

There came on for consideration at a duly constituted meeting of the Mayor and Members of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Madison, Mississippi, held the 15th day of January 2026, the following Resolution:

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE  
CITY OF MADISON, MISSISSIPPI OPPOSING THE  
“MISSISSIPPI EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT” (H.B. 2)**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Aldermen of the City of Madison, Mississippi, recognizes the fundamental role of strong, accessible, and adequately funded public schools in providing educational opportunities for all children; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi, through the work of the Mississippi Legislature, the Mississippi Department of Education, the State Board of Education and local school boards, has established nationally recognized standards and measures for accountability in public education; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers eliminate public accountability by channeling tax dollars into private schools that do not face state-approved academic standards or accountability measures, do not make budgets public, do not adhere to open meetings and records laws, do not publicly report on student achievement, and do not face the public accountability requirements contained in major federal laws, including special education; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi’s public schools serve the vast majority of the state’s students, including those most vulnerable, and represent a cornerstone of community cohesion; and

**WHEREAS**, “school choice” initiatives- including vouchers, education savings accounts (ESAs), tax-credit scholarship programs, and tax credits for donations to private schools- redirect critical public funds away from local public school districts and instead subsidize private, unaccountable education providers; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers and other choice programs divert critical public resources to pay private school tuition for students including many who already attend private schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the diversion of these resources weakens the financial viability of public school systems, and undermines the public’s trust in the state’s commitment to a quality education for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers are an inefficient use of taxpayer money because they compel taxpayers to support two school systems; one public and one private, the latter of which is not accountable to all the taxpayers supporting it; and

**WHEREAS**, having reviewed the “Mississippi Education Freedom Act” (H.B.2), currently pending in the Legislature, the Governing Authority believes it to be in the best interest of the City of Madison to ask that the members of the Legislature to oppose adoption of House Bill 2.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MADISON, MISSISSIPPI, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the matters, facts, and things recited in the Preamble hereto are hereby adopted as the official findings of the Governing Authority.

**SECTION 2.** That the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Madison oppose the establishment or expansion of school choice programs-whether public or private- that divert public funding or support from our community’s traditional public schools.

**SECTION 3.** That the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Madison urge the City of Madison’s legislative delegation and the Mississippi State Legislature to oppose school choice, to include opposing H.B. 2 or any amendment or subsequent bill containing the same or similar provisions, and instead invest in strengthening public education by fully funding the state’s school funding formula, supporting teachers and staff, and expanding services that directly benefit students and families within the public school system.

**SECTION 4.** That the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Madison support efforts to ensure accountability and transparency in all publicly funded educational programs and oppose the use of taxpayer dollars to subsidize private education without equivalent oversight, accountability, or student protections.

**SECTION 5.** That the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Madison commit to advocating for policies that prioritize public education as a public good open to all children in the City of Madison and across Mississippi.

**SECTION 6.** That this Resolution shall take full force and effect immediately upon its passage and enactment according to law and shall be spread upon the minutes of the City.

The above and foregoing Resolution, after having been first reduced to writing and no request being made by the Mayor or any member of the Board of Aldermen that the Resolution be read by the City Clerk before any vote was taken, was introduced by Alderman Jarvis, seconded by Alderman Tankersley and was adopted by the following roll call vote:

<b>Alderman Strain:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Alderman Tatum:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Alderman Peeler:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Alderman Jarvis:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Alderman Tankersley:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Alderman Hudgins:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Alderman Bowering:</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**WHEREUPON**, the foregoing Resolution was declared passed and adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Madison, Mississippi, on this the 15th day of January, 2026.

*Mary Hawkins Butler*  
**Mary Hawkins Butler, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

*J. Nathan Hanson*  
**J. Nathan Hanson, City Clerk**

