengths and challenges (both current and future). Although methodologies may differ slightly from agency to agency, their general assessment of the State's financial and economic outlook are relatively similar. It should be noted, though, that during the issuance of general obligation debt in November 2015 (past the scope of this study), that all three agencies affirmed the State's double-A credit status and Fitch revised its outlook to stable from negative (which is in line with both Standard and Poor's and Moody's outlook evaluation).

Figure 15

State of Mississippi
General Obligation Credit Ratings
(as of June 30, 2015)

	Rating	Outlook
Moody's Investor Services	Aa2	Stable
Standard & Poor's	AA	Stable
Fitch Ratings	AA+	Negative

STRENGTHS

The State continues to see fiscal improvement by taking steps toward achieving structural budgetary balance and maintaining a healthy balance in the rainy day fund through FY 2015. Mississippi's rating could be stabilized if the State continues to have positive financial results, particularly in light of economic weakness that is somewhat inconsistent from the national trend. A strong governmental framework is supported by a constitutional requirement to adopt and maintain a balanced budget throughout the fiscal year (FY16 also supports a balanced budget). The State practices fiscal conservatism through a statutory 2% budget set-aside and mandatory spending cuts if revenues fall below 98% of the budget estimate. Through historically conservative and proactive fiscal management, the state has been able to maintain financial stability through periods of revenue decline. This is, in part, due to strong embedded fiscal policies and practices. Standard & Poor's *"deems Mississippi's financial management practices 'strong' under its Financial Management Assessment methodology, indicating our view that practices are strong, well-embedded, and likely sustainable."*

CHALLENGES

Mississippi has an economy that trails many national median indicators and is more dependent than other states on federal spending. A weak socio-economic profile seen by below average wealth and income coupled with the nation's highest poverty rate and lowest educational attainment levels present challenges to the state's credit rating. The Negative Outlook assigned to the State by Fitch reflects the relatively slow economic recovery and a pattern of using one-time revenues to support on-going expenditures (despite the fact that "one-time money" was not used to support the budget in recent years). Unemployment in the State was generally in-line with the nation, although the state lagged the nation in the recovery since the recession and employment growth has not been consistent. Unfunded pension liabilities are among the highest of the states when measured as a percentage of personal income. Moody's and Standard & Poor's affirmed the State's Stable Outlook in the spring of 2015, yet Fitch continued to assign a Negative Outlook. Although partially due to the unfunded pension liability, Fitch also noted that *"the rating may be lowered if the state is unable to consistently fund ongoing operations without relying on one-time revenue sources."*

● CONCLUSION ●

Due to prudent debt management practices over the past several years, the total Direct Debt outstanding has remained relatively flat. The primary reason has been an effort to limit the amount of new authority approved by the Mississippi Legislature each year to an amount equal to or less than the principal amortization of outstanding debt during the same year. Expected requests equal $1.97 billion over the next five years for future bond issuance from the three agencies that represent the majority of historical borrowings. This includes issuance for capital improvements, economic development and construction of roads and bridges. This level of debt issuance when coupled with ongoing principal amortization creates a moderate and manageable level of debt for the state. **This by no means advocates that additional debt should be incurred by the State, it merely references the fact that currently the State is well within its confines of current debt outstanding (along with the estimates for future estimated debt outstanding) as it relates to the Constitutional Debt Limit.**

Debt Service payments on existing outstanding debt is estimated to range from $475 million in FY 2016 to $574 million in FY 2018. After FY 2018, debt service on the existing bonds will begin to decline. When the $1.97 billion of future issuance is considered over the next five years, the debt service for the existing and projected issuance ranges from $477 million in FY 2017 to $595 million in FY 2018, assuming the new bonds are issued using level debt service payments. Using the estimates provided by the agencies listed herein as well as the same methodology for level debt service payments, debt service could be $424 million in FY 2019 and then drops to $402 million in FY 2020. As a reminder, a balloon payment is due in FY 2018; however, the intent of the State Bond Commission at that time is to restructure those bonds and extend the maturity.

Revenues available for the payment of debt service are expected to increase over the next five years. The economic recovery has begun to stabilize, as evidenced by the increased revenue forecasts from the Revenue Estimating Committee. Revenue estimates for FY 2016 and FY 2017, along with the out year projections through FY 2020 are all on the rise. Continued uncertainties in the national and global economy present risks to the state and could affect the revenue forecast going forward.

The ratio of outstanding debt to the Constitutional Debt Limit decreased slightly from FY 2014 (32.30%) to FY 2015 (31.44%). If revenues continue to rise and the amount of outstanding debt continues to remain level, we expect to see continued improvement in this ratio. In fiscal year 2010, the ratio was below 30%. Prudent debt issuance could help us return to a healthier debt ratio number. This benchmark should be considered by the Mississippi Legislature and used as a general guide when evaluating future debt authorization.

Credit ratings play an important role in the municipal bond market, particularly driving the state's financing costs. Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch Rating Services each affirmed our AA, AA2, and AA+ ratings, respectively in the state's spring 2015 bond sale. Although Fitch revised our outlook from stable to negative in 2013, both S&P and Moody's maintain stable outlooks. The rating agencies cite as credit strengths the strong embedded fiscal policies and practices such as the 2% budget set-aside and mandatory spending cuts if revenues fall below 98% of revenue estimates. Each of the rating agencies also recognized the substantial contribution to the rainy day fund at the end of Fiscal Year 2014. Remaining challenges over maintenance of the current ratings are a weak socio-economic profile, increased dependence on federal spending, and an unemployment rate that exceeds the national average. Of particular concern are the unfunded pension liabilities being among the highest of the states. The State's credit rating also remains vulnerable should the economic recovery not materialize as projected.

Appendix A: Authorized but Unissued

AUTHORIZED BUT UNISSUED
as of JANUARY 1, 2016

ISSUE NAME	SOURCE OF AUTHORITY	YR	BONDS AUTHORIZED	BONDS DE-AUTHORIZED HB1049 2013 RLS	ISSUED	UNISSUED
Net Direct General Obligation						
Ace Fund	SB 2804,Laws of 2004; HB 3 3rd SS 2005; HB 1641 Laws of 2008; HB 35 2nd SS 2009; 2011 RLS SB 3100; 2013 RLS SB 2913;2014 RLS HB 787 & SB 2975; 2015 RLS SB 2906	2004	$116,650,000		$80,650,000	$36,000,000
Amite Co. Elem. School HVAC	2015 RLS SB 2906	2015	$200,000		$0	$200,000
Blair E. Batson Expansion Project	2015 RLS SB 2906	2015	$6,000,000		$0	$6,000,000
Bureau of Building DWFP Discretionary	2015 RLS SB 2906	2015	$2,400,000		$0	$2,400,000
Business Investment (DIP)	Ch. 419-1986; HB 1641 2008; RLS 2010 HB 1701; 2011 RLS SB 3100; 2013 RLS SB 2913;2014 RLS HB 787	1986	$346,500,000		$301,677,000	$44,823,000
Capital Improvements State Agencies	2007RLS SB 3201	2007	$84,300,000		$82,550,000	$1,750,000
Capital Improvements IHL/St. Agencies/CC/BOB Disc.	RLS 2011 SB 3100; RLS 2013 SB 2913	2011	$230,175,000	$9,000,000	$219,043,612	$2,131,388
Capital Improvements IHL	RLS 2015 SB 2906	2015	$71,700,000		$54,000,000	$17,700,000
Center for Manufacturing and Technology Excellence (EMCC)	2014 RLS HB 787; 2015 RLS SB 2906	2014	$18,000,000		$4,000,000	$14,000,000
City of Brandon - HWY 80 Improvement	2014 RLS HB 787	2014	$500,000		$0	$500,000
City of Madison I-55 Connector	2014 RLS HB 787	2014	$1,000,000		$0	$1,000,000
City of McComb Fire Station Construction	2015 RLS SB 2906	2015	$175,000		$0	$175,000
Community Heritage Preservation	Ch. 541, As Amended; 2006 RLS HB 1634, 2007RLS SB 3190, 2009 RLS HB 1722; 2010 RLS HB 1701; 2011 RLS SB 3100; 2013 RLS SB 2913;2014 RLS HB 787;2015 RLS SB 2906	2001	$41,700,000		$33,200,000	$8,500,000
Community and Junior Colleges Capital Improvements	2013 RLS SB 2913	2013	$25,000,000		$22,027,765	$2,972,235
Community and Junior Colleges Capital Improvements	2014 RLS HB 787	2014	$23,000,000		$18,810,000	$4,190,000
Community and Junior Colleges Capital Improvements	2015 RLS SB 2906	2015	$25,000,000		$10,670,000	$14,330,000
Economic Development Highway	Ch. 463-Laws of 1989; 2006 RLS HB 1506; RLS 2009 HB 1722; 2011 RLS SB 3100;2014 RLS HB 787	1989	$374,500,000		$313,900,000	$60,600,000
Energy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program	2009 RLS HB 1722	2009	$20,000,000	$15,000,000	$0	$5,000,000

ISSUE NAME	SOURCE OF AUTHORITY	YR	BONDS AUTHORIZED	BONDS DE-AUTHORIZED	ISSUED	UNISSUED
Fairground; MS State Fairground Improvements	2015 RLS SB 2906	2015	$10,000,000		$5,000,000	$5,000,000
Farm Reform	Ch. 482-Laws of 1987, As Amended	1987	$128,000,000		$108,000,000	$20,000,000
Grand Gulf Access Road	2007 RLS SB 3201	2007	$4,000,000		$0	$4,000,000
Major Economic Impact	Ch. 534-1989; HB 1628 HB 1404 and SB 2605-2009; 2013 RLS SB 2913	1989	$1,190,800,000	$48,000,000	$1,117,690,000	$25,110,000
Marine Resources Equip and Facilities	2006 RLS SB 3071; 2007 RLS HB 1126	2006	$30,000,000		$20,720,000	$9,280,000
Mental Health - E. MS St. Hosp. Psychiatric Receiving Unit	2015 RLS SB 2906	2015	$7,500,000		$5,000,000	$2,500,000
MS Alternative Fuel School Bus & Municipal Motor Vehicle Revolving Loan	2013 RLS HB 1685	2013	$2,750,000		$250,000	$2,500,000
MS Department of Information Services Improvements	2015 RLS SB 2906	2015	$1,000,000		$0	$1,000,000
MS Industry Incentive Financing Program	2010 RLS HB 1701; 2010 2nd SS HB 8; 2011 RLS SB 3100; 2011 ELS SB 2001;2013 RLS SB 2913	2010	$468,000,000		$388,000,000	$80,000,000
MS Technology Alliance Program	2007 RLS HB 1724	2007	$4,000,000		$2,550,000	$1,450,000
MS Small Business and Existing Forestry Industry Revolving Loan Program	RLS 2010 HB 1701	2010	$30,000,000		$5,000,000	$25,000,000
MS Civil Rights Museum/Museum of MS History	2009 RLS HB 1722;2011 RLS HB 1463;2014 RLS HB 787; 2015 RLS SB 2906	2009	$74,000,000		$73,996,623	$3,377
North Central MS Regional Railroad Authority Grant Program	2010 RLS SB 3181; 2014 RLS SB 2975	2010	$45,000,000		$30,000,000	$15,000,000
Parks Improvements (Pat Harrison)	CH. 464 as amended by Ch.386 GL 2000; HB 1351, 2010 RLS	1999	$15,925,000		$14,656,373	$1,268,627
Railroad Revitalization and Stimulus	2009 RLS HB 1713; 2010 RLS SB 3181	2009	$3,000,000		$1,000,000	$2,000,000
Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Fund	Ch1 Third Special Session, Laws of 2004; 2009 RLS HB 1722; RLS 2010 HB 1701; 2011 RLS SB 3100	2004	$17,850,000		$17,250,000	$600,000
Small Enterprise Development Finance	Ch. 580-Laws of 1988, As Amended	1988	$140,000,000 (1)		$215,817,000	$131,700,000
Sustainable Energy Research	2010 2nd SS HB 8	2010	$2,000,000		$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Total Net Direct General Obligation			**$3,560,625,000**	**$72,000,000**	**$3,146,458,373**	**$549,683,627**
Self-Supporting General Obligation						
Deer Island Project	Ch. 522-Laws of 2002	2002	$10,000,000		$8,800,000	$1,200,000
Total Self-Supporting General Obligation			**$10,000,000**	**$0**	**$8,800,000**	**$1,200,000**

ISSUE NAME	SOURCE OF AUTHORITY	YR	BONDS AUTHORIZED	BONDS DE-AUTHORIZED	ISSUED	UNISSUED
Revenue Bonds						
2015 MS Deficient Bridge & St Aid Rd Supplemental Fund	2015 RLS HB 1630	2015	$200,000,000		$0	$200,000,000
Total Revenue Bonds			**$200,000,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$200,000,000**
Self-Supporting General Obligation and Revenue Bonds			**$210,000,000**	**$0**	**$8,800,000**	**$201,200,000**
TOTAL			**$3,770,625,000**	**$72,000,000**	**$3,155,258,373**	**$750,883,627**

***** The total amount authorized for the Bureau of Buildings Discretionary Fund per SB 2906 2015 RLS includes **$4,000,000** for R&R to state-owned buildings and IHL/CCJC as well as **$2,400,000** for the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Comprehensive Park Improvement Fund. These two projects were fully funded through the issuance of the Series 2015F Tax-Exempt Bonds in November 2015.

Appendix B: Subsequent Events (through December 31, 2015)

STATE TREASURER TEAM

Subsequent Events

Through December 31, 2015

Bond Transactions:

July 2015

1) In July, the State issued a $30,000,000 Taxable Note (Series 2015A) for the North Central Mississippi Municipal Rail Authority.
2) The purpose of the funding was for the acquisition of the rail line that runs from Southaven to a point near Canton.
3) This financing was a private placement agreement between the State and BancorpSouth (borrowed at 0.90%).
4) All issuance costs will ultimately be paid by the borrower including, but not limited to, all principal, interest, and attorney's fees.
5) This note was converted to long-term debt in the November 2015 bond sale.

October 2015

1) In October, the state issued $200,000,000 Gaming Tax Revenue Bonds (Series 2015E).
2) The proceeds from this sale will be used for MDOT to construct an over-the-railroad bridge in Vicksburg ($18M), the Local System Bridge Program within State Aid Road Fund ($20M), and for deficient bridges on state highways (approximately $162M).
3) This is the first financing the state has entered into in over 10 years based on defined revenues. Those revenues are derived solely from gaming tax revenue collections for casinos located along the Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast.
4) The state received very positive feedback and ratings for the issuance of these revenue bonds: Fitch (A+), Moody's (A3), and Standard and Poor's (A+).

November 2015

1) In November, the State Bond Commission authorized the sale of $182,595,000 Tax-Exempt Bonds (Series 2015F) and $116,300,000 Taxable Bonds (Series 2015G).
2) The All-in True Interest Cost for the Series 2015F was 3.469%; All-in True Interest Cost for the Series 2015G was 2.614%; and the aggregate All-in True Interest Cost was 3.302%.
3) Projects to be funded through the issuance of this debt include economic development projects within the taxable sale and funding for capital improvement projects through the tax-exempt sale.
4) The state affirmed our bond ratings with each of the rating agencies for these four transactions: Fitch (AA+), Moody's (Aa2), and Standard and Poor's (AA). More notably, the state was removed from Fitch's Negative Outlook and placed back into a Stable Outlook.

For all of the financings listed (with the exception of the privately placed Series 2015A Note – no rating necessary), the credit quality on these bonds is excellent and is highly sought after in the open market. Because of the quality of this debt, many of the maturities sold were oversubscribed on the date of the sale. This means that the state had more buyers interested in our bonds than we had available for sale (an incredibly solid financial position for the state).

Appendix C: Moody's Investor Service – 2015 State Debt Median Report

Net Tax-Supported Debt – Per Capita and Percent of Personal Income

	Net Tax-Supported Debt Per Capita		Rating		Net Tax-Supported Debt as a % of 2013 Personal Income	
1	Connecticut	$5,491	Aa3	1	Hawaii	10.8%
2	Massachusetts	$4,887	Aa1	2	Connecticut	9.0%
3	Hawaii	$4,867	Aa2	3	Massachusetts	8.7%
4	New Jersey	$4,138	A2	4	New Jersey	7.4%
5	New York	$3,092	Aa1	5	Washington	6.2%
6	Washington	$2,892	Aa1	6	New York	5.7%
7	Illinois	$2,681	A3	7	Illinois	5.7%
8	Delaware	$2,438	Aaa	8	Delaware	5.5%
9	California	$2,407	Aa3	9	Kentucky	5.3%
10	Rhode Island	$1,985	Aa2	10	California	5.1%
11	Kentucky	$1,921	Aa2*	11	Mississippi	5.1%
12	Maryland	$1,889	Aaa	12	Rhode Island	4.2%
13	Wisconsin	$1,794	Aa2	13	Wisconsin	4.2%
14	Mississippi	$1,747	Aa2	14	Oregon	4.1%
15	Oregon	$1,636	Aa1	15	Louisiana	3.9%
16	Louisiana	$1,566	Aa2	16	Maryland	3.5%
17	Minnesota	$1,538	Aa1	17	New Mexico	3.5%
18	Alaska	$1,489	Aaa	18	Minnesota	3.2%
19	Virginia	$1,356	Aaa	19	Alaska	3.0%
20	New Mexico	$1,258	Aaa	20	Utah	3.0%
21	Pennsylvania	$1,117	Aa3	21	Virginia	2.8%
22	Ohio	$1,109	Aa1	22	Georgia	2.8%
23	Kansas	$1,099	Aa2*	23	West Virginia	2.7%
24	Utah	$1,060	Aaa	24	Ohio	2.7%
25	Georgia	$1,043	Aaa	25	Kansas	2.5%
26	West Virginia	$980	Aa1	26	Pennsylvania	2.4%
27	Florida	$973	Aa1	27	Florida	2.4%
28	Vermont	$954	Aaa	28	Arizona	2.3%
29	Maine	$942	Aa2	29	Maine	2.3%
30	New Hampshire	$848	Aa1	30	Alabama	2.3%
31	Arizona	$846	Aa2*	31	Vermont	2.1%
32	Alabama	$824	Aa1	32	North Carolina	1.9%
33	Michigan	$758	Aa2	33	Michigan	1.9%
34	North Carolina	$739	Aaa	34	South Carolina	1.9%
35	South Carolina	$672	Aaa	35	Arkansas	1.9%
36	Arkansas	$669	Aa1	36	Nevada	1.7%
37	Nevada	$665	Aa2	37	New Hampshire	1.7%
38	Missouri	$606	Aaa	38	Missouri	1.5%
39	South Dakota	$547	NGO**	39	Idaho	1.4%
40	Idaho	$494	Aa1*	40	Indiana	1.2%
41	Oklahoma	$493	Aa2	41	South Dakota	1.2%
42	Colorado	$478	Aa1*	42	Oklahoma	1.2%
43	Indiana	$474	Aaa*	43	Colorado	1.0%
44	Texas	$406	Aaa	44	Texas	1.0%
45	Tennessee	$327	Aaa	45	Tennessee	0.8%
46	Montana	$254	Aa1	46	Montana	0.7%
47	Iowa	$250	Aaa*	47	Iowa	0.6%
48	North Dakota	$193	Aa1*	48	North Dakota	0.3%
49	Wyoming	$50	NGO**	49	Wyoming	0.1%
50	Nebraska	$10	NGO**	50	Nebraska	0.0%
	MEAN:	**$1,419**			MEAN:	3.1%
	MEDIAN:	**$1,012**			MEDIAN:	2.5%
	Puerto Rico ***	$15,637	Caa2		Puerto Rico **	87.5%

* Issuer Rating (No G.O. Debt)
** No General Obligation Debt
*** This figure is not included in any totals, means, or median calculations but is provided for comparison purposes only

Sources: Moody's Analytics and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
(Moody's Investor Service – State Debt Medians 2015)

Debt Service Ratio

		FY2012			FY2013			FY2014
1	Connecticut	12.7%	1	Connecticut	13.5%	1	Hawaii	13.0%
2	New York	11.5%	2	New York	11.4%	2	Connecticut	12.4%
3	Massachusetts	11.3%	3	Hawaii	11.1%	3	New York	11.4%
4	Hawaii	10.4%	4	Massachusetts	10.5%	4	Utah	10.5%
5	Illinois	10.4%	5	Illinois	10.1%	5	West Virginia**	10.5%
6	Oregon	9.5%	6	California	9.4%	6	Massachusetts	10.4%
7	California	9.2%	7	Washington	9.1%	7	Illinois	10.3%
8	Washington	9.0%	8	New Jersey	8.9%	8	Washington	9.8%
9	New Jersey	8.8%	9	Oregon	8.9%	9	Kentucky	9.1%
10	Delaware	7.8%	10	Kentucky	8.8%	10	New Jersey	8.9%
11	Rhode Island	7.7%	11	Nevada	8.1%	11	Oregon	8.6%
12	Florida	7.6%	12	Rhode Island	7.8%	12	Wisconsin	7.9%
13	Utah	7.3%	13	Delaware	7.6%	13	California	7.9%
14	Mississippi	7.2%	14	Utah	7.5%	14	Delaware	7.6%
15	Kentucky	7.2%	15	Florida	7.1%	15	Rhode Island	7.5%
16	Georgia	7.0%	16	Mississippi	6.9%	16	Georgia	6.7%
17	New Hampshire	6.8%	17	Wisconsin	6.7%	17	Mississippi	6.2%
18	Nevada	6.6%	18	Georgia	6.7%	18	Nevada	6.1%
19	Maine	6.4%	19	Maine	6.1%	19	Alabama	5.9%
20	Maryland	5.7%	20	Alabama	5.6%	20	Maryland	5.8%
21	Virginia	5.2%	21	Ohio	5.5%	21	Ohio	5.8%
22	Arizona	5.1%	22	Maryland	5.5%	22	Maine	5.7%
23	New Mexico	5.1%	23	Virginia	5.4%	23	Arizona	5.6%
24	Pennsylvania	5.0%	24	Arizona	5.3%	24	Florida	5.5%
25	Alabama	4.9%	25	Pennsylvania	5.1%	25	Virginia	5.4%
26	South Carolina	4.8%	26	New Mexico*	5.1%	26	New Hampshire	5.3%
27	Kansas	4.5%	27	Louisiana	4.9%	27	Pennsylvania	5.2%
28	Louisiana	4.5%	28	New Hampshire	4.9%	28	New Mexico**	4.9%
29	Ohio	4.1%	29	South Carolina	4.6%	29	Louisiana	4.7%
30	Missouri	3.9%	30	Kansas	4.5%	30	South Carolina	4.6%,
31	North Carolina	3.8%	31	North Carolina	3.7%	31	North Carolina	4.3%
32	Wisconsin	3.8%	32	West Virginia	3.7%	32	Minnesota	4.2%
33	West Virginia	3.6%	33	Missouri	3.6%	33	Missouri	4.0%
34	Texas	3.1%	34	Texas	3.0%	34	Kansas	3.3%
35	Arkansas	3.0%	35	Colorado	2.8%	35	Michigan	3.2%
36	Colorado	2.8%	36	Michigan	2.8%	36	South Dakota	3.0%
37	Idaho	2.8%	37	Idaho	2.7%	37	Colorado	2.9%
38	Vermont	2.8%	38	Vermont	2.7%	38	Vermont	2.8%
39	Minnesota	2.7%	39	Oklahoma	2.3%	39	Idaho	2.7%
40	Michigan	2.6%	40	Arkansas	2.2%	40	Texas	2.6%
41	Montana	2.4%	41	Montana	2.1%	41	Arkansas	2.6%
42	Oklahoma	2.2%	42	Minnesota	2.1%	42	Oklahoma	2.4%
43	Indiana	1.9%	43	Indiana	1.9%	43	Montana	2.0%
44	South Dakota	1.6%	44	Alaska	1.6%	44	Alaska	1.7%
45	Tennessee	1.5%	45	South Dakota	1.5%	45	Tennessee	1.7%
46	Alaska	1.3%	46	Tennessee	1.5%	46	Indiana	1.6%
47	Iowa	0.9%	47	Iowa	0.9%	47	North Dakota	0.6%
48	North Dakota	0.8%	48	North Dakota	0.7%	48	Iowa	0.4%
49	Nebraska	0.2%	49	Nebraska	0.2%	49	Wyoming	0.1%
50	Wyoming	0.2%	50	Wyoming	0.2%	50	Nebraska	0.1%
	Mean	**5.2%**		**Mean**	**5.3%**		**Mean**	**5.5%**
	Median	**4.8%**		**Median**	**5.1%**		**Median**	**5.3%**
	Puerto Rico	21.7%		Puerto Rico			Puerto Rico**	26.8%

* Figures restated since last report to incorporate FY2013 revenues.
** Figures based on estimated FY2014 revenues; audited financial statements not available at time of publication. Figures for Puerto Rico are not included in any totals, means, or median calculations but is provided for comparison use only.

Sources: Moody's Analytics and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
(Moody's Investor Service – State Debt Medians 2015)

Contact Information

Ms. Lynn Fitch
Treasurer
lynn.fitch@treasury.ms.gov
(601) 359-9434

Ms. Laura Jackson
Deputy Treasurer
laura.jackson@treasury.ms.gov
(601) 359-3765

Mr. Jesse Graham
Deputy Treasurer
jesse.graham@treasury.ms.gov
(601) 359-3843

Ms. Michelle Marston Williams
Chief of Staff
michelle.marston@treasury.ms.gov
(601) 359-3913

Mr. Ricky Manning
Assistant State Treasurer
Director – Bond & Collateral Divisions
ricky.manning@treasury.ms.gov
(601) 359-3533