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[photo attached on e-mail]

David Blount Announces for Hinds State Senate Post

David Blount today filed to run for State Senator representing District 29 in Hinds County.

“I’m running for the Senate because Hinds County is ready for a change,” Blount said. “I support cutting grocery taxes, full funding for our local schools, and strong law enforcement. I know that my neighbors in Hinds County support these values too, and it is time for our voices to be heard in the Mississippi State Senate.”

Blount, 39, has more than twelve years of experience working with the Legislature, including the past eleven years as a top aide to Secretary of State Eric Clark. He has been recognized as one of Mississippi’s top young business leaders, is vice president of Parents for Public Schools, and serves on the state PTA Board. He is an 8th-generation Mississippian and was raised in Hinds County.

Senate District 29 contains parts of Hinds County including Byram, Terry, and parts of Jackson and Clinton. The incumbent senator is Richard White. White has voted consistently against cutting grocery taxes and against full funding for local schools. Blount is a Democrat; White is a Republican. There are no other candidates at this time.

On taxes, Blount says:

“I believe the hard-working, middle class families of Hinds County deserve a grocery tax cut,” Blount said. “Mississippi has the highest grocery taxes in the nation, and yet Mr. White voted against cutting grocery taxes again and again. I strongly support cutting taxes on food and groceries. This is a basic tax fairness issue.”

The record:

White voted against cutting the grocery tax:

- January 6, 2006 (Senate Bill No. 2310 – final passage)
- February 21, 2006 (Senate Bill No. 3084 – final passage)
- March 3, 2006 (Senate Bill No. 3084 – conference report)
- March 22, 2006 (Senate Bill No. 2310 – veto override)

- March 29, 2006 (Senate Bill No. 3084 – veto override)

On education, Blount says:

“I believe the people of Hinds County deserve the best schools in the state,” Blount said. “Mr. White has voted consistently against full funding for schools in Clinton, Terry, Byram, and Jackson. His votes have cost these school districts millions of dollars in the past three years alone. I strongly support full funding for our local schools.”

The record:

White voted against full funding of the Mississippi Adequate Education Act (MAEP) in 2004, 2005, and 2006. He was one of only 15 Senators to vote against establishing the MAEP funding program in 1997. The cost to local schools:

Legislative Year	School District	MAEP Amount	Amount Received	Money Lost
2004	Hinds Co.	\$19,579,802	\$18,980,531	\$599,271
	Clinton	\$17,037,689	\$16,494,761	\$542,928
	Jackson	\$106,004,363	\$102,606,673	\$3,397,690
2005	Hinds Co.	\$22,041,660	\$21,069,892	\$971,768
	Clinton	\$18,232,302	\$17,428,480	\$803,822
	Jackson	\$114,423,358	\$109,378,678	\$5,044,680
2006	Hinds Co.	\$24,750,455	\$23,582,001	\$1,168,454
	Clinton	\$19,831,195	\$18,722,401	\$1,108,794
	Jackson	\$126,122,368	\$119,071,518	\$7,050,850
TOTAL LOST	Hinds Co.			\$2,739,493
	Clinton			\$2,455,544
	Jackson			\$15,493,220

On law enforcement, Blount says:

“Crime doesn’t stop at the city limits,” Blount said. “We need a cooperative effort to give our law enforcement officers and courts the resources they need to get results. I’ve already received strong encouragement from local law enforcement. Our crime problems can’t be denied, and the state needs to be more pro-active in protecting the neighborhoods in and around our capital city.”

On values, Blount says:

“As the son of a Presbyterian minister who grew up in the church, I was raised with strong Christian values that I am still guided by today. We need a state government that strives to live by our values every day and not just at campaign time,” Blount said.

David Blount and his wife, Katie, have two children – Susanna, 8, and Charley, 6. They are active in their church, neighborhood, and in their children’s school.

“I am very encouraged by the support I’ve received from Democrats, Republicans, and Independents across the county,” Blount said. “We’re going to work hard and we’re going to bring better representation to the citizens of Hinds County.”

The general election is November 6, 2007. The last regular business day to register to vote in the general election is October 5, 2007.

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