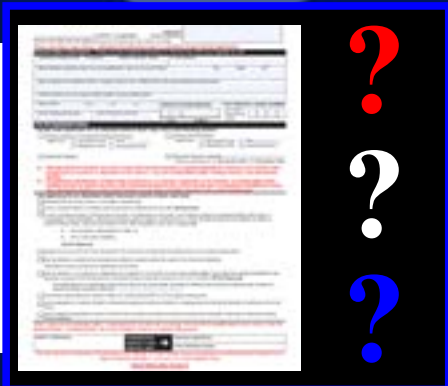


Quarterly Report July 2020



Alabama Receives \$6.4 Million for COVID-19 Elections Expenses



Absentee Ballot Frequently Asked Questions



Secretary Merrill Completes More Than 100 Remote Interviews, Online Meetings, & Video Calls



Take a Look at his Quarter's List of Accomplishments

Alabama Receives \$6.4 Million for COVID-19 Elections Expenses

On April 6, 2020, Alabama was notified that the state would receive \$6,473,612 from the coronavirus stimulus package recently appropriated by Congress. As a result, the Alabama Secretary of State's Office planned to match 20% (\$1,294,722) of this funding to prepare for and respond to election activities on July 14, as well as November 3. Shortly after this notification, the SOS Office was then awarded another \$25,062, which raised the amount to \$6,498,674. Therefore, the SOS Office will match an additional \$5,012 for a total match of \$1,299,734.

In order to keep polling places safe and sanitary, the Office of the Secretary of State intends to reimburse counties for various preparation and election expenses including, but not limited to, masks, gloves, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, alcohol wipes, and professional cleaning services to return the polling places back to their sanitary pre-election condition.

"Protecting the health and well-being of our voters is of paramount importance. We will continue to maintain close communication with the local election officials in all 67 of Alabama's counties to safeguard the opportunity for voters to appear at the polls in-person on Election Day," stated Secretary of State John H. Merrill.

Funds will be set aside to reimburse Absentee Election Managers for the added work completed due to the lengthened absentee voting period, as well as to compensate poll workers with additional pay.

"Poll workers and Absentee Election Managers are being tasked with an increased workload during these trying times, and it is important that they are compensated accordingly," continued Merrill. "We greatly appreciate their commitment and dedication to ensuring the electoral process continues in a safe and healthy manner."

Reports of state spending will be submitted to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission for public inspection. The SOS Office will release a web page indicating each county's spending requests on July 8th. All resources must be expended for these purposes no later than December 31, 2020.

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For those who plan to vote in person at the polls instead of via an absentee ballot, we encourage each voter to follow these simple guidelines to keep yourself and those around you safe.

- **Wear A Mask:** Please be sure to cover your mouth and nose with a disposable or cloth mask, bandana, or scarf. This is not required but recommended.
- **Social Distancing:** When standing in line to vote, please stay at least six feet away from the other voters. Do not stand too close to the person in front of you.
- **Keep Hands Away from Face:** Avoid rubbing your eyes and nose and putting your hands in your mouth. This is usually how germs enter the body and cause illness.
- **Wash Your Hands:** Make a conscious effort to keep your hands as clean as possible by using hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, and washing your hands with traditional soap and water. Especially be sure to clean your hands after using objects such as ink pens and pencils that others have used.

Voting Absentee for the July 14 Election Frequently Asked Questions

Is it too late to apply for an absentee ballot for the July 14 election?

No. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is July 9th, which is five days before the run-off election.

How do I get an absentee ballot?

In order to receive an absentee ballot in the mail, you will need to complete the application and send it to your county's Absentee Election Manager. You can obtain an application by:

- Printing it off our website at:
<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/absentee-voting>.
- Visiting your county Circuit Clerk's Office/Absentee Election Manager to pick one up.
- Calling the Secretary of State's Office at 334-242-7200 (Executive Division) or 334-242-7210 (Elections Division) to have one mailed to you.

I have completed the application to receive an absentee ballot. Should I mail it to the Secretary of State's Office?

No. All absentee ballot applications must be sent to your county's Absentee Election Manager. Those who send their applications to the Secretary of State's Office will be delayed at least two or three days longer to receive their ballot because the SOS Office will have to put the applications back in the mail to their designated Absentee Election Managers.

You can find your Absentee Election Manager's mailing and contact information here:

<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/city-county-lookup/absentee-election-manager>.

I mailed my application to my Absentee Election Manager, but I still haven't received my ballot. What should I do?

Please call your Absentee Election Manager's office to inquire about the status of your application.

For step-by-step instructions on how to apply for and cast an absentee ballot, please watch the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xxwIwV-4fE&t=12s>

I want to vote, but I'm concerned about COVID-19. Am I eligible to vote absentee for the July 14 election even though I'm well and will be home on Election Day?

Yes. All voters are encouraged to vote absentee if they are concerned about voting in person due to the spread of the virus.

I don't see an option on the application that indicates I'm requesting to vote absentee for the July 14 election due to the pandemic. What should I do?

Each voter is encouraged to select the option they feel is most applicable to their situation, but in the case none of the boxes are appropriate, voters can check the box which reads as follows:

"I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls. [ID REQUIRED]"

State law gives the Secretary of State the authority to designate any option on the absentee ballot application for States of Emergency, such as the current pandemic. Therefore, a voter *does not* have to be ill or infirmed to select this option.

I have a spouse and/or family members who also want to vote absentee. Can we mail our applications in the same envelope?

No. All applications must be mailed in separate envelopes to your Absentee Election Manager's office.

I've received and completed my absentee ballot. What should I do next.

Return the ballot to your Absentee Election Manager so that it can be counted. DO NOT mail your ballots to the Secretary of State's Office.

Can I go ahead and request an absentee ballot for the General Election?

Yes but it will be later in the year before it is mailed to you.

Secretary Merrill Completes More Than 100 Remote Interviews, Online Meetings, & Video Calls

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Secretary Merrill has been practicing social distancing by completing his interviews, meetings, and speaking engagements, as well as sending words of encouragement and congratulations to students and others, through telephone and video calls. Here is a partial list of some of the work he has done for the April through June quarter, since most of his travels have been put on hold due to the virus.



Date: April 1, 2020
 Conference call with the Presidents of the various chapters of Republican women from around the state of Alabama to explain the process for delaying the runoff election and the implementation of the relief appropriation.



Date: April 2, 2020
 Interview with the Toni And Gary Morning Show in Huntsville to discuss the runoff election scheduled for July 14 and the \$2 trillion stimulus package recently passed by the United States Congress and how it impacts elections.



Date: April 7, 2020
 Monthly meeting via teleconference of the Republican Secretaries of State from around the nation to discuss the preservation of the integrity and credibility of the elections process.



Date: April 10, 2020
 Interview with Wiregrass Strong to discuss the upcoming election.



Date: April 21, 2020
 Zoom meeting with the members of the Downtown Republican Women in Huntsville to explain the steps the SOS Office has taken to preserve the integrity and credibility of the elections process in the runoff and beyond.



Date: April 22, 2020
 Video message for Vietnam veterans thanking them for their service and recognizing their selfless contributions to the nation.



Date: May 6, 2020
 Video meeting with several South Alabama Home School Students and Educators to discuss the Census and the Electoral College, the elections in July and November, and the importance of being a registered voter and voting.



Date: May 6, 2020
 Interview with Sally Pitts on WSFA TV 12 News to talk about the absentee voting process and how people can participate.



Date: May 13, 2020
 Motivational video message for the Tharps town High School Class of 2020.



Date: May 19, 2020
Video meeting as the keynote speaker for The University of Southern California Election Cybersecurity Initiative Zoom presentation to discuss the steps that the SOS Office is taking to improve the strength in cybersecurity and fight the coronavirus.



Date: May 25, 2020
Interview with Brittany Decker on WVTM NBC 13 about the runoff election scheduled for July 14.



Date: May 26, 2020
Interview with Brianna Keilar on CNN about the runoff scheduled for July 14.



Date: June 2, 2020
Conference call with the Republican Secretaries Of State Committee.



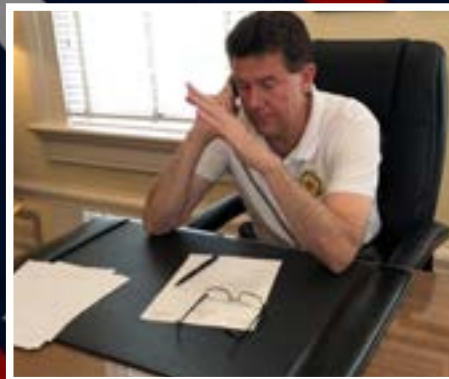
Date: June 3, 2020
Alabama delegation for the United States Global Leadership Coalition meeting with Senator Doug Jones to discuss the coronavirus and federal assistance related to the virus.



Date: June 10, 2020
Interview with Pat Simon and Marie Waxel of WAAY TV 31 in Huntsville to discuss the July 14 runoff.



Date: June 11, 2020
Testifying via video chat before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Administration. Invited by Illinois Congressman Rodney Davis to talk about the recent appropriation made available to all states for elections.



Date: June 12, 2020
Interview with Time magazine to discuss the efforts used to promote record-breaking voter registration and voter participation in Alabama.



Date: June 22, 2020
Phone call with Fred Holland on The Fred Holland Morning Show to discuss the July 14 runoff and the recent ruling on the lawsuit that had been filed against the SOS Office.

To stay up-to-date with Secretary Merrill's travels and interviews, follow him on FaceBook at @JohnMerrill and Twitter at @JohnHMerrill.

Quarterly Accomplishments

- As of **June 26, 2020**, **1,543,427** people have registered to vote since Secretary Merrill took office on **January 19, 2015**, which sets the total to a record-breaking **3,605,903** registered voters.
- **June 21, 2020** marked **four consecutive years** of **same-day** business filings by the Alabama Secretary of State's Office.
- Secretary Merrill was named a member of the **National Task Force on Standards for Absentee and Mail Voting**.
- The SOS Office completed an **instructional video** for **county poll workers** in **May 2020** and is working on an instructional video for **municipal poll workers**, which will be released in **July 2020**.
- For the first time, the SOS Office has completed a **training handbook** for **municipal poll workers**.
- The SOS Office has released an **instructional handbook** on how to **register and renew trademarks, trade names, and service marks**.
- The SOS Office informed the **Attorney General** and the **District Attorney** of those who did not file their **2019 FCPA Annual Report**.

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Elections

State Capitol
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Finance

State Capitol
Second Floor
334-353-2022

Alabama State House
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Government Support / Authentications & Trademarks

State House
Rooms 224 & 226
334-242-7224 / 334-242-5325

RSA Plaza

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Montgomery, AL 36104

Business Entities

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Suite 580
334-242-5324

UCC

RSA Plaza
Suite 580
334-242-5970

Information Systems

RSA Plaza
Suite 580
334-242-7222

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



Don't Miss Volume 6 Issue 3,
Coming October 2020!