



Alabama Secretary of State John H. Merrill

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Student Mock Election Convention

The Student Mock Election Convention was held at the American Village in Montevallo, Alabama, on July 12 & 13, 2016. Sponsored by the Secretary of State's Office, the American Village, the Alabama Independent School Association, ALFA Insurance, Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Business Council of Alabama, Alabama Power, Election Systems and Software, Power South, the Alabama State Department of Education, and Austal, teachers and students in grades nine through twelve in public, private, parochial, and home schools left the event with ideas and materials to organize a successful convention and mock election at their schools. Secretary Merrill and Alabama Representatives Jack Williams of Vestavia Hills, Arnold Mooney of Shelby County, and Matt Fridy of Montevallo delivered remarks, followed by a series of fun, interactive activities and a catered luncheon. At the conclusion of the convention, each student received a congratulatory certificate of participation and a Student Mock Election t-shirt.

"One of the most fundamental rights we as Americans are afforded is our right to vote," said Secretary Merrill. "Our students in the state of Alabama have the opportunity to be a powerful voice in the electoral process, and we must do everything we can to educate them on the importance of their right to vote. The 'Alabama Votes' Student Mock Election will generate awareness and introduce to Alabama's student population the concept of elections before the voting age. This opportunity allows students to have an understanding of the electoral process by conducting a mock election for Alabama's November 2016 General Election. Teachers shape the lives and foundation of every student in our state, and it is our hope that they utilize this resource in their classrooms."

The Student Mock Election will be held on October 25, 2016 and is open to students all over the state in grades 4-12. For more information, contact Brittany Hamilton at 334-242-7205 or Brittany.Hamilton@sos.alabama.gov.



Attention Schools!!:

If you'd like to participate in this year's Student Mock Election and have not received your free ballot access code, call Brittany Hamilton at 334-242-7205 before October 25th!



Secretary Merrill Observes Foreign Elections in Russia

Secretary Merrill received an invitation from U.S. Ambassador Daniel Baer, who represents the United States in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to participate in an election observation deployment to the Russian Federation. The observation occurs once every five years and took place in Volgograd and Moscow, Russia from September 12th through 21st.

“The purpose of this deployment was to observe foreign elections,” Secretary Merrill stated. “The reason we observe foreign elections serves a dual purpose: to ensure that the integrity of the elections is not violated and to observe procedures for conducting elections in an international environment. This observation gave me the opportunity to objectively review an electoral process that can provide insight into the management of such a large-scale operation without the common procedures and occurrences that are typically present here at home.”



Democratic & Republican Conventions in Cleveland & Philadelphia

The 2016 Democratic National Convention was held July 25th through 28th at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, while the Republican National Convention took place July 18th through 21st at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. Secretary Merrill attended the latter event, where he was interviewed live by C-SPAN.

To watch Secretary Merrill's interview, click the following link: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4612718/john-merrill-gop>.



Interview with C-SPAN.



CBS News Anchor Scott Pelley.



Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant.



Perry Hooper, State Senator Jabo Waggoner, & State Senator Tom Whatley.

Quarterly Accomplishments



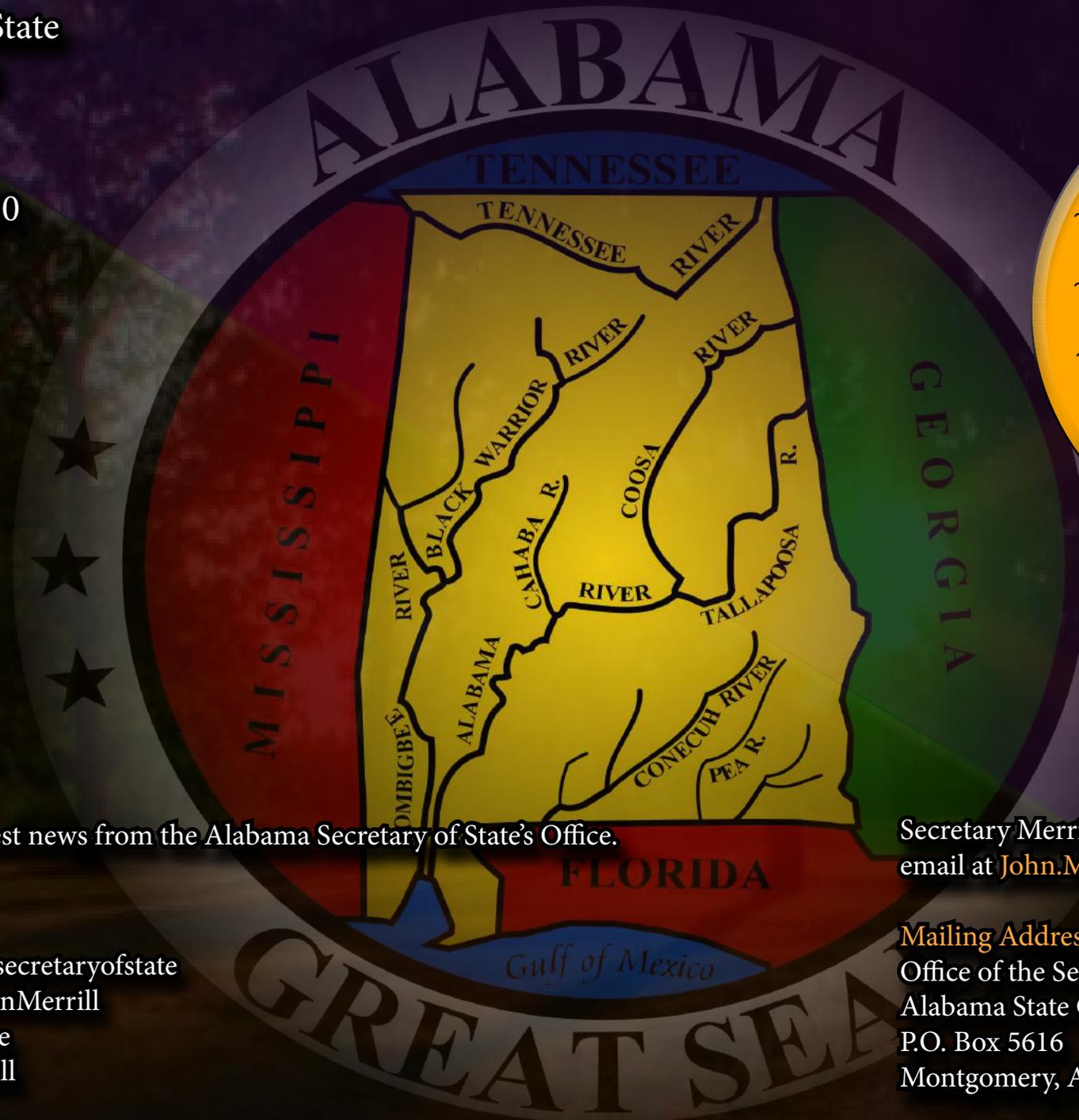
Deontay Wilder Voter Registration Promotion
click the link to view:
<https://youtu.be/zY9WkpSequ8>



Charles Barkley Voter Registration Promotion
click the link to view:
<https://youtu.be/BpwGWuD-Iuw>

- Since June 24th and for 15 consecutive weeks, business filings have been completed mostly the same day but no later than the next business day, which is a significant accomplishment.
- As of July 2016, the online pre-filings system now includes all domestic entities, such as LP, LLP, LLLP, domestic corporations, and domestic non-profit corporations.
- The online Business Services forms were updated on the new SOS website. Some forms had not been updated in a decade.
- A new process was established to handle fraudulent business filings submitted to the SOS office.
- As of August 2016, 3,164,155 Alabamians are registered to vote, which is the highest number of registered voters in Alabama's history.
- Between January 2016 and September 2016, Secretary Merrill has achieved 247 independent visits in 55 out of 67 counties.
- World Boxing Heavyweight Champion Deontay Wilder and NBA Star Charles Barkley assisted with encouraging voter registration by promoting Alabama's Photo Voter I.D. Law in the state.

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Next Issue:

~2016 Presidential Election

~2016 Student Mock Election

~Voter Registration Campaign Success

**Don't miss Volume 2 Issue 4,
coming January 2017!**

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Secretary Merrill wants to hear from you! Send him an email at John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov.

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