



SPEAKER BIOS

Dr. Phil Pepper



Dr. Phil Pepper is the State Economist for the State of Mississippi. As the chief economist for the state, Dr. Pepper provides updates on the economy to the legislature as well as communities in the state. He serves as a member of the committee that makes tax revenue estimates for the state and assesses economic and revenue impacts from changes in the state's tax structure.

In his capacity as State Economist, Dr. Pepper also conducts impact analyses, population forecasts, and various trend analyses. Additionally, he oversees economic surveys prepared by his office.

In addition to being the State Economist, Dr. Pepper is also an Assistant Commissioner for Policy Research and Planning for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. In this role he is responsible for the compilation and distribution of analysis of university and system data to the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning, the Legislature, and various other agencies responsible for policy decisions and accountability reporting.

Other functions include oversight of the Bureau of Comprehensive Long-Range Economic Development Planning and MARIS. The Bureau supports a task force in their development and implementation of a long-term strategy for improving the standards of living for Mississippians. MARIS is the Mississippi Automated Resource Information System and supplies GIS data and training to state and local public governments.

Dr. Pepper is a native of Mississippi. He is originally from Canton, Mississippi. He holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in Economics from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Illinois.