

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi recognizes that it plays a vital role in identifying, protecting its residents from, and responding to cybersecurity threats that may have a significant impact on our individual and collective safety and privacy; and

WHEREAS, critical infrastructure (i.e., financial services, educational institutions, energy, telecommunications, transportation, utilities, health care, and emergency response systems, etc.) is increasingly reliant on the support of information systems and technology; and

WHEREAS, cybersecurity education and awareness are crucial for everyone, including large corporations, small businesses, financial institutions, schools, government agencies, the home user, and anyone who connects to the internet, be it with a computer, mobile phone, or other internet-connected device; and

WHEREAS, monitoring your accounts, being conscientious of what you share online, keeping computer software up to date, creating strong passwords and using a password manager or key, installing antivirus programs and firewalls, enabling multi-factor authentication for online accounts, are actions people and organizations can take to protect themselves from phishing, viruses, ransomware, other types of malware, financial loss, and loss of sensitive data, when using mobile phones and other connected devices; and

WHEREAS, we showcase the need to inspire, engage, and inform the public about the demand, opportunities, and career options available within the area of cybersecurity, and highlight how building the nation's and Mississippi's cybersecurity workforce enhances the nation's security and promotes economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, cyberattacks are evolving and new technologies, such as generative artificial intelligence, are enabling more sophisticated cyberattacks that continue to be an increasing concern for state, local, and academic institutions due to their potentially devastating impact to the state's critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework is a free resource to help organizations (both large and small, public and private) improve their cybersecurity practices through a practical approach to addressing the ever-evolving cybersecurity threats and challenges; and

WHEREAS, cybersecurity is a priority for the State of Mississippi, and we recognize that reinforcing cybersecurity best practices, through public awareness campaigns and safe internet practices, is a shared responsibility that helps keep Mississippians safer and more secure online while protecting our information technology infrastructure and economy:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim that October 2026 as

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH 2026

in Mississippi and encourage Mississippians to observe Cybersecurity Awareness Month, to take steps to remain secure from cyber threats, to visit these websites to learn how to reduce online risk, and to put that knowledge into practice in their homes, schools, workplaces, and businesses.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 8th day of October, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fifty-first.


TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR