

Quarterly Report

January 2018



Inside:

U.S. Senate Special Election 2017



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

Mailing Address:
Office of the Secretary of State
Alabama State Capitol
P.O. Box 5616
Montgomery, AL 36103-5616



Secretary Merrill Honors Judge Tim Russell with the NASS Medallion Award

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Secretary Merrill visits with Alabamians across the state: the journey through 67 counties complete for 2017

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Take a quick look at some of this quarter's highlighted accomplishments

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U.S. Senate Special Election 2017

With the appointment of Senator Jeff Sessions as the United States Attorney General, a special election was necessary to determine the person Alabamians would select to represent them in the U.S. Senate. The Alabama Code 1975, Title 36-9-8, gives the Governor exclusive authority to call and set the dates for special elections. The initial proclamation from Governor Robert Bentley set the special primary election for Tuesday, June 5, 2018, but the date was later changed to August 15, 2017 by Governor Kay Ivey. As a result, the election schedule was set to the following:

Election Dates:

- Primary: Tuesday, August 15, 2017
- Run-Off: Tuesday, September 26, 2017
- General: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Republican Roy Moore and **Democrat Doug Jones** stood as the remaining candidates for the General Election. Jones was named the winner with **673,896** votes, as opposed to Moore's **651,972** votes. **22,852** votes were write-ins. The Secretary of State's Office provided the results live to the public on the SOS website for Election Night Reporting.

After receiving the certified results from all 67 counties, the election was officially certified by the State Canvassing Board, which consists of Governor Kay Ivey, Secretary Merrill, and Attorney General Steve Marshall, on December 28, 2017 at 1:00 p.m..



Secretary Merrill Honors Judge Tim Russell with the NASS Medallion Award



Secretary Merrill presented his 16th NASS Medallion Award to Baldwin County Probate Judge Tim Russell on October 2, 2017 for his many years of service and dedication to the State of Alabama. Judge Russell has served as the Baldwin County Probate Judge for nearly eight years and was a Scabbard and Blade Member in the ROTC Honor Society, Captain of the U.S. Army, Vietnam Veteran, Fifth Army Casualty Officer, and Executive Officer of the 482d Replacement Detachment. He's also a life member of the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans Association, the Military Officers Association, and the Disabled American Veterans, as well as Commissioner of the U.S.S. Alabama Battleship Commission. Under Judge Russell's leadership, Baldwin County is the first county in the State of Alabama to fully implement electronic business filings and electronic Poll Books.

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Baldwin County Legislature Delegation



Baldwin County Commission



The Russell Family



Secretary Merrill Visits Alabamians Across the State



**Northport Citizen of the Year Banquet
October 3, 2017**



**Restoration of Voting Rights Forum
November 6, 2017**



**Phil Campbell Elementary School
November 30, 2017**



**Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo
December 10, 2017**

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 the state for the October through December 2017 quarter.

- Spoke to the Republican Club of Central Alabama at Faulkner University in Montgomery. October 2, 2017
- Served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Northport Citizen of the Year Banquet at Five Points Baptist Church in Northport. October 3, 2017
- Attended the inaugural meeting of the Absentee Ballot Task Force at the Department of Archives and History in Montgomery. October 4, 2017
- Visited Double Springs for the annual Winston County Empty Bowls Dinner to raise money for the arts. October 12, 2017
- Served as the keynote speaker in Lee County for the Auburn University Political Science Department. October 15, 2017
- Attended the Civic Hall of Fame ceremony in Tuscaloosa. October 19, 2017
- Spoke at the celebration event of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Fort Toulouse in Wetumpka. November 4, 2017
- Visited the community living facilities at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Tuscaloosa. November 6, 2017
- Attended the Restoration of Voting Rights Forum at the Northeast Birmingham YMCA in Jefferson County. November 6, 2017
- Recognized as an honored guest at the Festival of Lights Diwali celebration for the Indian community in Tuscaloosa. November 12, 2017
- Spoke to the members of the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature in the Chamber of the Alabama State House. November 15, 2017
- Attended the 2017 Butterfly Ball in Decatur, which was a fundraising event designed to raise money for St. Jude Hospital in Memphis to defeat childhood cancer. November 18, 2017
- Met with the students of Phil Campbell Elementary School at the State Capitol during their visit to decorate the SOS Christmas Tree. November 30, 2017
- Attended the ribbon cutting and grand opening of Bruce's Foodland in Stevenson. December 5, 2017
- Served as the guest speaker at the Mortgage Bankers Association of Alabama monthly meeting and Christmas party at the Hyatt in Hoover. December 5, 2017
- Attended the Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo sponsored by Sheriff Matt Gentry & the Cullman County Sheriff's Office at the Ag Center in Cullman, which raised funds for the departmental needs and local projects to benefit children. December 10, 2017
- ~OUTSIDE OF ALABAMA~ Attended the Council of State Governments Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada and participated with their Campaign Against Hunger Service Project to pack over 38,000 meals for the hungry in Nevada and attended multiple meetings to increase knowledge and exchange ideas on methods to improve state government. December 14-17, 2017

Quarterly Accomplishments

- As of December 29, 2017, there are **3,332,898** registered voters in the State of Alabama. **878,537** Alabamians have registered to vote since Secretary Merrill took office in **January 2015**.
- Secretary Merrill honored Probate Judge **Tim Russell** with the NASS Medallion Award on **October 2, 2017** for his many services to the state. Since taking office in **January 2015**, Secretary Merrill has honored **16** people with the NASS Medallion.
- **Jackson County** is the **2nd** after **Baldwin County** to allow Domestic LLCs to be formed online.
- The **Business Services Division** has completed **same-day filings** for **80 consecutive weeks**.
- The **Alabama Fair Campaign Practices Act** submissions are **reviewed monthly**.

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Attention All Undergraduate Students!

Secretary of State John Merrill is looking for interns to work within the office during the **Summer of 2018**. If you are **18 years or older** and currently enrolled as an **undergraduate student**, or if you know someone who fits this criteria and may be interested in applying, please see our internship application at <http://sos.alabama.gov/sites/default/files/form-files/sosInternshipPacket.pdf>.

FAQs

When is the deadline to apply?

All applications and requested materials must be received by **April 30, 2018**.

Are the essay and recommendation letter mandatory?

Yes. Applicants who do not submit a completed essay along with at least one letter of recommendation from their school will be immediately disqualified. Essays that do not adhere to the assigned topic and word count are also subject to immediate disqualification.

Is this a paid internship?

Yes. All interns will be paid on an hourly basis. The starting pay will be approximately **\$696.00 semi-monthly**.

How long will I have to work?

The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and each employee and intern is allowed a one-hour lunch break each day. Interns must set their work schedules with the Chief of Staff to fit within this time frame. Regardless of the number of hours worked each day and week, all interns are required to work at least 360 total hours (9 weeks) to complete the internship.

Do I have to be a resident of Alabama to apply?

No.

Where can I stay if I don't reside within or near Montgomery?

Please see the page on "Housing Arrangements" in the internship packet. You will be responsible for arranging your housing.

If chosen, which Secretary of State Division will I be assigned?

Your assigned division depends on your preference, as well as the demand of assistance needed within the office. Most interns work within the Elections and/or Executive Divisions, but some may work within Business Services, the Legal staff, or Information Technology, if they prefer.

I'm interested in applying but would prefer to complete my internship during the Fall, Winter, or Spring. Is this possible?

Yes. If you're chosen and would like to complete your internship during another time within the year due to a conflicting schedule or other issue, we will make the necessary arrangements.

If you have additional questions, email Brittany Hamilton at Brittany.Hamilton@sos.alabama.gov or call the Secretary of State's Office at 334-242-7200.

Internships are limited! Apply today!

Office Contact Info.

Alabama State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Executive

State Capitol
Suite S-105
334-242-7200

Elections

State Capitol
Second Floor
334-242-7210

Finance

State Capitol
Second Floor
334-242-7220

Alabama State House
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Business Entities

State House
Suite 119
334-242-5324

UCC

State House
Room 220
334-242-5970

Information Systems

State House
Room 125
334-242-7222

Government Support / Authentications & Trademarks

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

Don't Miss **Volume 4 Issue 1**,
Coming **April 2018!**