

BOBBY CHAMBERLIN



Robert “Bobby” Porter Chamberlin, a Mississippi Supreme Court justice and former Republican legislator, has built a career targeting reproductive freedom, LGBTQ+ rights, voting access, and church–state separation. His legislative and judicial record demonstrates his intent to use the law to entrench conservative social priorities, shield powerful actors from accountability, and weaken protections for marginalized communities. If confirmed to the federal bench, Chamberlin’s ideology would pose grave risks to constitutional equality and fundamental freedoms.

GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Chamberlin has a long history of working to restrict abortion rights and advance fetal personhood, a far-right, extremist claim that directly attacks reproductive freedom, including in vitro fertilization (IVF). As a state senator, he co-sponsored [SB2869](#) (2004), which revised Mississippi’s homicide and assault statutes so that “‘human being’ includes an unborn child at every stage of gestation from conception.” This “personhood” framing is an ongoing tactic by anti-abortion advocates to create a legal foundation that would eliminate access to abortion nationwide and charge reproductive health care patients with homicide.

He also introduced [SB2619](#) (2004), the “Abortion Procedure Rights of Conscience Act,” which allowed providers, institutions, and insurers to refuse to participate in abortion procedures, which not only limits access to critical care but makes receiving that care unpredictable for those in emergency, life-or-death situations. In 2002, he sponsored [legislation](#) authorizing “Choose Life” license plates, a symbolic but powerful signal of his commitment to funnel state power into the anti-abortion cause.

Chamberlin’s deep hostility to reproductive autonomy and gender justice indicates that, if confirmed, he would use the federal bench to further restrict access to abortion and contraception care, while expanding exemptions that make it easier to deny lifesaving care.

SEPERATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Chamberlin has consistently sought to inappropriately elevate Christianity in public institutions, joining an ongoing effort by far-right activists to instill Christian nationalism at every level of government. In 2001, he introduced [SB2570](#), requiring the display of “In God We Trust” in every public-school classroom. This measure represents a disregard for the constitutional separation of church and state and signals a preference for imposing religious values through state power.

Chamberlin’s record suggests that, if confirmed, he would wield judicial power to further blur church–state boundaries and expand religious exemptions, at the expense of equality and constitutional principles.

BOBBY CHAMBERLIN



VOTING RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

Chamberlin has also worked to restrict ballot access, undermining our nation's democracy. In 2014, in the first legislative session after the Supreme Court's Shelby County v. Holder decision gutted federal preclearance protections under the Voting Rights Act, Chamberlin introduced SB2250, a restrictive voter ID law. Defending the measure in his Legislative Report, he claimed that "voter identification will help eliminate potential fraud in our elective process" — echoing the pretextual voter fraud claims often used to justify suppressing minority voters.

As a state supreme court justice, he authored the majority opinion in Midsouth Association of Independent Schools v. Parents for Public Schools (2018), holding that taxpayers lacked standing to challenge the constitutionality of public funds being diverted to private schools. This ruling limited the ability of parents and community groups to hold the state accountable for undermining public education funding.

In Saunders v. Mississippi (2023), he joined an opinion upholding a new court system in Jackson — Mississippi's majority-Black capital — that allowed for criminal jurisdiction without any explicit right of appeal. While acknowledging the absence of an appeal provision, the court ruled that this intentional omission was "not fatal." Chamberlin's vote endorsed a system that disproportionately strips due process rights from Black residents.

Chamberlin's legislative and judicial record makes clear his interest in erecting barriers to the ballot box and curtailing the rights of communities of color, signaling he would side with efforts to weaken democratic participation and accountability in federal court.

LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

Chamberlin's view of the LGBTQ+ community can simply be defined as one of utter contempt, as shown by his record on LGBTQ+ rights. In 2000, he introduced legislation to prohibit gay couples from adopting children, and four years later, he voted for and introduced measures to ban same-sex marriage at both the state and federal level. He also sponsored a resolution declaring that marriages recognized in other states between same-sex couples would not be recognized in Mississippi and urged Congress to enshrine a federal ban on same-sex marriage.

In an interview with the Deer Creek Pilot, he defended his support for a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage by saying: "A constitutional amendment certainly carries with it more weight... sometimes preventative medicine is best." The framing here is telling: Chamberlin views the recognition of LGBTQ+ families as a threat to be eradicated preemptively.

Chamberlin's legislative actions and rhetoric reveal a clear animus toward LGBTQ+ people and families, raising serious concerns about his ability to fairly apply equal protection and anti-discrimination laws on the federal bench.

BOBBY CHAMBERLIN

GUN VIOLENCE

Chamberlin has also acted to shield the gun industry from legal accountability. In a Legislative Report, he praised his vote for an amendment prohibiting lawsuits against gun manufacturers, distributors, and dealers — even those involving “faulty design, distribution, or sale of firearms and ammunition.” His stance indicates a reflexive deference to powerful corporate interests, raising concerns that as a federal judge he would undermine efforts to hold industries accountable for public harm. Simply put, this extremist view places lives at risk.