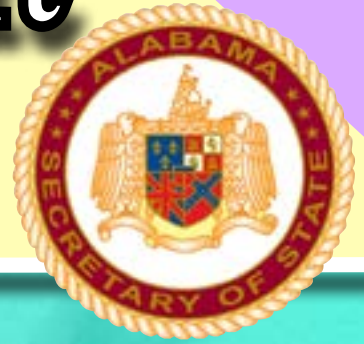


Quarterly Report

April 2020



March 31 Runoff Election Moved to July 14 Due to COVID-19



Secretary Merrill Attends the NASS Winter Conference



Quarterly Accomplishments & Travels



SOS Office Recognizes High School Student as the One Millionth Electronic Voter Registrant

March 31 Runoff Election Moved to July 14 Due to COVID-19

Following a joint press conference on March 18th featuring Governor Kay Ivey, Secretary of State John H. Merrill, and Attorney General Steve Marshall, the March 31 Runoff Election will be postponed until July 14, 2020.

The following statement is from Secretary of State John H. Merrill:

“When I took office as Alabama’s 53rd Secretary of State, I set out to ensure a free and fair elections process for the people of Alabama.

First and foremost, however, the safety and well-being of every single Alabamian is my top priority.

The guidelines prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Alabama Department of Public Health have made it clear that it is no longer advisable for the people of Alabama to go to the polls to vote on March 31.

The opportunity to participate in the electoral process and have one’s voice heard at the polls is one that we will continue to protect and advocate for.

In postponing the March 31 Runoff Election to July 14, we are continuing Alabama’s practice of providing free and fair elections that do not compromise the safety and health of our voters, poll workers, and anyone else who may be involved with the elections process.

This new date will allow for the electoral process to continue in a normal manner. This delay will allow all local election officials the time to assess and evaluate the changes that must be made to ensure the Runoff Election is administered according to plan.

Eligible Alabamians may continue to register to vote in the Runoff Election until Monday, June 29.

Absentee ballot applications that have already been successfully submitted will be valid for the July 14, 2020 Runoff Election. To check on the status of your application, please contact your local Absentee Election Manager.

All absentee ballot applications must be received by the close of business on Thursday, July 9. If delivered by hand, absentee ballots must be received by the Absentee Election Manager by the close of business Monday, July 13. If returning by mail, the last day to postmark an absentee ballot is Monday, July 13.

Voters eligible to vote pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act will have until Tuesday, July 14 to postmark an absentee ballot.

I am grateful to Governor Ivey and General Marshall for their proactive leadership, sincere dedication, and spirit of teamwork that we have seen displayed during these trying times to ensure we are providing a safe and secure environment for all voters in the State of Alabama to participate in the electoral process.”

Secretary Merrill Attends the NASS Winter Conference



The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) held their annual winter conference in Washington D.C. from January 31 through February 2, 2020. During these three days, Secretary Merrill and his staff (see photo two) attended a variety of meetings, presentations, and workshops pertaining to elections, cybersecurity, business services, and more.

The team attended the breakfast and interactive discussion on [#TrustedInfo2020](#), which featured Christy McCormick of the Elections Assistance Commission, Matt Masterson of Homeland Security, and Tammy Patrick of the Democracy Fund, the General Session on Election Security regarding threat actor behavior and countermeasures for disrupting and defeating state and non-state actors, which featured Clint Watts from George Washington University, and the committee meeting featuring the four Elections Assistance Commissioners to discuss the new Help America Vote Act.

Secretary Merrill also completed a few interviews, which included an interview with Jeffery Queen on the Framers Forum to discuss election security, the historic United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, and the United States Senate impeachment proceedings (see photo four).

Each year, the Secretaries of State have the opportunity to nominate an outstanding individual for the NASS Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award for political courage, and this year's winner was Viola Liuzzo, nominated by Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (see photo one). Viola Liuzzo helped coordinate and participated in the Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965 and was brutally murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan shortly afterwards. Her daughter, Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe, accepted the award on her mother's behalf.

Near the end of the conference, Secretary Merrill and New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way led the International Relations Committee, where they shared their experiences from their recent visit to Israel in December 2019.

Secretary Merrill looks forward to another productive NASS conference this summer in Nevada if the COVID-19 virus is no longer prevalent.

SOS Office Recognizes High School Student as the One Millionth Electronic Voter Registrant



On February 3, 2020, Secretary of State John H. Merrill visited Thompson High School in Alabaster to recognize Thomas Damsgard, the one millionth electronically registered voter in the State of Alabama.

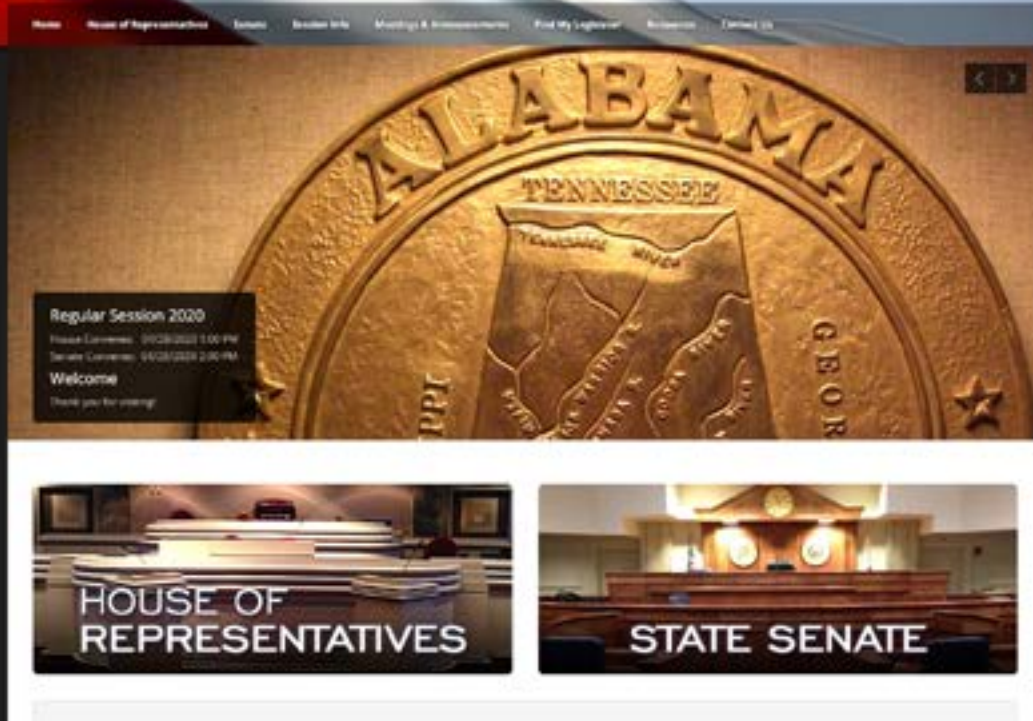
Thomas, who turned 18 in January, recently used the SOS Office's online voter registration system (AlabamaVotes.gov) to register to vote.

"Thanks to the help of Alabaster City School System Superintendent Dr. Wayne Vickers and Thompson High School Principal Dr. Wesley Hester for organizing this morning's ceremony in which we recognized Thomas' enthusiasm to participate in the electoral process, as well as encouraged voter registration and voter participation among Thompson's eligible students," stated Merrill.

Thomas was joined by his parents, brother, and grandparents, as well as more than three hundred Thompson High School seniors who are 18 years old or will be 18 before Election Day.

Secretary Merrill continued, "Our success in voter registration has been in large part due to the use of the online voter registration system in addition to our community outreach. I was excited to continue our visits to all 67 of Alabama's counties by speaking with students in Shelby County. I am always delighted to meet young people so eager to exercise their right to vote!"

In addition to visiting "AlabamaVotes.gov" and the mobile app "Vote for Alabama," Alabamians are able to register to vote by visiting their local board of registrars, the Office of the Secretary of State, or one of the office's many mobile photo ID units. For the list of counties the SOS Office will soon be visiting, please visit our website or contact our office at (334) 242-7210.

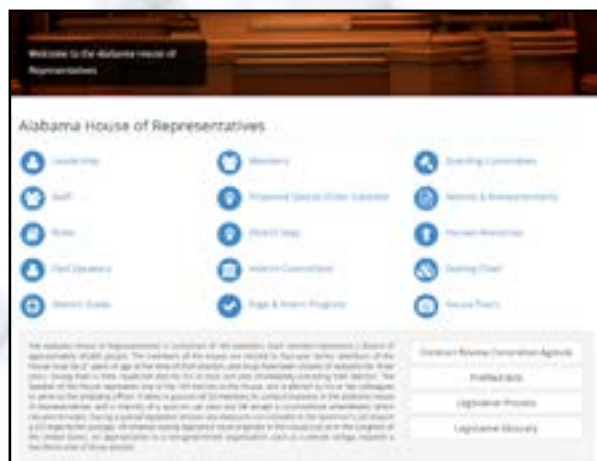


ALISON: Alabama Legislative Information System Online

What is ALISON?

ALISON is the Alabama Legislature's online resource, where anyone can search for the status of a bill, find their designated legislators, view information on committee meetings and announcements, and more.

To access this system, visit www.legislature.state.al.us.





Have you completed the 2020 U.S. Census???

Did you know you can complete your Census questionnaire online??

From March 12th through 20th, most households were sent a 12-digit identification code associated with their home address to complete the questionnaire at 2020census.gov. Even if you didn't respond by April 1st, you can still use your code to participate online.

What if I didn't receive an identification code?

If you don't have a code, select **"if you don't have a Census ID, click here"** when beginning the questionnaire. Then simply follow the instructions and answer the necessary questions regarding your location.

Do I have to complete the Census online?

No. Even if you have an access code, you can participate in other ways, if you prefer. Dialing **844-330-2020** (English version) will allow you to participate over the phone, or you can complete the paper form and mail it back. Those who don't respond online or over the phone will automatically receive a Census form in the mail.

What if I don't respond at all?

All citizens are required by law to participate. Those who have not completed one of the aforementioned options will be visited by a Census taker between May 27th and August 14th.

The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America



Listen and follow the directions of your state and local authorities.



If you feel sick, stay home. Do not go to work.



If your children are sick, keep them at home. Contact your medical provider.



If you are an older person or have a serious underlying health condition, stay home and away from other people.



If someone in your household has tested positive, keep the entire household at home.



Work or study from home whenever possible.



Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.



Avoid eating or drinking at restaurants and bars. Use pickup or delivery options.



Avoid discretionary travel, such as shopping trips and social visits.



Do not visit nursing homes, retirement homes, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.



Always practice good hygiene.



Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.



Avoid touching your face.



Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.



Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.



Even if you are young or otherwise healthy, you are at risk, and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Secretary Merrill's Quarterly Travels



Spoke to the members of the Pike County Republican Women about *Alabama: The Bicentennial*.
January 22, 2020



Attended the formal signing of the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement at The White House in Washington, DC.
January 29, 2020



Attended a veterans' recognition program for Valentine's Day at the Henegar Community Center.
February 14, 2020



Spoke at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony for four Eagle Scouts.
March 15, 2020

As a means to increase transparency and extend the services of the Secretary of State's Office to all Alabamians, Secretary Merrill's annual goal is to travel to each of Alabama's 67 counties at least once a year to speak to various groups of all ages, which includes but is not limited to fourth grade classes, graduation ceremonies, dinners, award presentations, and more.

The following list contains a select few of Secretary Merrill's visits from around and outside the state for the January through March 2020 quarter.

- Interviewed by Peter Albright of WKRG CBS Channel 5 in Mobile at their studio to discuss the upcoming election in March. January 6, 2020
- Gave a presentation of the history and value of the Electoral College to the Republican Women of Trussville at the Trussville Public Library. January 9, 2020
- Spoke to the members of Freedom Baptist Church in Ranburne. January 12, 2020
- Spoke to the members of the Calhoun County Bar Association at their regular monthly meeting at Classic on Noble in Anniston. January 16, 2020
- Spoke to the Alabama Sheriff's Association at their annual winter conference at the Renaissance in Montgomery. January 20, 2020
- Attended the Wetumpka TEA Party Candidate Fair in Elmore County. January 21, 2020
- Spoke to the members of the Pike County Republican Women about *Alabama: The Bicentennial*, where 75% of all the proceeds go to scholarships for field trips for underprivileged fourth graders. January 22, 2020
- Spoke to more than 44 members of First Baptist Church in Piedmont at their 150th anniversary celebration in Calhoun County. January 26, 2020
- Attended the formal signing of the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement at The White House in Washington, DC. January 29, 2020
- Attended the Governor's State of the State address in Montgomery at the end of the first legislative session say of 2020. February 5, 2020
- Attended the annual Legislative Spouses Club luncheon at the RSA Plaza as a member of the Alabama Children First Foundation Board of Directors. February 5, 2020
- Spoke at the first of a two-day session on cyber security issues coordinated by the SOS Office and the National Counterintelligence and Security Center held on The University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa. February 6, 2020
- Spoke at the American Society of Military Comptrollers Annual Professional Development Luncheon at Redstone Arsenal in Madison. February 12, 2020
- Attended a luncheon honoring Wendell Hudson, who was the first African-American scholarship athlete at The University of Alabama, where he became an All-American basketball player and a legend for all time. February 14, 2020
- Attended a veterans' recognition program for Valentine's Day at the Henegar Community Center. February 14, 2020
- Attended the annual Crime Stopper of the Year Luncheon in Hoover. February 19, 2020
- Spoke to more than 100 educators at their leadership conference at Dalraida Church of Christ in Montgomery. February 29, 2020
- Read to the 4th grade and kindergarten students at Prince of Peace Catholic School in Hoover. March 2, 2020
- Met with Major General Sheryl Gordon at the Alabama National Guard Headquarters on William Dickinson Drive in Montgomery. March 5, 2020
- Met with Alabama State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris. March 6, 2020
- Spoke to the student participants of the Alabama Electric Cooperative Youth Tour at the Alabama State House. March 12, 2020
- Attended the Birmingham Irish Cultural Society event to raise money for Kid One Transport at the Inverness Country Club. March 13, 2020
- Spoke at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony for four Eagles Scouts from Troop 50 in Wetumpka. March 15, 2020

Quarterly Accomplishments

- As of **April 3, 2020**, **1,498,301** people have registered to vote since Secretary Merrill took office on **January 19, 2015**, which sets the total to a record-breaking **3,591,403** registered voters.
- Secretary Merrill was elected **Chair** of the **Republican Secretaries of State Committee**.
- Secretary Merrill attended the historic signing of the **U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement in Washington, D.C.**
- The SOS Office registered the **one millionth electronic voter registrant** on **January 23, 2020** (see page 3).
- **DeKalb, Geneva, and Houston Counties** are now accepting online business filings. As of today, **11** out of **67** counties allow online filings.
- The Secretary of State's Office hosted an **election management system and business services training seminar** in the Capitol's auditorium for county officials on **January 10, 2020**.
- The SOS Office released its **2020 Annual Report**, which covers the office's activities and accomplishments from **January through December 2019**. Email **Brittany.Hamilton@sos.alabama.gov** with your name and mailing address if you would like to receive a free copy in the mail.



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Stay up-to-date with all the
latest news from the Alabama
Secretary of State's Office.



**Don't Miss Volume 6 Issue 2,
Coming July 2020!**