



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am pleased to present the Mississippi State Board of Contractors' Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report. This report reflects the continued commitment of the Board and staff to protecting the public, strengthening regulatory oversight, and supporting a professional, accountable construction industry across our state.

Mississippi's construction sector continues to grow alongside our economy, bringing new opportunities as well as new responsibilities. During FY2025, MSBOC focused on continuous improvement—reviewing regulations, refining internal processes, investing in technology, and expanding education and enforcement efforts to keep pace with industry advancements and emerging risks. These efforts are guided by a clear mission: to safeguard consumers while ensuring a fair and competitive marketplace for licensed contractors.

This year's accomplishments reflect the dedication of our staff and the leadership of the Board. From streamlining licensure and modernizing IT systems to expanding proactive enforcement and strengthening disaster response efforts, MSBOC remains focused on service, accountability, and transparency. Our education and outreach initiatives, along with significant investments in workforce development, further demonstrate our commitment to the long-term strength of Mississippi's construction industry.

I am proud of the progress highlighted in this report and grateful for the collaboration of our licensees, industry partners, legislators, and fellow regulatory agencies. Together, we will continue to adapt, innovate, and uphold the standards that protect Mississippi's citizens and support economic growth.

Thank you for your continued trust and support of the Mississippi State Board of Contractors.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Sills Lee

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established by the Legislature in 1952, the Mississippi State Board of Contractors (MSBOC) was created to protect the public by promoting accountability and professionalism within the construction industry. The agency is funded entirely through licensure-related fees and penalties. Each year, MSBOC conducts a comprehensive review of its operations—including Licensure, Enforcement, Education and Public Relations, and Disaster Response—to ensure effective and responsive regulation. Highlights from each operational area are summarized below.

**Licensure:** The Licensure Division is tasked with promptly reviewing and handling applications for individuals seeking either a new license or renewal.

- Staff processed more than 13,800 applications for licensure and renewal in FY25.
- There were 13,320 licensed contractors in Mississippi at the end of FY25 representing a 4.45% increase from the prior year. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of licensees held a commercial license while forty-one percent (41%) held a residential license.
- Forty-one percent (41%) of contractors licensed by MSBOC are from out of state, demonstrating a streamlined licensing process with minimal hurdles.
- Staff successfully negotiated and the Board approved reciprocity agreements with 2 new states and revised an agreement with 1 state. The agency is currently reviewing potential agreements with 3 other states to reduce barriers to licensing.
- Staff recommended and the Board approved changes to processes, procedures and forms to simplify and streamline the application and renewal processes for applicants and licensed contractors while exam code references were updated for multiple exams.
- MSBOC staff participated in outreach initiatives and conducted licensure workshops around the state to educate contractors, applicants, government officials, and construction industry leaders.

**Enforcement:** The Enforcement Division is the investigative and enforcement arm of MSBOC. This division works to ensure that construction projects throughout the state are conducted in accordance with the contractor licensing laws of Mississippi. Investigators make routine construction site visits, handle complaints and allegations of unlicensed activities, monitor permit offices and partner with various law enforcement agencies to protect the general public. Maintaining a presence throughout the state affords the agency an opportunity to inform contractors and the general public of the licensing laws.

- MSBOC investigators conducted 6,779 site visits around the state to ensure contractors working in Mississippi were properly licensed.
- Enforcement staff processed 340 complaints filed against both licensed and unlicensed contractors.

- The agency collected \$360,632.85 in fines and penalties associated with licensing law violations.
- Staff conducted outreach and communication efforts, including presentations to building officials, code enforcement officials, and industry trade associations concerning licensing laws and updates.

**Education and Public Relations:** The Education and Public Relations division serves to extend MSBOC services around the state and promote quality construction in Mississippi. Proactive regulation through marketing outreach helps prevent violations and protects the health, safety and welfare of the public.

- Investing in construction education and craft training helps ensure a quality workforce for Mississippi's future. Utilizing funds received from licensure and penalties, MSBOC distributed \$2,300,000 to provide construction education and craft training at various high schools, junior colleges and universities in Mississippi pursuant to statutory mandate.
- The Mississippi Housing Institute received \$117,375 collected from residential renewal fees to support qualified residential building programs and education pursuant to statutory mandate.
- MSBOC utilized various marketing methods aimed at protecting consumers from contractor fraud. The marketing campaigns are an effective tool in keeping the public informed about construction industry regulations.
- The agency utilized press releases, social media, public service announcements and advertisements, when appropriate, to educate consumers about contractors and contractor licensing laws.
- The agency's website was redesigned and improved to include interactive videos, instructions and online services, making it much more user friendly and beneficial for public users.
- Staff conducted multiple scam stopper seminars and licensure workshops around the state.
- MSBOC's newsletter subscription rate increased by 778 new contacts over the past year.

**Disaster Response:** The MSBOC Disaster Response Team works to keep citizens from being victimized by unscrupulous contractors following natural disasters and assists contractors with the licensing process. The agency's hands-on response in affected areas aids in protecting the public by deterring fraudulent contractors from perpetrating scams that commonly occur after a disaster while simultaneously assisting consumers and contractors with the rebuilding process. Taking this proactive approach proves to be very beneficial for property owners and reduces the number of complaints against contractors.

- MSBOC dispatched Disaster Response Team members to areas impacted by severe weather. Investigators worked with law enforcement and building officials in impacted areas to address unlawful and/or fraudulent activity.

# ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF CONTRACTORS

Ensuring the safety and well-being of Mississippi residents is paramount, and the Mississippi State Board of Contractors (MSBOC) plays a crucial role in upholding these standards. The ramifications of substandard construction are far-reaching, encompassing property damage, financial loss, injuries, and tragically, even death. Recognizing these potential risks, Mississippi law mandates that contractors be licensed, with MSBOC shouldering the responsibility for regulating the state's construction industry.

MSBOC operates under the authority of Miss. Code Ann. §31-3-1, et. seq. and Miss. Code Ann. §73-59-1, et. seq., diligently executing a range of activities aimed at safeguarding consumers. These initiatives include not only educating consumers on the advantages of hiring licensed contractors, but also establishing minimum standards for licensure. This encompasses criteria such as financial and insurance requirements, maintaining a comprehensive database of licensed contractors, and administering examinations to assess prospective licensees.

Furthermore, MSBOC is actively involved in processing license applications, issuing licensees, and investigating complaints against both licensed and unlicensed contractors. Disciplinary actions are taken when contractors violate established standards, underscoring the board's commitment to maintaining the high levels of professionalism within the construction industry.



MSBOC takes great pride in its role as a comprehensive agency, serving a diverse array of construction professionals—from commercial and residential builders to electrical and mechanical contractors, water and sewer contractors, road builders, and roofers. This all-encompassing approach optimizes efficiency for both contractors and the public, setting Mississippi apart from neighboring states with multiple licensing agencies. Through these efforts, MSBOC continues to fortify the foundation of a secure and thriving construction environment in Mississippi.

Setting basic standards for all contractors ensures that the industry as a whole has integrity. In a business as essential as construction, integrity and dependability are critical. As a licensing agency, MSBOC helps maintain consistency throughout the industry - giving consumers greater confidence. By establishing common-sense regulations for contractors and providing valuable resources for property owners, contractor licensing builds the reputation of the construction industry as reliable and trustworthy.

Through the Commercial Board and its Residential Subcommittee, MSBOC regulates commercial and residential contractors who bid or perform construction projects with the following thresholds, including materials and labor:

- \$50,000 or more for commercial projects;
- \$5,000 or more for public fire sprinkler work;
- \$10,000 or more for private fire sprinkler work;
- \$10,000 or more for improvements to an existing residence;
- \$50,000 or more for new residential construction
- Residential subcontractors performing the life safety trades of electrical, mechanical, HVAC and plumbing work.
- Residential construction manager
- Residential solar contractor

# BOARD COMPOSITION

The Mississippi State Board of Contractors is comprised of ten (10) members appointed to staggered terms by the Governor. Two (2) road contractors; two (2) building contractors; two (2) residential builders; one (1) plumbing or heating and air conditioning contractor; one (1) electrical contractor; one (1) water and sewer contractor and one (1) roofing contractor. Each member is required to be a resident of the State of Mississippi and must have been actually engaged in the contracting business for a period of not less than ten (10) years before appointment.

The following are members of the Board:

Tony Carroll, Chairman - Amory, MS - Building Contractor

Hunter L. Fordice, Vice Chairman - Vicksburg, MS - Road Contractor

Thomas H. Kline - Fulton, MS - Mechanical Contractor (Plumbing, Heat & Air)

Madison H. Smith - Tupelo, MS - Electrical Contractor

O. L. Sims - Hattiesburg, MS - Water and Sewer Contractor

Greg Smith - Gulfport, MS - Residential Contractor

Tim Allred - Meridian, MS - Residential Contractor

Michael C. Rozier, Jr. - Hattiesburg, MS - Building Contractor

Tyler Norman, Meridian, MS - Roofing Contractor

Lee Carson, Carthage, MS - Road Contractor

# RESIDENTIAL STANDING COMMITTEE

The Residential Standing Committee is subordinate to the State Board of Contractors. The Standing Committee is composed of two (2) residential builders who serve as members of the State Board of Contractors and three (3) additional residential builders.

The following are members of the Residential Standing Committee:

Greg Smith - Gulfport, MS

Tim Allred - Meridian, MS

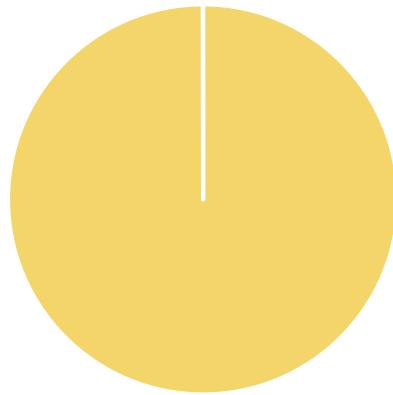
Kenneth Estes - Saltillo, MS

Bruce Kirkland- Ridgeland, MS

Trey Pace - Madison, MS

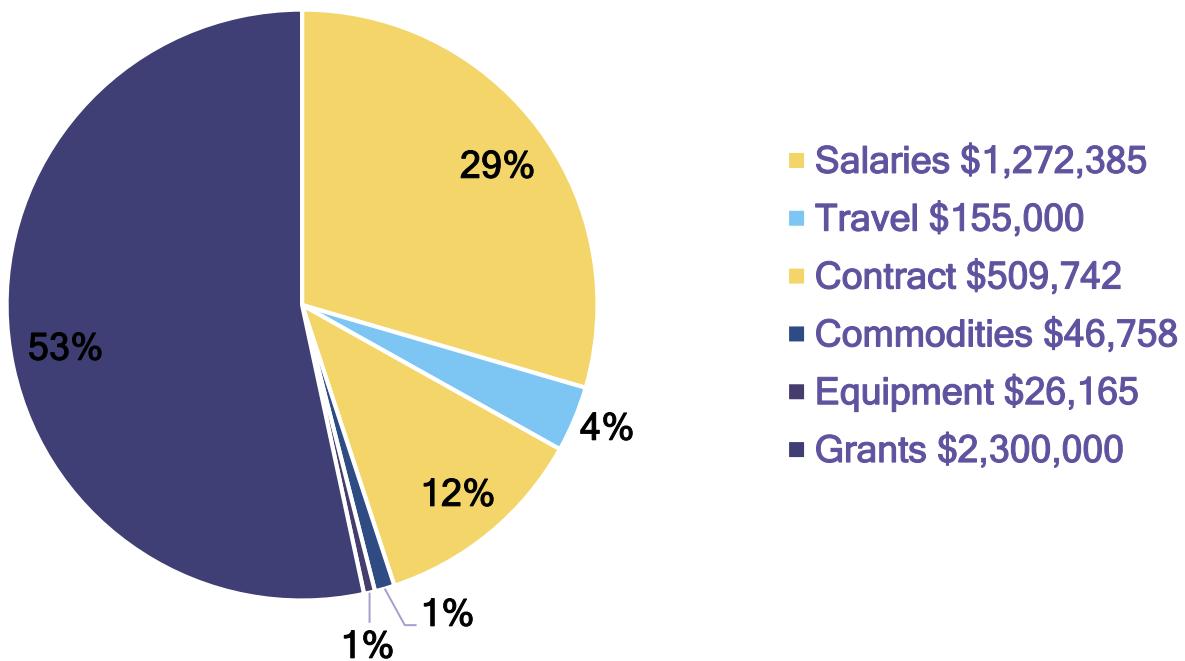
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### FY25 Budget Comparison



- Total State Budget \$31,651,974,218
- MSBOC Budget \$4,310,050

### MSBOC FY25 Budget \$ 4,310,050





## PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCIES

### **Licensure** - provide licensing services in a timely and professional manner.

- Effectively manage the application process to promote and preserve properly licensed contractors.
- Analyze methods and options to streamline and simplify the application process to better serve the public.
- Offer fillable forms online to expedite the licensure process.
- Ensure licensure exams are up to date and consistent with industry best practices.
- Utilize consumer satisfaction survey to improve services offered.

### **Enforcement** - promote consumer protection through the regulatory enforcement process by ensuring construction contractors are properly licensed and qualified to provide construction services.

- Reduce and prevent unlicensed activity and unprofessional conduct that poses a threat to public safety and threatens legitimate business activity.
- Verify proper licensing credentials at construction sites.
- Respond to complaints from public in a timely manner.

### **Education and Public Relations** - promote and encourage education of contractors, industry officials, consumers and agency employees.

- Expand the number of skilled workers.
- Utilize specially appropriated funds for construction education and craft training.
- Promote awareness of MSBOC services and the benefits of hiring a licensed contractor.

### **Disaster Response** - support consumers and contractors with the rebuilding process following a disaster.

- Protect consumers from common scams that occur after a disaster and assist contractors with the licensure process.
- Utilize various forms of media to warn individuals about unlicensed and fraudulent contractors.
- Decrease the number of complaints against unlicensed and fraudulent contractors who prey on disaster victims.
- Evaluate protocols for a coordinated disaster response plan with various agencies.
- Conduct preparedness drills and exercises.
- Use public events as a platform to communicate disaster response themes and messages.

# PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCIES

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of New Commercial License Applications	642	647	628	652	800	991
Number of Commercial Licenses Renewed	6,423	6,493	6,599	6,500	6,651	7,058
Number of New Residential License Applications	296	364	330	2,960	684	694
Number of Residential Licenses Renewed	2,671	2,678	2,690	2,688	4,637	5,061
Number of Additional Classifications Granted	434	444	384	1,837	794	847
Revenue Generated from Licensure Fees	\$3,141,070	\$3,185,625	\$3,225,990	\$3,327,230	\$3,728,303	\$3,921,008
Revenue Generated from Other Fees	\$211,803	\$222,401	\$223,870	\$639,871	\$192,835	\$127,443
Number of Construction Sites Visited	8,234	7,033	6,768	5,177	5,344	6,779
Number of Contractors Required to Pay Civil Penalties	120	163	142	152	191	117
Civil Penalties Collected	\$426,680	\$652,620	\$404,310	\$675,433	\$581,778	\$360,632.85
Grants provided for Construction Education and Craft Training	\$2,058,291	\$2,300,000	\$1,797,075	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000
Disaster Response Drills/Training/Events	4	8	4	8	4	4

# CONTACT INFORMATION



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