

Robert Porter Chamberlin

President Trump announced his intention to nominate Robert Porter Chamberlin to serve on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi on August 12, 2025.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Arts, University of Mississippi, 1987
- Juris Doctor, University of Mississippi Law Center, 1990
- Austin Law Firm, 1990-2001
 - Law Associate, 1990-1994
 - Law Partner, 1994-2001
- Municipal Judge, City of Hernando, 1991-1999
- Municipal Prosecutor, City of Horn Lake, 1992
- Special Master, Chancery Court, Mississippi Third District, mid-1990s
- State Senator for District One, Mississippi State Senate, 2000-2004
- Law Partner, Chamberlin & Nowak, 2001-2004
- Circuit Court Judge, Mississippi Seventeenth Judicial District, 2004-2017
- Associate Justice, Mississippi Supreme Court, 2017-present

Record on Reproductive Freedom

- As a member of the Mississippi Supreme Court, Chamberlin concurred on a decision that pushed so-called “fetal personhood” ideology – an extreme legal theory that aims to extend legal rights to a fetus or embryo.² The decision also relied on other anti-abortion disinformation – with no basis in science or medicine – to determine when a person may recover for wrongful death suits on behalf of a fetus.
- Chamberlin served as a Mississippi State Senator from 2000 to 2004. In this role, he supported bills that advanced dangerous so-called “fetal personhood” ideology, enabled healthcare providers to refuse to provide abortions related healthcare procedures, and would have provided funding to anti-abortion groups via stigmatizing state license plate tags, including:
 - A law that allowed all healthcare providers, payers, and institutions to refuse to provide or pay for services because of their personal beliefs and not their patients’ needs, such as abortions and other health care procedures. Gives people who refuse to provide services immunity from liability and lets them sue for violations of this law. The law took effect in 2004.³
 - A law that used dangerous so-called “fetal personhood” ideology to define a fetus as a person for the purposes of capital murder, homicide, assault, and all other homicides. The law took effect in 2004.⁴

- A bill that proposed creating a special “Choose Life” vehicle license tag, with most of the fees collected from it to be disbursed to support anti-abortion groups.⁵

Record on Intersectional Commitments

- During his time in the Mississippi Senate, Chamberlin also supported various bills that imposed stricter voting requirements, including:
 - Sponsored a bill to require all voters to present photo ID before casting their ballots.⁶ This bill comes in contrast with other state efforts at the time to lower voting requirements for older voters, specifically Black voters, and to prevent intimidation by poll workers. This would have made voting more inaccessible for minorities and instilled more fear in the voting process for those who may historically distrust the system or have faced intimidation in their efforts to vote.⁷
- As a state Senator, Chamberlin led proposals to oppose same sex marriage and curtailed LGBTQIA+ rights, including:
 - A bill prohibiting same sex couples’ ability to adopt a child and going so far as to say that an adoption that is valid in another jurisdiction would not constitute a legal or valid adoption in Mississippi.⁸
 - A resolution proposing a U.S. constitutional amendment to provide that marriage consists only of a union between a man and a woman and calling same-sex marriage a “attack on our nation’s values and it’s Constitution”.⁹
 - A resolution to amend the Mississippi constitution to stipulate that only marriage between a man and a woman would be legally recognized, and that same sex marriages from another state would not be recognized in the state.¹⁰ The state banned same sex marriage in 1997 but Chamberlin was quoted in a local newspaper at the time as saying the following: “A constitutional amendment certainly carries with it more weight. . . sometimes preventative medicine is best.”¹¹

¹ Robert Porter Chamberlin, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Aug. 11, 2025).

² *Smith v. Church Mut. Ins. Co.*, 254 So. 3d 57 (Miss. 2018).

³ S.B. 2619, 2004 Leg., Reg. Sess. (Miss.), available at <https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2004/html/SB/2600-2699/SB2619SG.htm>.

⁴ S.B. 2869, 2004 Leg., Reg. Sess. (Miss.), available at <https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2004/html/SB/2800-2899/SB2869SG.htm>.

⁵ S.B. 2026, 2004 Leg., Spec. Sess. (Miss.), available at <https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2002/pdf/SB/2001-2099/SB2026IN.pdf>.

⁶ S.B. 2002, 2004 Leg., Spec. Sess. (Miss.), available at <https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2004IE/pdf/history/SB/SB2002.htm#text>.

⁷ Oliver Staley, *Compromise on voter ID bill fails*, Commercial Appeal, May 27, 2004.

⁸ S.B. 2916, 2000 Leg., Reg. Sess. (Miss.), available at <https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2000/html/SB/2900-2999/SB2916IN.htm>.

⁹ S. Con. Res. 519, 2004 Leg., Reg. Sess. (Miss.), available at <https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2004/pdf//history/SC/SC0519.htm>.

¹⁰ S. Con. Res. 514, 2004 Leg., Reg. Sess. (Miss.), available at <https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2004/html/SC/SC0514IN.htm>.

¹¹ *Senate: No gay marriage*, Deer Creek Pilot, Mar. 18, 2004.