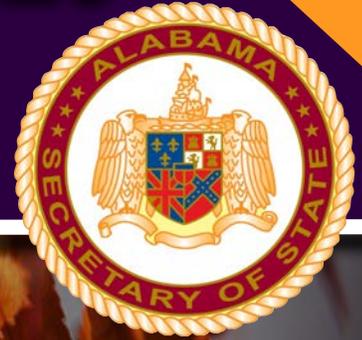


# Quarterly Report

## October 2018



Inside:

### New Initiative to Assist Visually-Impaired Voters



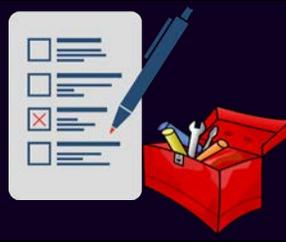
Secretary Merrill wants to hear from you! Send him an email at [John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov](mailto:John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov).

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



Alabama's 2018  
Runoff Election  
Results

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SOS Office  
Introduces the 2018  
Voter Toolkit

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Secretary Merrill  
Honors the Business  
Services Division  
with the NASS  
Medallion Award

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# New Initiative to Assist Visually-Impaired Voters

On September 20, 2018, Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill announced a new initiative by his office to help Alabama voters with visual impairments have better experiences participating in state elections.

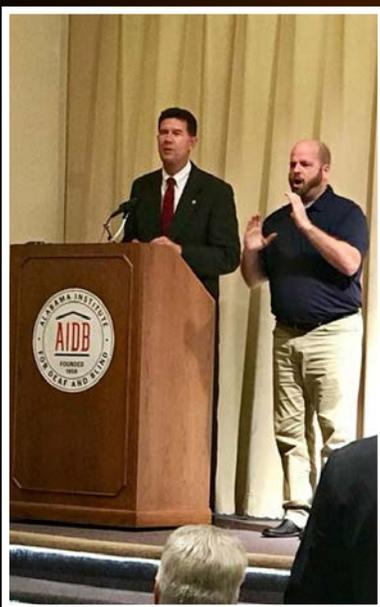
Speaking in the auditorium at the Alabama School for the Blind, Secretary Merrill told ASB staff and students that Alabama voter guides would now be available in Braille. Also, he said election officials have been better trained in the use of the AutoMARK voting machine, which helps voters with visual impairments read and mark their ballot. Secretary Merrill was joined onstage by the 17<sup>th</sup> president of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, Dr. John Mascia, as well as Clay Helms, the elections director in the Secretary of State's Office. ASB students, representatives of national advocacy groups for the blind, and local elected officials were also guests at the event.

"Our goal of making it 'easy to vote and hard to cheat' applies to each and every Alabamian – including those who have physical challenges or disabilities," Secretary Merrill said. "To ensure we accomplished meeting the needs of these constituents in the most effective manner possible, I asked my team to host a meeting with the state's many advocacy groups for the blind and visually impaired. During this meeting, the representatives of these groups suggested several changes that could be made to dramatically improve the ability of voters with visual impairments to participate in the electoral process."

The meeting with advocacy group representatives happened earlier this year, and the idea for the new election material began as a result of that partnership.

"We appreciate these groups working with us to be part of a solution, especially for providing the materials to the state free of charge," Secretary Merrill said. "They are uniquely positioned to understand this issue and help us solve it, and that's why we wanted to sit down and listen to their ideas. This is a great example of how government agencies and private groups can work together, and we want to thank them for their help and support."

Secretary Merrill urges anyone who had issues with voting due to physical impairment to call their local probate judge's office or the Secretary of State's Office at (334) 242-7200.



# Alabama's 2018 Runoff Election

The Runoff Election was held on July 17, 2018, and all polling locations throughout Alabama's 67 counties remained open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. As a result, the state saw an approximate 12.70% voter turnout, which equates to approximately 431,328 total participants. The General Election is scheduled for November 6, 2018.

## Crossover Voting Law Reminder

Due to the implementation of the crossover voting law in 2017, those who voted within the Republican or Democratic parties in the June 5<sup>th</sup> Primary were required to vote for that same party in the July 17<sup>th</sup> Runoff, if they decided to participate. Those who *did not vote* in the Primary could vote for the party of their choice in the Runoff. However, all voters, regardless of their participation or lack thereof in the Primary and Runoff Elections, are free to vote for any party in the November General Election.

## Sample Ballots

Sample ballots for the November General Election are available on the Secretary of State's website at <https://sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/2018-general-sample-ballots>. Voters are allowed to bring their sample ballots to the polls as a reference, if they choose.

## Deadlines

Last Day to Register to Vote/Update Registration Information before the General Election: **Monday, October 22, 2018**

Last Day to Apply for an Absentee Ballot before the General Election: **Thursday, November 1, 2018** (To apply for an absentee ballot, contact the Absentee Election Manager in your county. A complete listing is located on the SOS website at <https://sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/absentee-election-manager-all-counties>.)

Alabama's Constitutional Officers Remaining Candidates	
<u>Position:</u>	<u>Runoff Election Results</u>
<u>Governor:</u> 1. Kay Ivey (REP) 2. Walt Maddox (DEM)	Unopposed in Runoff Election Unopposed in Runoff Election
<u>Lieutenant Governor:</u> 3. Will Ainsworth (REP) 4. Will Boyd (DEM)	176,873 votes (51.5% of REP vote) Unopposed in Runoff Election
<u>Attorney General:</u> 5. Steve Marshall (REP) 6. Joseph Siegelman (DEM)	211,851 votes (62.0% of REP vote) Unopposed in Runoff Election
<u>Secretary of State:</u> 7. John H. Merrill (REP) 8. Heather Milam (DEM)	Unopposed in Runoff Election Unopposed in Runoff Election
<u>State Auditor:</u> 9. Jim Zeigler (REP) 10. Miranda Joseph (DEM)	Unopposed in Runoff Election Unopposed in Runoff Election
<u>State Treasurer:</u> 11. John McMillan (REP)*	Unopposed in Runoff Election
<u>State Commissioner of Agriculture:</u> 12. Rick Pate (REP)*	176,739 votes (56.7% of REP vote)



\*Election Results Courtesy of the AL SOS Office: <https://sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/election-information/2018>

**Note:** An “\*” indicates the candidates who will run unopposed in the November 6, 2018 General Election.

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# SOS Office Introduces the 2018 Voter Toolkit

The 2018 midterm elections are less than a month away, and Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill wants voters to be fully informed before going to the polls. The Secretary of State website, [alabamavotes.gov](http://alabamavotes.gov), now contains new information linked in the banner on the home page – an “Election Toolkit” – to help citizens be prepared to participate in the electoral process.

The website now allows voters to access sample ballots for the elections, a new infographic showing how elections work and what responsibilities fall to different state officials, a PDF version of the Alabama Voter Guide, and information regarding the statewide amendments that will be on the ballot.

“We want Alabama voters to have convenient access to all the materials necessary so they can make informed decisions on Election Day,” Secretary of State John Merrill said. “We are pleased to be able to offer this information on our website for all the 3.4 million registered voters in the state.”

In addition, the Secretary of State’s Office wants to remind Alabama citizens that there is still time to register to vote. National Voter Registration Day was observed on September 25<sup>th</sup> to emphasize the importance of registering to vote so citizens can be a part of our democratic republic. The last day to register to vote for this election is Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Citizens can register to vote by downloading the “Vote for Alabama” app on their smart phone or by visiting [alabama-votes.gov](http://alabama-votes.gov).

“We want every eligible U.S. citizen in Alabama to be registered to vote and have a photo ID,” Merrill said. “This represents a continuation of our work to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat.”

## Fair Ballot Commission Meeting:

The Fair Ballot Commission Meetings were held on March 1, 2018 and July 26, 2018 and were designed for the simplification of the language within the statewide constitutional amendments ballot statements. The purpose, membership, and responsibilities of the Fair Ballot Commission are outlined at §17-6-81 of the Ala. Code, which was recently amended by Act No. 2016-337.

\*

**To access the 2018 voter toolkit, visit**

**<https://sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/2018-voter-toolkit>**



# Secretary Merrill Honors the Business Services Division with the NASS Medallion Award

The Alabama Secretary of State Office's Business Services staff members, which consists of Business Entities and Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), were honored with the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Gold Medallion Award on September 26, 2018. Due to the dedication and perseverance of the 17 employees, the division has managed to file all business corporations filings within the same day they are received and no later than the next business day for nearly 118 consecutive weeks. The staff is determined to continue this streak of excellence.

The following Business Services staff members were honored for their admirable service and dedication:

## Business Entities:

- Renae Barron
- Jim Brasher
- Lovetta Churchill
- Melissa Giddens
- Stephanie Keithahn
- Monica Messer
- Tamara Moore
- MeMe Mulcahy
- Brianna Smith
- Diane Starks
- Elaine Swearingin
- Christina Vandiver

## Uniform Commercial Code:

- Sharranda Emmerson
- Beth Hall
- Beth Jensen
- Shirleen Moncrief
- Alfreda Watts



# Secretary Merrill Attends the NASS Summer Conference

Secretary Merrill and other members of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the annual summer conference. Beginning on July 13<sup>th</sup> and ending on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the attendees met on matters concerning cyber security, election administration, internal relations, and business services. Secretary Merrill was pleased to take part in several of these meetings, which involved visiting with representatives from the Heritage Foundation and other organizations to discuss many elections issues, voting rights initiatives, legislative initiatives, and related issues, as well as attending the Voter Participation and Election Committee meetings. He also led the workshop on the Election Administration Workforce of the Future, alongside Dr. Mitchell Brown and two graduate students from the Election Center at Auburn University.

The next NASS conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in February 2019.



# Secretary Merrill's Quarterly Travels



**Camp iCare in Lee County**  
July 11, 2018



**Business Council of Alabama Governmental Affairs Conference**  
August 11, 2018



**Visit with the Aga Khan Foundation**  
September 6, 2018



**Building a Habitat for Humanity Home in Tuscaloosa**  
September 20, 2018

**A**s 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 travels for the July through September 2018 quarter.

- Spoke to the American Celebration event at First Baptist Church in Fairhope. July 2, 2018
- Interviewed by Ken Rollins of TV 24's Veteran's Issues to discuss the accomplishments of the SOS Office. July 3, 2018
- Spoke at DeKalb County's 37<sup>th</sup> Potato Festival breakfast sponsored by State Senator Steve Livingston and House Majority Leader Nathaniel Ledbetter. July 4, 2018
- Visited with the 11 and 12-year-old Coffee County Pony Tail All-Stars in New Brockton. July 10, 2018
- Spoke in Lee County to the campers enrolled in the outstanding program known as Camp iCare. July 11, 2018
- Interviewed by WVUA TV 23 in Tuscaloosa County to discuss the investigation into potential fraudulent election activities in Wilcox and Perry Counties. July 19, 2018
- Interviewed by Rocky Reeves at the Vestavia Hills Public Library. July 19, 2018
- Attended the celebration of the Tuscaloosa Ambassador Program at the Tuscaloosa Public Library. August 2, 2018
- Spoke to the members of the Cullman County Republican Party at their monthly breakfast. August 4, 2018
- Visited the 2018 Space and Missile Defense Symposium at the Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville. August 7, 2018
- Attended the Business Council of Alabama Governmental Affairs Conference at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear. August 11, 2018
- Spoke to more than 200 law-enforcement professionals and volunteers who attended an active shooter training program at the Baptist Church in McAdory. August 14, 2018
- Interviewed by Donna Feazell of AM 1330 Southern Gospel Radio in Scottsboro to discuss the SOS Office's accomplishments. August 14, 2018
- Attended a breakfast raising financial resources for the Boy Scouts of America at the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. August 16, 2018
- Spoke at the Alabama Association of Health Underwriters meeting at the Birmingham School of Law to discuss the services that are provided by the SOS Office. August 21, 2018
- Attended the 90<sup>th</sup> convention of the Association of County Commissioners of Alabama in Baldwin County. August 22, 2018
- Brought the welcome address at the Air Force Information Technology Conference in Montgomery. August 27, 2018
- Interviewed by ABC via phone to discuss plans to utilize the new resources available through the latest distribution of Help America Vote Act dollars. August 29, 2018
- Visited with the Aga Khan Foundation at the Firebirds restaurant in Hoover. September 6, 2018
- Attended the bicentennial celebration of Canaan Baptist Church in Bessemer. September 9, 2018
- Spoke alongside other state and local officials at the 9/11 remembrance and dedication of the Alabama Firefighter Memorial at Centennial Park in Anniston. September 11, 2018
- Met with the Probate Judge, Sheriff, and Circuit Clerk in Grove Hill to discuss election integrity and security in Clarke County for the November 6<sup>th</sup> General Election. September 18, 2018
- Announced alongside Dr. John Mascia and the staff and students at the Alabama School of the Blind in Talladega the new availability of election materials in Braille. September 20, 2018
- Participated in the preparation of the new Habitat for Humanity home provided by Habitat Tuscaloosa and the Buchalter Capital Growth Company. September 21, 2018
- Attended the VFW Post 6022 Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day in Tuscaloosa County. September 21, 2018
- Attended the annual Aga Khan Foundation Run/Walk in Hoover at Veterans Park on Valleydale Road. September 23, 2018
- Attended the Alabama and Friends "JSU Strong" Tornado Relief Benefit Concert at Burgess-Snow Stadium on the Jacksonville State University campus, where more than \$1.3 million dollars were raised for Jacksonville State University. September 26, 2018

# Quarterly Accomplishments

- As of **September 28, 2018**, there are **3,429,071** registered voters in the State of Alabama. **1,085,898** Alabamians have registered to vote since Secretary Merrill took office in **January 2015**.
- On **September 20, 2018**, Secretary Merrill announced that **Alabama voter guides would now be available in Braille**. Also, election officials have been better trained in the use of the **AutoMARK voting machine**, which helps voters with visual impairments read and mark their ballot.
- Domestic LLCs and Domestic for profit corporations can **now be dissolved online**. (Only applies to counties that participate in online filings).
- Voter lists containing **additional** municipalities are now available for purchase online.
- The **Authentications Division** page on the SOS website now has a list that specifies which countries require a **certification** and which countries require an **apostille**.
- The **Legislative Acts online search portal** has a new section naming the **authors and joint sponsors** of each bill.
- The **FCPA online portal** is more **user-friendly** and has additional functions for candidates and committees with **no additional cost to the state**.
- The **Athlete Agents Commission agendas** are now prepared **digitally**.



# Attention All Undergraduate Students!

Secretary of State John Merrill is looking for interns to work within the office during the Summer of 2019. 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 <https://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 **February 1, 2019**.

### 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 pay will be approximately \$8.03 per hour worked.

### 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.

### When will I be notified about whether or not I was chosen for the program?

You will receive an emailed and mailed copy of your internship status letter *no later than March 1, 2019*. Please be sure to include a valid email and mailing address in your application.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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  
334-353-2022

**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**

**770 Washington Avenue**  
**Montgomery, AL 36104**

**Business Entities**

RSA Plaza  
Suite 580  
334-242-5324

**UCC**

RSA Plaza  
Suite 580  
334-242-5970

**Information Systems**

RSA Plaza  
Suite 580  
334-242-7222

## Attention:

The Alabama Secretary of State's Business Entities, Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), and Information Systems Divisions have moved to the RSA Plaza building on 770 Washington Avenue. The Government Support/Authentications & Trademarks Division will remain in the Alabama State House. All contact numbers and email addresses will remain the same, as well.

**Don't Miss Volume 4 Issue 4,**  
**Coming January 2019!**