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Photo attached: William.Winter.Mugshot.jpg

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**Gov. Winter throws supports behind Initiative 42 for state's future  
*Initiative 42, 'a huge step forward' for better schools***

**JACKSON, Miss. (Aug. 26, 2015)** – Initiative 42's campaign for better public schools won endorsement today from Mississippi's top education advocate and one of the nation's champions for public schools, former Gov. William Winter.

“We are at a real crossroads in Mississippi,” Winter said in a newly released video for Initiative 42. “Proposition 42 is a huge step forward, an affirmation to our education community and an encouragement to the Legislature to ensure we have better schools in the future.”

Initiative 42 is the citizen-led ballot measure to require the Mississippi Legislature to abide by its 1997 law and fully fund some 150 school districts, which are home to 90 percent of the state's K-12 public school students. Voters will decide whether to adopt the amendment on Nov. 3.

“We have to find a way to do better,” Winter said about the dismal national statistics that place Mississippi in last or next-to-last place in numerous quality of life categories, including state support for public education. “This is not satisfactory.”

In 1982, Gov. Winter led the historic effort to reform K-12 education in Mississippi. Now, he said, it's time to continue the unfinished business of putting children first.

“I don't think anybody can disagree that we ought to commit ourselves as a state to funding education at a level that will ensure that future generations of school children in Mississippi get a competitive education,” he said.

“This generation of Mississippians has an opportunity to make that assurance,” he said. “Voting for Prop 42 ... will be an affirmation that we put public education first, we put quality education first, we want to see that the children in the future of Mississippi will be assured of an education that will serve them well as long as they live.”

*Watch the video on YouTube <https://youtu.be/t9yshepsqxl>  
or on our Facebook page.*

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