

The Office of the Mississippi
Secretary of State



Annual
Report
2014



A
Service
and
Information
Agency

DELBERT HOSEMAN
Secretary of State



DELBERT HOSEMANN *Secretary of State*

Our Mission



The Secretary of State's Office serves the citizens of the State of Mississippi and fulfills statutory requirements for Business Services, Charities, Education & Publications, Elections, Policy & Research, Public Lands, Regulation & Enforcement and Securities in a transparent, efficient and cost effective manner.

Key Priorities



The Secretary of State's Office has targeted key priorities for fiscal year 2015 and for each of the eight divisions of the Secretary of State's Office. The plans to facilitate these priorities for each division of the Agency are highlighted within this 2014 Annual Report.

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Message from Delbert Hosemann



DELBERT HOSEMANN
Secretary of State

The Office of the Secretary of State was first established in our State's original Constitution in 1817. Over the years, the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State has been entrusted with a number of duties, responsibilities and functions by the State Legislature.

The Agency's functions range from the oversight of 16th Section Lands and Tidelands to scrap metal sales; from the registration of pre-need cemetery plans to the registration of corporations; from conducting elections to conducting investigations of securities firms and charities. The Agency's list lengthens each year as legislation designed to protect our citizens is implemented.



We are proud of the services we provide daily to our citizens, and invite you to contact us for any information or assistance you may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Delbert".

Delbert Hosemann
Secretary of State

About the Secretary of State



The Office of the Secretary of State is dedicated to being both a service and information agency. There are eight divisions within the Secretary of State's Office: Business Services, Charities, Education & Publications, Elections, Regulation & Enforcement, Securities, Policy & Research and Public Lands. In addition, the Agency employs executive and administrative staff which help oversee the various functions of the office.

Divisions

Business Services

The *Business Services Division* administers Mississippi's Corporation, LLC and UCC laws and handles filings related to business formations and regulation. The Division also issues notary commissions, registers correspondence schools, and administers trademark, service mark, and non-profit laws. It serves as a default agent for service of process.

Charities

The *Charities Division* oversees charities and professional fundraisers in the State, in addition to investigating potential charities fraud.

Education & Publications

The *Education & Publications Division* produces and distributes statutory publications of the State, including the Official and Statistical Register, known as the "Blue Book." The Division also oversees the annual K-12 Promote the Vote program and other educational outreach efforts.

Elections

The *Elections Division* administers the State Election Code, trains municipal and county Election Commissioners, and enforces campaign finance and lobbying requirements, as well as supports the Secretary of State in his role as Chief Elections Officer for the State of Mississippi.

About the Secretary of State



Locations

- | | |
|---|---|
| 401 Mississippi Street
Jackson, MS 39201-1004
(601) 359-1350 | 431 West Main Street/Suite 403
Tupelo, MS 38802
(662) 844-0194 |
| New Capitol Building, Room 105
Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 359-3123 | 316 West Commerce Street
Hernando, MS 38632-2120
(662) 449-3362 |
| 125 South Congress Street
Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 359-1350 | 1701 B 24th Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501-2972
(228) 864-0254 |

Divisions

Policy & Research

The *Policy & Research Division* acts as a research and development arm for the Agency, looking for new ways to streamline services and develop potential legislation.

Public Lands

The *Public Lands Division* administers and supervises State-owned lands, including 16th Section School Trust Lands, Public Trust Tidelands, Lieu Lands, and Tax-Forfeited Property. Public Lands also maintains an inventory of Agency-held lands.

Regulation & Enforcement

The *Regulation & Enforcement Division* is tasked with regulating pre-need/perpetual care providers, enforcing scrap metal laws in the State, and overseeing administrative procedures for State government. The Division also conducts Scrap Metal Law Enforcement Training.

Securities

The *Securities Division* administers Mississippi's Uniform Securities Laws and investigates securities fraud. The Division also registers State investment advisers, and broker-dealer firms and representatives.

Public Lands

This division strives to improve leasing practices on 16th Section Lands for the maximum rate of return for schools.

16th SECTION LANDS

The Public Lands Division continues to fulfill the constitutional and statutory duties regarding the stewardship of 16th Section Public School Trust Lands and Lieu Lands, timber, and the Public Trust Tidelands.

The Secretary of State serves as supervisory Trustee overseeing the management and leasing of more than 640,000 acres of 16th Section Public School Trust Lands by 106 local school districts. The Public Lands Division strives to improve leasing practices on 16th Section lands and maximize the rate of return.

The Division maintains a map on the Agency website showing the approximate location of all hunting and fishing leases across the State, with rental information and contact information for managing school boards.

The Agency website also publishes public bid notices for hunting and fishing leases, agricultural leases, sales of timber and other forest products, and oil and gas leases.



The Secretary of State and Mississippi Forestry Commission maintain a cooperative partnership with local school districts to manage timber assets. This division maintains presale inventories of timber sold by lump-sum sale, monitors current timber harvest operations, inspects properties for proper usage and waste, and assists businesses by emerging markets for renewable energy in determining the availability and type of resources available on public school trust lands.

By the Numbers

13,000

16th Section Land leases

\$84 million

Revenues from 16th Section leases

\$22 million

Revenue from surface leasing

\$13.8 million

Oil and gas royalty payments

\$18 million

Sales of timber/forest products

* All 16th Section Land revenue stays with the local school district

Public Lands

PUBLIC TRUST TIDELANDS

Public Trust Tidelands and submerged lands are under waters naturally subject to tidal influence. The inland boundary is the mean high tide line established over 19-years epochs, and the seaward boundary is the State boundary, about 10 miles south of the Barrier Islands. These Tidelands are owned by the State in trust for the citizens of Mississippi. The Secretary of State is the trustee of this great public trust.

With regard to the Public Trust Tidelands and submerged lands held by the State in trust, the focus of this division is to:

- Protect public use and public access
- Acquire property for preservation and protection in the coastal preserve system
- Support the restoration of degraded public wetlands
- Develop the use of Public Trust Tidelands for recreational

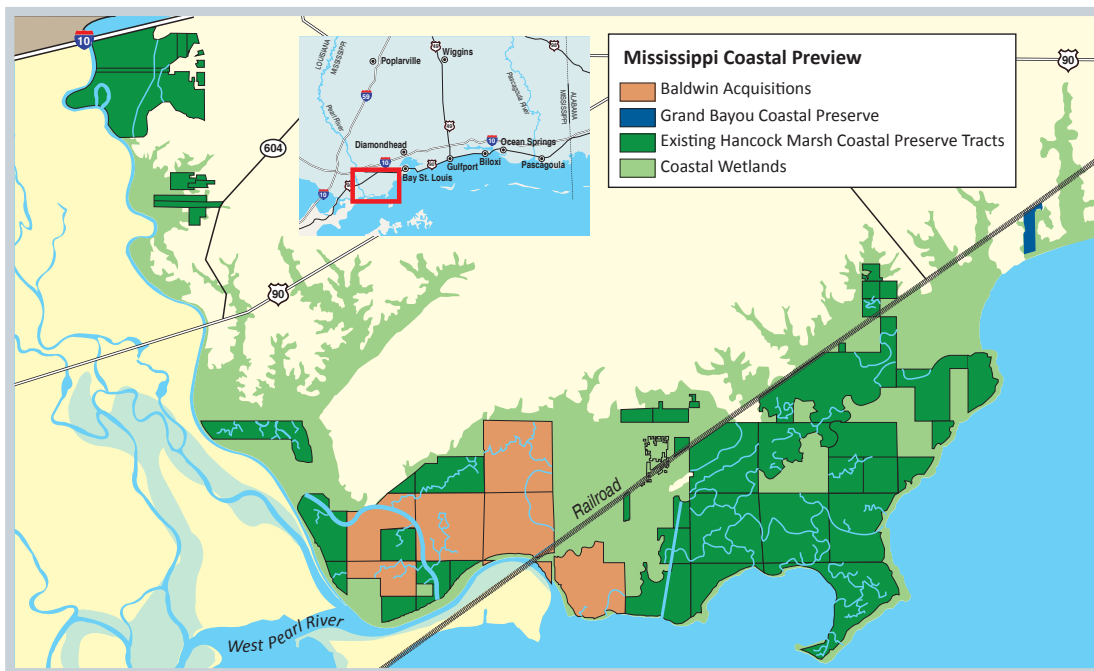


The State of Mississippi acquired the Baldwin Property consisting of 2,485.5 acres from twelve private landowners in fiscal year 2014.

and educational purposes which meet the higher purpose for which the trust was established

Baldwin Property Acquisition

The Baldwin property is located in southwest Hancock County, fronting the Pearl River for two miles at the junction with the Mississippi Sound. Composed of 2,483.5 acres, the property is pristine marsh land with a few scattered acres of dry land.



By the Numbers

\$1,164,453

The total purchase price for the Baldwin Property. No State funding was used for the purchase of this property.

\$554,758

From the Coastal Impact Assistance Program

\$627,969

From the Nature Conservancy Donated Funds

\$310,000

The owner's donation

Public Lands

Baldwin Property Acquisition

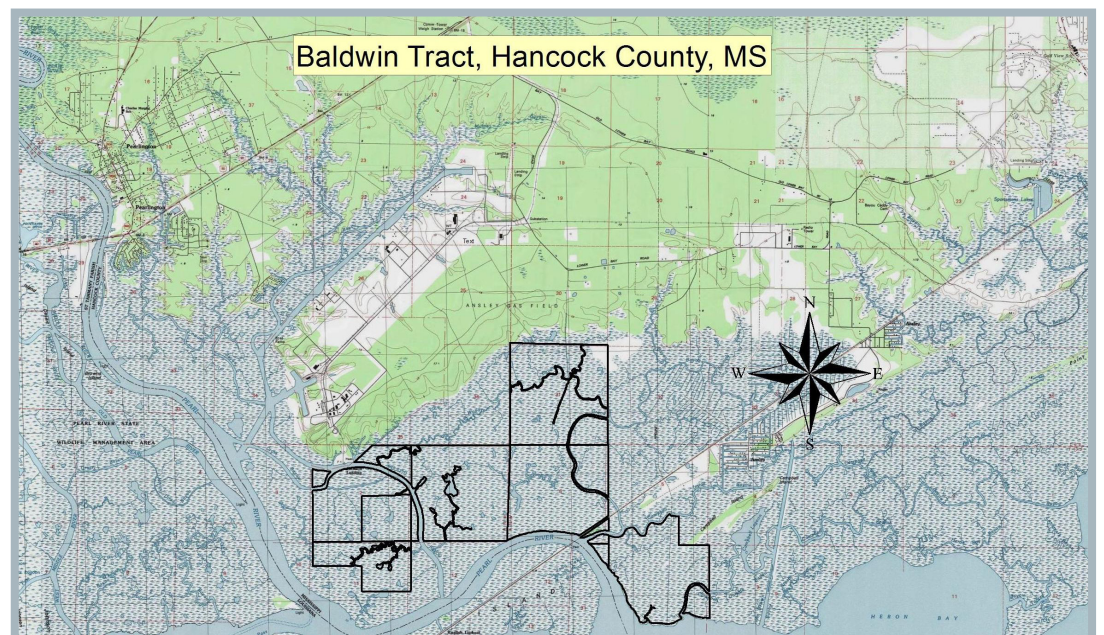


"We were able to acquire heritage properties for the Tidelands Preserve on behalf of the State of Mississippi. The Baldwin property was acquired with federal funding and private donations—no State dollars were used to purchase this property. Our Agency has been trying to purchase this property for almost fifteen (15) years because of its high conservation value."

Delbert Hosemann
Secretary of State



Aerial imagery showing the location at the mouth of the Pearl River of the 2,485.5 acres of ecologically sensitive habitat known as the Baldwin Property.



The citizens of the State of Mississippi purchased 2,485.5 acres known as the Baldwin Property from twelve private landowners.

Public Lands



Tax forfeited lands held by the State of Mississippi for non-payment of property taxes are available for acquisition. Our goal is to return these lands to the tax rolls.

TAX FORFEITED LANDS

All properties for which ad valorem taxes are past due are subject to sale by the county in which the lands are located. Any lands not purchased at the local tax sale are stricken from local tax rolls, and transferred to the State, subject to sale by the Secretary of State pursuant to applicable statutes. The Secretary of State works to sell these lands and return parcels to productive use. Through private ownership, these lands once again produce property tax revenues for the counties and municipalities in which they are located. The current amount of tax forfeited lands held by the State include 13,604 parcels with a value of \$97.8 million.



AGENCY LANDS

Our continued goal is to provide the members of the Legislature, agency officials, county officials and the general public accurate land information to allow proper utilization and management, and, where the Legislature deems appropriate, transfer parcels so they may be transitioned back onto the county property rolls.



Deer Island is managed as part of the Coastal Preserves for conservation purposes.

Highlights

An inventory of tax forfeited lands owned by the State are now available on the Secretary of State's website.

Approximately 400,000 acres of agency lands are under State ownership.

Highlights

Tax forfeited lands can be transferred to governmental entities without cost for public use.

2014 property sales total more than \$1.5 million.

The economic downturn is driving an increase in tax forfeited properties.

Real estate brokers are now helping to market tax forfeited properties in all 82 counties.

Business Services

IMPROVING BUSINESS PRACTICES IN MISSISSIPPI

The Business Services Division provides business-related services to anyone wishing to do business in Mississippi. The Secretary of State's Office developed a new online filing system for existing and potential businesses, which will trim thousands of dollars in mailing expenses by the Agency. Mississippi is the first state in the nation to provide online filing for all of its business services.



Business Services, including filing and customer services, Charities, Securities, Regulation & Enforcement, and Policy & Research, continue improvements in the way business is conducted in Mississippi.



The Business Services Division provides a wide range of services to individuals and companies who conduct business in Mississippi, whether they are based inside the State or another jurisdiction.

By the Numbers

82,885

Phone calls for business-related services.

562,351

Corporate, LLC documents and annual reports filed with the Secretary of State's Office.

26,050

Notary applications/renewals and Apostille registrations.

Business Services



STARTING A BUSINESS



The Business Services Division is the starting point for many entrepreneurs wishing to conduct business in the State. Consumers can search for a unique business name, check their corporate status, order certified documents and search other companies. Business Services assists with the formation of corporations, limited liability companies, foreign business trusts, limited partnerships and other business structures. State law determines the structure of each business.

NOTARIES PUBLIC

The Business Services Division oversees all notaries public in the State and receives nearly 5,000 notary applications and renewals per year. The Division investigates all notary complaints. Apostilles and Authentications are prepared and attached to documents to verify authenticity or validity. Many of these documents are presented in foreign countries.



Business Services

UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) filings are also handled through this division. These secured transactions are recorded and accessible to financial institutions, governmental agencies and others engaged in commercial lending and trade.



STATUTORY SERVICES

The Division is also responsible for a wide array of statutory responsibilities including accepting service of process, recording pesticides, registering carnivals, circuses, polygraph examiners and recording public official bonds.



TRADEMARKS & SERVICE MARKS

Trademarks and Service Marks are recorded and approved through this division. Recent trademarks legislation proposed by the Secretary of State's Office and adopted by the Legislature received international recognition as one of the most forward, aggressive trademark laws in the nation.



CHARTERS & ANNEXATIONS

This division also files interlocal agreements, municipal charters and records annexations for all municipalities.

Elections

This Division works for fair, unbiased elections through accountability and training as Mississippi citizens exercise their right to vote.



SUPPORTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN FAIR ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State's Office works to bring more accountability to Mississippi elections by providing the most accurate knowledge regarding elections to the Legislature, Governor, local election officials and the public. The goal is to ensure Mississippians' voices are heard as they exercise their right to vote.

The role of the Elections Division will continue to include election administration,

training county and municipal election officials, managing the Statewide Election Management System (SEMS), providing elections-related financial, technical and legal support to the counties and municipalities, receiving election returns, assisting local elections officials in carrying out their election-related responsibilities, and collecting campaign finance and lobbying reports.

Administration

In 2013-2014, the Elections Division dedicated much time and energy to the success of the implementation of the Mississippi Voter ID law. We also devoted our efforts on training county election officials for the June federal Party Primary Elections, which included Party Primary Elections for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The June Primary Elections were conducted by the parties and were the first in which Mississippi Voter ID laws were in effect. On June 3, the Secretary of State's Office partnered with volunteers from the State Auditor's Office to deploy 81 poll observers for the election process. On June 24, the Secretary of State's Office dispatched 28 observers for the Runoff Election. In 2014 primary elections, staff observed all 82 counties in the State. The Division also responded to 687 telephone calls on the June 3rd Primary Election and 654 telephone calls on June 24th Primary Runoff Election.

What We Do

Assist county and municipalities in preparing for elections

Train and certify county and municipal election officials, Election Commissioners

Maintain and publish campaign finance and lobbying reports

Accept constitutional initiative filings

Accept qualifying paperwork for statewide and multi-county district candidates

Maintain the statewide voter registration database

Elections

Training

The Elections Division provides certification programs and continuing education training programs to county and municipal election commissioners and executive committees. Training programs address substantive law as well as technical aspects of the statewide elections management system (SEMS) and the Statewide Voting Machine System. We also train officials to operate specific voting devices and train individual poll managers for Election Day responsibilities. This division is focused on utilizing current technology, such as webinars and online poll manager training, to make our training accessible to election officials throughout the State. The training staff works continuously to update the training curriculum to better reflect legal requirements, technical aspects and practical issues faced by elections officials.



MISSISSIPPI VOTER ID

Beginning with the June 3 Primary Elections, every Mississippian who votes in person, whether in the Circuit Clerk's office during absentee voting or at the precinct on Election Day, is required to present an acceptable form of photo identification before being allowed to cast a regular ballot. The Secretary of State's Office was charged with the responsibility of implementing the Voter ID requirement. The Election Division worked with all 82 Circuit Clerks to install Voter ID stations in each office, and any voter who lacks an acceptable photo ID may obtain a Mississippi Voter ID card from any Circuit Clerk's office free of charge. The Elections Division staffed a Voter ID Hotline, which answered questions regarding obtaining a Mississippi Voter ID card. We have partnered with the Mississippi Department of Transportation to provide transportation to and from the Circuit Clerks' offices for the purpose of obtaining a Voter ID. The Division trained all election officials responsible for conducting elections with the proper process of checking photo IDs for voting purposes. *On June 3 and June 24, over 99.9% of Mississippians presented acceptable photo ID before casting their ballot for the Primary and Runoff elections.*

SEMS

The Elections Division works with the election officials of counties and municipalities to maintain a statewide voter registration database, known as the Statewide Elections Management System (SEMS). This Division provides education on the responsibilities and tools available to maintain accurate voter rolls. The Division frequently updates the SEMS interface, such as inputting death certificates received monthly from the Mississippi Department of Health, criminal convictions received quarterly from the Administrator of Courts and notification of change of address received annually through National Change of Address database (NCOA). The Division also continues to enhance the interface with other State agencies to ensure every Mississippian who is qualified to vote is also registered to vote.

By the Numbers

404,761

Votes cast in the 2014 Federal Primary Election. Reflects 22% of the registered voters in the State.

81

Staff members who observed in 82 counties during the June 3rd, 2014 Election.

2,240

Voter IDs issued from January 2014 through August 21, 2014.

410 | 260

County Election Commissioners and County Party Executive Members receiving certification training in preparation for the 2014 elections.

Elections

Campaign Finance and Lobbying



The Division is streamlining the reporting systems for campaign finance and lobbyists through a more user-friendly, computer-driven approach. The Agency has consistently advocated increased public disclosure and transparency from elected officials, candidates and lobbyists. Maintaining open and accessible information is a top priority for the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State.

Mississippi law requires all candidates for public office disclose the sources of their receipts and disbursements to the public. Those

disclosures lead to a more informed electorate and increase the likelihood of fair and unbiased elections. The Elections Division maintains such filings and provides guidance to candidates regarding reporting requirements. Campaign Finance and Lobbying reports may be viewed online by the general public on the Secretary of State's website (www.sos.ms.gov).

Mississippi law requires all lobbyists register with the Secretary of State's Office in order to conduct business in the State.

Other Activities

Certification of Election Results

The Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State is responsible for certifying statewide elections and multi-county elections.

ACCESS Grants

The Division administers federal ACCESS grants to assist counties in making their polling places compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and more accessible to voters with disabilities.

Initiatives

All proposed amendments to the Mississippi Constitution must be registered with the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office. The official ballot title and summary are prepared by the State Attorney General. Initiatives are only valid for one year. During this time, a petition must be circulated to gather signatures to place the measure on the next statewide general election ballot.

Public Requests from individuals, candidates and Federal Agencies

The Elections Division responds to numerous public records requests for voter registration statistics, statewide and district voter rolls, election results, Uniformed and Overseas Voter statistics and the number of voters casting an absentee ballot. The Division provides accurate information to the public on a statewide and national level.

Election Publications

Annual Elections
Calendar

Candidate
Qualifying Guide

Election Officials
Handbook

Campaign Finance
Guide and Reporting
Schedule

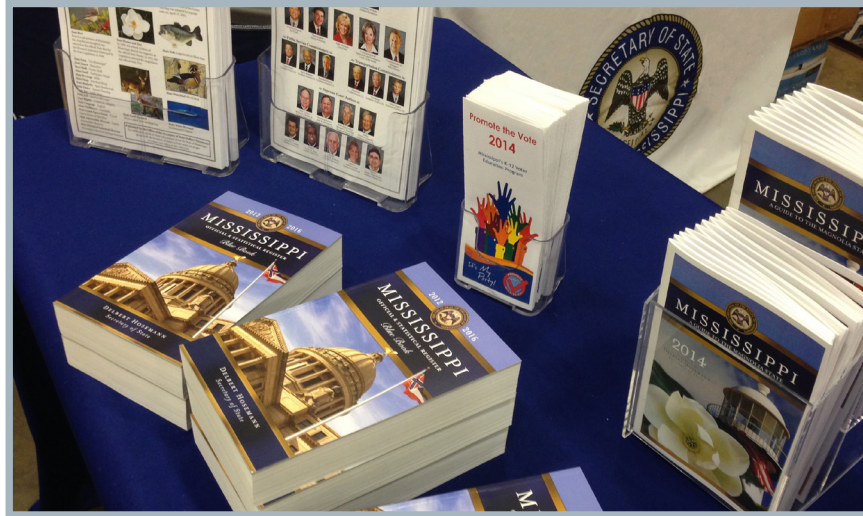
Lobbying Guide
and Reporting
Schedule

Annual Election
Day Report to the
State Legislature

Education & Publications

INFORMATION OF RECORD FOR STATE CONSTITUENTS

This division produces State and Agency documents in traditional paper-and-ink publications as well as digital versions on the Agency's website. More than 1.7 million pieces of education and information material were distributed in 2014.



The Education & Publications Division of the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State is working to increase the efficiency and reduce the cost of producing and distributing State and Agency publications. Digital, downloadable versions of all statutory publications are now available on the Agency's website to give constituents easy access to needed information. Interim updates are also made to the digital versions of traditionally formatted print publications.

In July 2013, both a hard-cover and paperback print versions of the *2012-2016 Official and Statistical Register of the State of Mississippi* (more commonly known as the Blue Book), was published. The digital format, released in 2012, is updated quarterly.

To reduce printing costs, the Division now designs and prints most State and Agency publications in-house, including the *Magnolia Book* (Mississippi Guide Book), *Promote the*

Vote materials, Agency brochures and Voter ID materials. In addition to publishing both print and digital versions of the *Judiciary Directory and Court Calendar*, the *Elections Calendar* and the *Directory of State and Local Officials*, the Division oversees the chaptering, indexing and distribution of all adopted legislation and compiles the information annually for publication of the *General Laws and Local and Private Laws of the State*. It also publishes *House and Senate Journals* for each legislative session.

To reduce the overall cost of communicating directly with groups of constituents, the Division is working to compile digital databases of email addresses. The goal is to facilitate quick and easy correspondence with targeted groups instead of relying on traditional mail.

Publications

- Blue Book
- Charities Report
- Directory of State & County Officials
- Elections Calendar

- General Laws
- House Journal
- Judiciary Directory & Court Calendar
- Local & Private Laws

- Magnolia Booklet
- Mississippi Constitution
- My Mississippi Coloring Book
- Senate Journal

Education & Publications

Promote the Vote is an annual voter education program sponsored by the Secretary of State's Office to educate Mississippi students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 about the political process and civic duties. The goal is to encourage students to become informed citizens and voters as adults. The award-winning program is free for all public, private, parochial and home-



school classrooms and offers a full curriculum developed in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Education. Promote the Vote includes classroom and extra-curricular activities, grade level art and writing contests and a statewide mock election preceding every statewide general election. For FY 2014, around 15,000 students from 47 schools participated in the PTV program.



Almost 200 students submitted entries for art, essay, political cartoon and Voter ID Design contests. Of these, 32 winners from second grade to high school seniors from across Mississippi were honored at the State Capitol in early March. Twelve honorable mention winners were also recognized.



A special ceremony was held for Promote the Vote contest winners from Coahoma County who missed the March awards ceremony. Secretary Hosemann and Sen. Robert L. Jackson, Marks, congratulated the winners.

Securities

This division protects investors in the State from unscrupulous organizations using the most up-to-date Securities laws in the nation.

MORE INVESTMENT FIRMS UNDER STATE REGULATION

In addition to enforcing the Mississippi Securities Laws, the Securities Division is responsible for the regulation and registration of securities firms, agents and products.

The Securities Division regulates and registers investment adviser firms in Mississippi having greater than \$100 million in investment funds under management. Currently there are 44 investment adviser firms registered with the Division, which also examines Mississippi branch offices of broker-dealer firms registered in the State. For FY 2014 the Division examined 10 investment adviser firms and over 50 branch offices of broker-dealer firms and conducted over 110 securities investigations.

Sources for these investigations included over 30 complaints and tips of possible securities laws violations from investors and the public. Of these 110 investigations, over 45 cases were for late fees for notice filings of Federal Regulation D Offerings that were filed late.



During the FY 2014 the Division collected \$9,731,272 in offering related filings, \$6,191,929 in registration filings for securities professionals and firms, \$234,925 in administrative enforcement cases and \$8,165 in miscellaneous fees and for a total of \$16,136,291 in revenue. This revenue included 125,363 professional filings and 25,247 offering related filings which were processed by the Division.

In 2007-2008, a fund manager

employed by Morgan Keegan misrepresented the value of certain mortgage backed investments during the housing collapse. Over 39,000 investors nationwide lost over \$1 billion and over 2,000 Mississippi investors were affected.

In June 2011, as a direct result of an investigation launched by the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State and several other state securities regulators, Morgan Keegan agreed to pay over \$200 million in penalties into two separate funds: \$100 million to be distributed by the States and \$100 million to be distributed by the SEC to investors who suffered losses.

The State distribution fund included over \$5 million in distributions to Mississippians in November 2012. The SEC's distribution plan was adopted in August 2013, and the SEC approved the disbursement of funds in July 2014. On July 25, 2014 the SEC distributed over \$2 million to Mississippians from the SEC fund.

By the Numbers

\$16,136,291

Amount of revenue collected in filings, administrative enforcement cases and miscellaneous fees.

44

Investment adviser firms now registered with the Office of the Secretary of State.

110

Conducted more than 110 investigations, which included possible securities laws violations.

Charities

PROTECTING YOUR CHARITABLE DOLLARS

This division protects Mississippi donors from unscrupulous charities who might prey on our citizens.

Through enforcement of the Mississippi Charitable Solicitation Act, the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State's Charities Division is responsible for protecting donors in the State. The Charities Division protects Mississippians and works to ensure their hard-earned dollars are used for the purpose intended.

Each year, the Secretary of State's Office promotes a "Check your Charity" campaign during the holiday season. This division will continue to encourage Mississippians to check their supported charities with the Secretary of State's Office before they donate.

The Charities Act requires the registration of every nonprofit soliciting contributions and having fundraisers with the Charities Division. The Charities Act does allow certain organizations to be exempted from this registration requirement. However, this exemption is not automatic. The organization must request the exemption by submitting the Form CE, Notice of Exemption.



The Charities Act not only strengthens the Agency's ability to enforce laws against dishonest charities, but also gives the Charities Division the authority to subpoena witnesses and documents during investigations and to bring actions in Chancery Court to stop illegal activities, collect fines and remove charitable corporate status. Through the strong enforcement of the Charities Act, Mississippi donors can have more confidence in their charitable giving.



To protect Mississippi donors, a key priority of the Agency is to make it more difficult for organizations to misappropriate charitable dollars. The Agency will continue working with charitable organizations in the state to maximize the amount of funds allocated for actual charitable purposes. Increasing the transparency in charitable organizations and providing this information to Mississippians allows our citizens to have peace of mind in charitable giving.

For Your Protection

Armed with the most up-to-date Charities laws in the nation to protect Mississippians

An annual "Check your Charities" campaign lets you know how your hard-earned dollars are spent

Annual revenue threshold for charity registration increased from \$4,000 to \$25,000 per year

Regulation & Enforcement

This division registers and regulates businesses subject to their jurisdiction, such as funeral homes, cemeteries and scrap metal dealers.

PROTECTING THE CONSUMER'S INTEREST

The Regulation & Enforcement Division of the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State serves various consumer protection interests with its regulation of pre-need funeral providers, privately owned cemeteries, and scrap metal dealers and recyclers. These business entities are examined and audited by division staff to determine if the business is complying with State legislation and regulations designed to protect the consumers' interests.



Division. Additionally, this division licenses and monitors the activities of Athlete Agents under the Mississippi Athlete Agent's Act. This Act helps to protect young athletes in the State from falling victim to unscrupulous sports agents who might otherwise attempt to take advantage of an athlete's inexperience when signing with a professional sports team.

Examinations and audits may be either complaint-based or randomly selected. Violators are subject to administrative fines, suspension of a license, or, in extreme cases, revocation of a license issued by the

The Regulation & Enforcement Division publishes the *Mississippi Administrative Bulletin* and the *Mississippi Administrative Code* where all State government rules and regulations are accessible to the public on the Secretary of State's Office website. The Division supports both the public and State agencies with procedural steps for adopting rules and obtaining public comment in the process.



What's Ahead

The Division is positioned to take the lead in supporting law enforcement agencies throughout the state with building successful cases for prosecuting metal theft. The Secretary of State's office is also working with adjoining states to synchronize our laws to deter metal theft commerce across state lines.

As the death care industry in our state shifts to more economical and environmental trends by choosing cremation and direct burials, the Division works to protect consumers from unscrupulous operators. This Division is diligent in safeguarding consumer confidence in the choices.

Policy & Research

PROMOTING BUSINESS LAWS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Policy & Research Division is the research and development engine of the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office. This division collaborates with volunteer panels of Mississippians selected by the Secretary of State to develop potential legislation and identify innovative solutions to challenges facing the State and the Agency. Since 2008, nearly 30 recommendations from these study groups have been adopted by the Mississippi Legislature, including reforms to Mississippi's corporate, LLC,



nonprofit, trademark, and securities laws.

This year was a record-setting session for the study-group program. During the 2014 Session, the Legislature adopted six bills vetted by study groups.

These enactments included an economic development incentive bill aimed at attracting national corporate headquarters to Mississippi and a sweeping overhaul of Mississippi's trust laws. A summary of each of the six legislative proposals is provided below.

Policy Initiatives

House Bill 785

(effective July 1, 2014)

Headquarters Relocation Credit –

Intended to encourage companies to relocate their national or regional headquarters to Mississippi. Under the bill, a company relocating its corporate headquarters to Mississippi, and creating at least 20 jobs, may apply with the Department of Revenue for a tax credit.

House Bill 846

(effective July 1, 2014)

Mississippi Qualified Disposition in

Trust Act – Permits the creation of an irrevocable trust in which the trust creator (settlor) is allowed to be a beneficiary of a trust while also receiving limited asset protection.

House Bill 914

(effective July 1, 2014)

Amendments to Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Associations

Law – Updates Mississippi's Agricultural Marketing Association law which was adopted in the 1930s. The legislation allows a cooperative to do business with nonmembers not to exceed the amount of business it does for members and it also streamlines the adoption of changes to the bylaws.

Senate Bill 2511

(effective July 1, 2014)

Name Reservation Provisions –

Harmonizes the name reservation procedure for Business Corporations, Nonprofit Corporations, Limited Partnerships, and Limited Liability Companies.

Senate Bill 2727

(effective July 1, 2014)

Mississippi Uniform Trust Code –

Provides default rules on trusts to reduce uncertainty, streamline trust administration, and help grow the trust industry.

Senate Bill 2322

(effective January 1, 2015)

Mississippi Entity Domestication and Conversion Act –

Authorizes business domestication and conversion. The Act is intended to give business entities a simple, efficient, and inexpensive procedure to change their legal form (known as conversion) or change their state of incorporation (known as domestication) through a filing with the Secretary of State's Office.

Business Services

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(Including Business Services, Charities, Regulation & Enforcement, Securities)

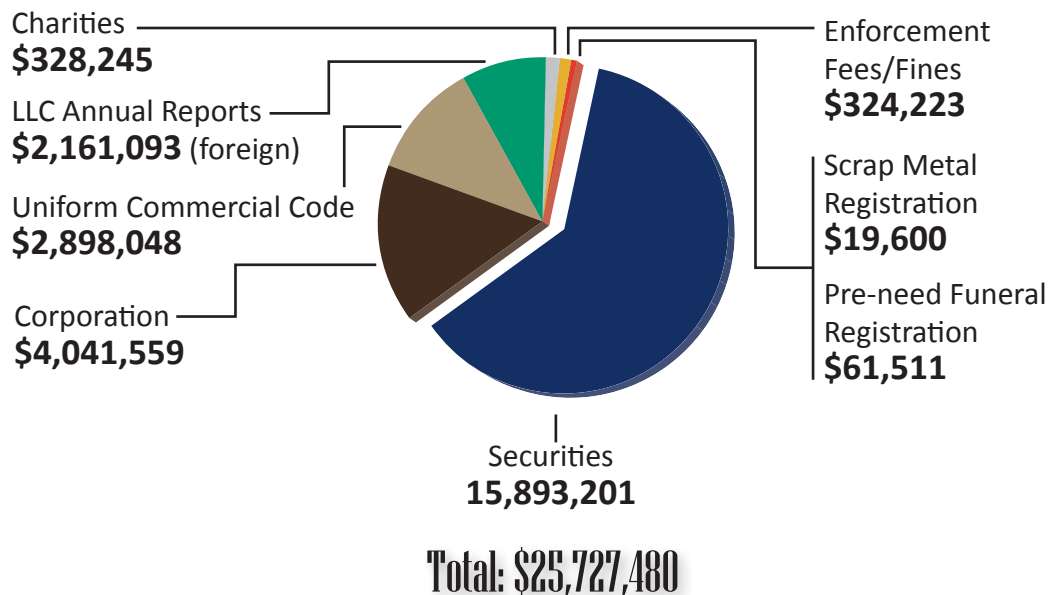
Efficiencies

- Increase online services provided for businesses and corporations
- Maintain turnaround times for customer filings to less than 24-48 hours
- Provide more opportunities and methods for enforcement education



- Increase registration of Scrap metal dealers
- Reduce turnaround time for approval of Private Placement Securities Offering filings
- Increase number of routine exams of securities firms and investment advisers

Fee Income: FY 2014

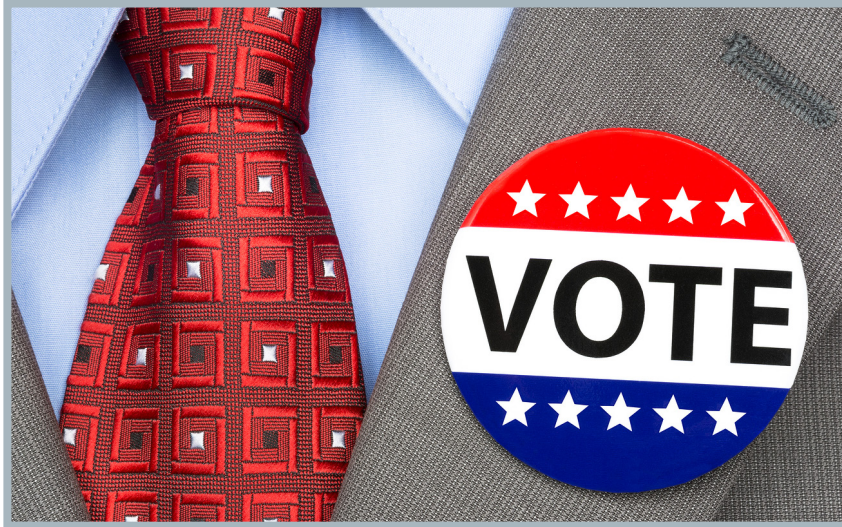


Our Performance

CATEGORY	OUTPUT
UCC documents filed	318,307
Security registration & renewals (firms/agents)	125,363
Telephone calls received	82,885
Corporate documents filed	67,873
Annual reports filed (Corp)	110,070
LLC annual reports filed (domestic)	57,613
Notary registration/renewals apostilles	26,050
Security registration & renewals (offerings)	25,247
LLC annual reports filed (foreign)	8,488
UCC searches	553
Securities/Charities audits, examinations & renewals (firms/agents)	356
Securities/Charities legal actions (dispositions & opinions)	147

Elections

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Lobbyist Registrations

All persons or entities engaging in lobbying activity in the State of Mississippi must register with the Secretary of State's Office. The Mississippi lobbying cycle begins on January 1 and ends December 31 of each

calendar year. Registration is required every year. A \$25 registration fee must be paid to the Secretary of State's Office. Each registration is valid for one (1) calendar year, beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

Total: \$17,850

(Includes Campaign Finance Registrations)

Efficiencies

- Continue to promote fair and honest elections by providing accurate election reports
- Streamline campaign finance and lobbyist filings and reports
- Provide election training sessions with internal staff, reducing vendor expenditures
- Continue to promote increased voter registration and turnout

Our Performance

CATEGORY	OUTPUT
Lobbying reports	3,814
Campaign finance reports	4,400
Election training sessions	61

Education & Publications

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



The Education & Publications Division provides publications, Mississippi flags and document certifications to the general public. This division also produces all elected officials' commissions and certification documents for municipal and county Election Commissioners throughout Mississippi.

Efficiencies

- Continue to provide publications required by statute
- Continue providing accessibility of publications to constituents
- Continue compiling and providing accurate and precise information

Our Performance

CATEGORY	OUTPUT
Publications produced (quantity ordered)	1,719,500
Publications distributed	1,538,500
Constituent services	2,623
Bills chaptered and recorded	576
Agency speaking and training events	6
Agency promotion and exhibits	13
Agency publications produced	34

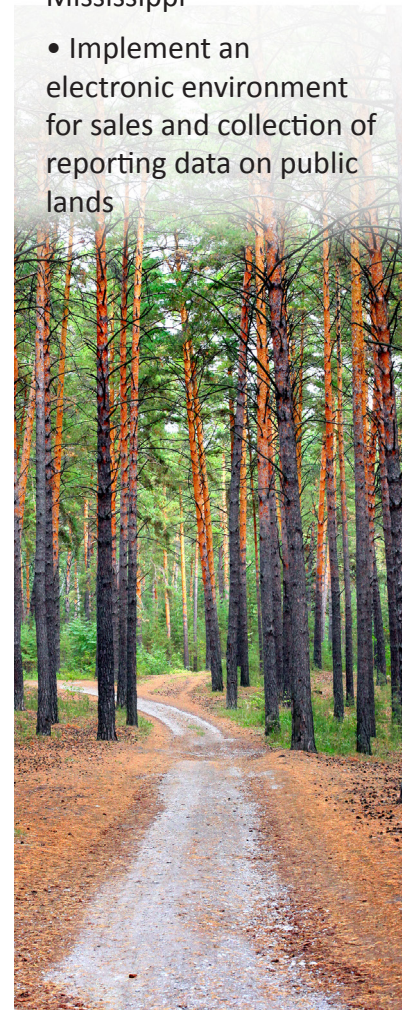
Public Lands

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Efficiencies

- Continue to conserve, preserve, protect, and manage the public lands of Mississippi
- Continue to make available to the public, all records of real property belonging to or under the control of the State of Mississippi
- Implement an electronic environment for sales and collection of reporting data on public lands



Our Performance

CATEGORY	OUTPUT
16th Section leases managed	12,623
Tax forfeited applications processed	1,455
Tax forfeited patents issued	749
Tideland leases managed	187

Administration and Executive

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Efficiencies

- Continue to monitor and improve Agency internal controls/procedures to increase accountability for property and monies received specific to finance, purchasing, human resources and information services
- Continue to upgrade the technological systems to provide better constituent services



External Factors

- Changes in the economy, positive or negative, can affect the number of filings processed which may increase or decrease the amount of revenue
- External factors can change the direction of projects, funding and revenue
- Legislative directive changes the course of projects and funding
- Changes in federal law, such as HAVA, change the direction of projects and funding



INTERNAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The Secretary of State has offices in Jackson, Gulfport, Hernando and Tupelo to better serve the entire State. An office within the Capitol building in Jackson receives and records executive documents from the Governor. This is part of the Secretary of State's role as "Keeper of the Capitol."

Each division of the Secretary of State's Office establishes senior-level priorities. These top priorities are discussed during senior staff meetings. Performance measures are collected and reported quarterly. Budgetary constraints are reviewed when new or expanded priorities are considered or requested.

Our Performance

CATEGORY	OUTPUT
Parcels of mail processed	142,138
Help Desk requests completed	4,568
Payment vouchers prepared	12,762
Personnel transactions processed	54
Agency sponsored sessions	8

Additional Efficiencies: Turnaround Time

Vendor payments	15 days
Tax forfeited county refunds	15 days
Travel reimbursements	5 days

Contact the Secretary of State

Agency Contacts

Assistant Secretaries of State (Divisions)

Business Services
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601-359-1684

Charities
Tanya Webber
601-359-1048

Education & Publications
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601-359-6346

Elections
Kim Turner
601-359-9412

Policy & Research
601-359-3101

Public Lands
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601-359-5156

Regulation & Enforcement
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601-359-9055

Securities
Cheryn Netz
601-359-1334

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Pamela.Weaver@sos.ms.gov

Topics

16th Section Land
601-359-6377

Apostilles/Notary
601-359-1615

Campaign Finance
601-359-1358

Cemeteries
601-359-6747

Charity Lookup
601-359-1371

Corp./LLC/UCC
601-359-1633

Elections Hotline
800-829-6786

Flags
601-359-6344

General Laws
601-359-6344

Gov. Commissions
601-369-3123

Lobbying
601-359-6353

Public Records Request
601-359-6349

Scrap Metal
601-359-6361

Securities Investigations
601-359-1363

Tax Forfeited Land
601-359-1557

Tidelands
601-228-864-0254

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Secretary of State



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