



THE MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE'S TACKLE THE TAPE INITIATIVE

Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson publicly announced the Tackle the Tape initiative in July 2020 as a premier resource for the business community to “rid the red” in Mississippi. The initiative seeks to cut anti-competitive government regulations and increase economic opportunities for individuals across Mississippi by encouraging innovation and job growth. Currently, per capita, Mississippi is the most regulated state in the Southeast. Working closely with the Occupational Licensing Review Commission (OLRC) and other state agencies, as well as small businesses and industry leaders across the state, our office has seen tremendous success in helping rid Mississippi of the burdensome “red tape.”

Tackle the Tape includes Secretary Watson’s voice and votes on the OLRC, partnerships with other state agencies, boards, commissions, and businesses, as well as legislative actions. Since launching the initiative, the Secretary of State’s Office has received an overwhelming amount of support from state legislators who have reached out for assistance with several key pieces of legislation.

With legislative support, the Tackle the Tape initiative quickly spread through name recognition and word of mouth. Secretary Watson and his team continue to receive numerous emails, phone calls, text messages, and social media messages asking for assistance with varying regulatory burdens. Due to high demand, the Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office developed a Tackle the Tape website to create an organized method of tracking reported regulations for review. On the site, the public may report a burdensome regulation directly to the Secretary of State’s policy team for review. Since its creation in late 2020, more than 200 individual regulation reports have been filed on the portal with more coming in by the day. The website also serves as a platform to highlight regulatory reform successes.

Tackle the Tape’s effects even gained nationwide recognition. During former President Donald Trump’s term, the White House contacted Secretary Watson to present on Tackle the Tape during a conference call for the one-year anniversary of the Governors’ Initiative on Regulatory Innovation. President Trump utilized the call to provide an update on the Administration’s progress on regulatory reform and to highlight what state officials, like Secretary Watson, were doing to advance occupational licensing reform and cut regulations.

With the overwhelming response to Tackle the Tape, Secretary Watson decided to take his efforts a step further with a proactive approach. In January 2022, he announced a 29 by 29 strategic plan to increase the efficiency of the regulatory review process. Continuing the collaborative theme, he acquired state and national partners to assist with reviewing all regulations for Mississippi’s 29 occupational licensing boards and commissions by the year 2029. Through these efforts, Secretary Watson hopes to continue promoting a business-friendly environment which fosters innovation, economic development, and job growth.



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE



[THE PLAN](#) [THE TAPE](#) [THE STATS](#) [THE SUCCESS](#)

[REPORT A REGULATION](#)

Rid the RED in Mississippi

Tackle the Tape sets out to cut regulations that are anticompetitive and do not substantially further the safety and well-being of our citizens. The Secretary of State's office has always served as a premier resource for the business community, and Secretary Michael Watson understands the impact burdensome red tape regulations have on our state's economy. Tackle the Tape will help increase economic opportunities for all Mississippians by promoting competition and encouraging innovation and job growth.



REPORT A REGULATION

You can play a role in cutting back on red tape and government bureaucracy. If you know of any costly, ineffective, burdensome or unenforced regulation affecting you or someone you know, please report it below.

**Denotes a required field*

*Your Name:

*Your E-mail:

*Your Hometown:

*Please enter your message in the space provided below: (Max : 2500 Characters)

Submit