

**MADISON COUNTY**  
**POLICY REGARDING DONATIONS AND ADVERTISING**  
**COUNTY RESOURCES**

June 18, 2004

This policy statement is intended as a guideline for the Madison County Board of Supervisors, and the Board reserves the right to deviate from these guidelines in special circumstances, as determined by the Madison County Board of Supervisors. It is the express intent of the Madison County Board of Supervisors to limit the expenditure of public funds belonging to the taxpayers of Madison County to matters which clearly fit Constitutional and Statutory definitions and bear a legitimate relation to Madison County government concerns. It is the belief of the Madison County Board of Supervisors that the expenditure of taxpayers' dollars should be limited to those functions of the community which the citizens, individually or in groups, are not able to perform more effectively themselves.

**DONATIONS**

Article 4, Section 66 of the Mississippi Constitution allows county governments to make donations only as allowed by the Mississippi Legislature, stating

*No law granting a donation or gratuity in favor of any person or object shall be enacted except by the concurrence of two-thirds of the members elect of each branch of the legislature, nor by any vote for a sectarian purpose or use.*

Accordingly, the legislature passed Section 19-5-93 of the Mississippi Code, which allows certain donations IN THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. Madison County, therefore, may make such donations in the discretion of the Board of Supervisors. They include:

1. **Confederate Graves - location, marking, care, and maintenance.**
2. **Care of the Aged** - the Old Ladies Home of Jackson and the Golden age Nursing Home in Greenwood.

3. **King's Daughters**
4. **Travelers Aid Society**
5. **Hospitals for Pellagra Sufferers**
6. **Tubercular Hospitals** - May be done in conjunction with other counties.
7. **Charity Wards in Hospitals**
8. **Public Libraries**
9. **Patriotic Organizations and Memorials**
10. **American Red Cross**
11. **St. Jude Hospital Transportation Costs**
12. **Public Museums**
13. **Domestic Violence Shelters** - Includes rape crisis centers.
14. **Literacy Programs**
15. **Care of Neglected Children** - Support of residential group homes.

Section 19-5-93 should be consulted when a donation is considered to ascertain the most current restrictions and limitations.

#### ADVERTISING COUNTY RESOURCES

Section 17-3-1 of the Mississippi Code allows a county government to set aside, appropriate, and expend moneys, not to exceed one mill of its valuation and assessment for the purpose of advertising and bringing into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of such county.

Section 17-3-3 of the Mississippi Code gives guidance for expenditures pursuant to Section 17-3-1, stating

*Advertising pursuant to **Section 17-3-1** shall include newspaper and magazine advertising and literature, publicity, expositions, public entertainment or other form of advertising or publicity, which in the judgment of such board or boards will be helpful toward advancing the moral, financial and other interests of such municipality or county.*

In keeping with this statute, the Madison County Board of Supervisors establishes the following guidelines, which are not all inclusive:

FESTIVALS, EXPOSITIONS AND PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT- The Board may consider requests to support festivals, expositions and public entertainment on a case by case basis if:

- The event takes place within Madison County or, if outside of Madison County, bears a relationship to Madison County and its interests;
- The event is open and available to all citizens of Madison County; and
- The event is in keeping with community standards and morals of Madison County.

YOUTH SPORTS TEAMS- The Board will not make appropriations for the routine operation of youth sports associations nor sponsor youth sports teams or organizations. The Board may consider, on a case by case basis, appropriations to individual youth sports teams involved with special events or achievements which will bring Madison County into favorable notice. Special events hosted by youth sports associations, such as tournaments, may be considered for appropriation upon proper demonstration of a financial impact upon Madison County.

CIVIC AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PUBLICATIONS- The Board will not purchase advertisements in programs, yearbooks, handouts or fliers of civic organizations and school/educational institutions.

SPORTS BROADCASTS- The Board will not sponsor radio or television broadcasts of sporting events.

CHURCH GROUPS- The Board can not make appropriations to Churches or Church groups, but supports the presence of places of worship in Madison County.

POLITICAL GROUPS- The Board can not make appropriations to political groups or organizations whose main purpose is to lobby or influence legislation or political dialogue.

CHARITABLE AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS- The Board can not make appropriations to charitable or social organizations.

