



**Survey of Candidates for Elective Office
Regarding the Public Employees Retirement System of Mississippi
September 2015**

The Mississippi Retired Public Employee Association (MRPEA) represents approximately 161,360 active members and over 93,504 retirees and beneficiaries of the Public Employees Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS). As a candidate for the office of Attorney General this year, we are providing you with an opportunity to respond to this brief survey. Please scan your signed and completed survey to the attention of Becky Cade at cade.consulting@att.net. If you prefer to fax, please fax it to 1-601-510-9259. **MRPEA may distribute the results of the survey to its members and other interested parties without restriction.**

With the creation of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) in 1952, the Mississippi Legislature made a promise to its public service employees to provide them with basic financial retirement protection for life. In exchange, employees were mandated to pay into the retirement system in good faith with the expectation that the State would meet its promise to help fund those benefits.

Please circle your response(s) to each question:

1. Do you support philosophically Defined Benefit Retirement Systems?

Yes No

2. If elected to office, will you support the State maintaining the current retirement system benefits including the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)?

Yes No

3. Do you believe that benefits should ever be reduced for:

Existing retirees?	Yes	<u>No</u>
Current employees?	Yes	<u>No</u>
Future employees?	Yes	<u>No</u>

4. As a member of the PERS Board will you support adjusting employer contribution rates in accordance with the recommendation of the actuary and state law should that become necessary in the future to maintain the fiscal solvency of the system?

Yes* No

**Although the Attorney General does not sit on the PERS Board, I do believe following the recommendations of the actuaries to maintain the fiscal solvency of the system.*

5. Do you support maintaining the existing structure of the PERS Board?

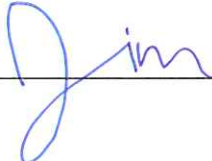
Yes No

Please offer any additional comments below:

The Public Employee Retirement System is a trust that has been created to provide for the retirement of dedicated state employees. As Attorney General I will be steadfast in ensuring that the state lives up to its legal obligation to protect the funds to provide for the retirement of our retirees now and in the future.

Thank you for your interest in PERS, MRPEA and the dedicated Mississippi public servants that it represents, Please print and sign your name in the space provided.

____ Jim Hood _____ (Name)

____  _____ (Signature)