

Quarterly Report

October 2019



Secretary Merrill to Send Staff to Monitor Montgomery Municipal Election



4th Grade Classes Receive Free Copies of Bicentennial Book



NASS Summer Conference 2019



SOS Office Releases New Voter Registration Posters!

Secretary Merrill to Send Staff to Monitor Montgomery Municipal Election

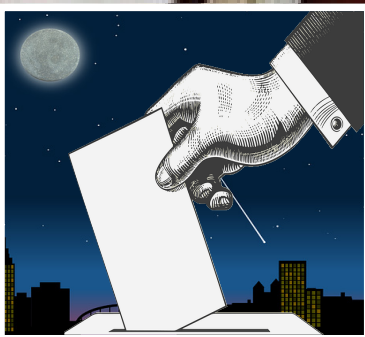


Secretary Merrill answers additional questions from the press regarding the deployment of election observers

On September 5, 2019, Secretary Merrill held a press conference in the SOS Executive Division to discuss his plan to send 10 staffers to monitor the Montgomery mayoral runoff election between Steven Reed and David Woods, which will take place on October 8th. After receiving a number of complaints and voter fraud reports regarding the primary election on August 27th, five groups of two staffers will be responsible for observing the polls from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm that night.

“It is important to preserve the integrity and credibility of the elections,” Secretary Merrill stated. “We take each and every report of voter fraud very seriously and will do everything necessary to ensure that our elections remain safe and secure.”

The voter fraud complaints surrounding the primary election are still under investigation, and no charges have been made at this time.



Election Night Reporting

Be sure to tune in on the Secretary of State's website at sos.alabama.gov for a live reporting of Montgomery's mayoral runoff election results!

Secretary Merrill Donates Bicentennial Books to 4th Grade Classes



On August 28, 2019, the School Superintendents of Alabama met in Montgomery to meet with State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Eric Mackey, and discuss the upcoming year. Secretary of State John H. Merrill delivered almost 650 copies of the history book *Alabama: The Bicentennial* to 142 School Superintendents from across the state.

To celebrate Alabama's 200th anniversary of statehood, Secretary Merrill and co-author Tom Ward released *Alabama: The Bicentennial* to recognize more than 400 notable Alabamians who have made significant contributions to our state.

Every school in Alabama that has fourth-grade students received a complimentary copy for their school media center. Copies of the history book have been delivered to private, parochial, and independent schools as well.

"As the former Director of Community Relations and Community Education for the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education for 16 years, education remains a

top priority to me. Through this project, I hope to assist in the education of students across the State of Alabama by providing them with the opportunity to learn more about our state," stated Secretary Merrill.

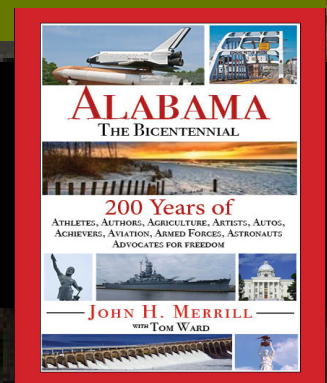
Although he authored the book, Secretary Merrill has not and will not receive compensation of any form. *Alabama: The Bicentennial* is available for purchase at the Alabama Department of Archives & History or online at alabama-200book.com.

Seventy-five percent of the proceeds will go directly to Friends of the Alabama Archives, a non-profit auxiliary to the Alabama Department of Archives & History, where a scholarship fund has been created. This scholarship will provide opportunities for under-privileged students to join their classmates on field trips when those students lack the financial resources needed to make the trip to tour Alabama's Capitol.

For more information on how to apply for the scholarship, contact Georgia Ann Hudson from the Alabama Department of Archives & History at georgiaann.hudson@archives.alabama.gov.

Secretary Merrill thanks ALFA, Alabama Power Company, and Steve Murray, the Director of Alabama Archives & History, for their help and generosity in making this project possible.

Want to purchase a copy of *Alabama: The Bicentennial*? Call the Alabama Department of Archives and History at 334-242-4435.



Secretary Merrill Attends the NASS 2019 Summer Conference

From June 30th through July 3rd, Secretary Merrill and staff traveled to Santa Fe, New Mexico to take part in the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) 2019 Summer conference.

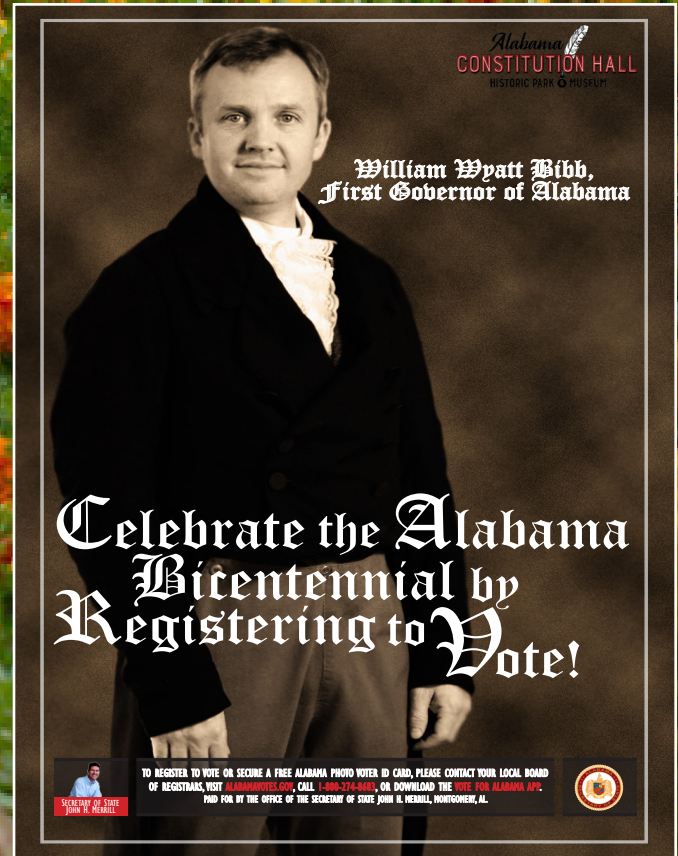
The conference began with a closed session for Secretaries of State to exchange opinions and ideas with each other on important issues in their respective states. This session was then followed by an Elections Committee meeting to discuss several resolutions and the counting of the popular vote within Presidential Elections, as well as an Election Integrity and Election Security meeting to discuss cyber security. After attending a luncheon with a detailed presentation on the census and the necessary steps to take to ensure each individual is counted for representation purposes, Secretary Merrill attended a Civil Discourse Workshop led by Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose and Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. NASS even held a Cyber-security Committee to discuss the new Resources Guide and review the Laws of Legislation, student scholarships and upgrades, and help for state and local governments.

"I always enjoy interacting with fellow Secretaries of State, as we learn and discuss new methods to better serve our people," Secretary Merrill stated. "Preserving the security and integrity of our elections is of the utmost importance, and NASS always does a great job in ensuring that we leave every conference with new resources and more strategies to help our citizens and protect our data from cyber-security threats."

During the conference, Secretary Merrill was interviewed by Steve Crocker of WBRC Fox 6 News to discuss the briefing received from the Department of Homeland Security officials at NASS concerning elections and cyber security.



SOS Office Releases New Voter Registration Posters



Each year, the Alabama Secretary of State's Office creates and distributes voter registration posters to the Board of Registrars offices, students, and Alabamians across the state to support and promote voter registration and the option to obtain a free, photo voter identification card. This year, Secretary Merrill asked country music artist Jamey Johnson and an Alabama Constitution Hall actor portraying Governor William Wyatt Bibb to be the faces of this year's promotional efforts.

"It's extremely important that we let Alabamians know about the options available to them regarding registering to vote and obtaining a free photo voter ID card," Secretary Merrill stated. "One of our most precious rights as citizens is our ability to vote, and we want to ensure that every eligible citizen has the opportunity to register. We also want to ensure that those who don't have a valid form of identification to present at the polls has a photo voter ID card, which we create free of charge."

Jamey Johnson and "Governor Bibb" have also agreed to appear in television advertisements to promote the cause, which can be seen during commercial breaks on local stations.

For more information on voter registration and how to obtain a free photo voter ID card, call the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 334-242-7210.

Secretary Merrill's Quarterly Travels



**Portrait unveiling ceremony for Steve Skipper at the Birmingham Museum of Art
July 28, 2019**



**Interview with Andrew Zimmern for the
What's Eating America documentary series
August 7, 2019**



**The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Next Gen First Responder Birmingham Shaken Fury Operational Experiment at Legion Field
August 22, 2019**



**Breakfast meeting with key members of the Shoals Area Chamber of Commerce in Lauderdale County
September 11, 2019**

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 **July through September 2019** quarter.

- Spoke to the members of the Tennessee Valley Society for Human Resource Management during their monthly meeting in Decatur. July 10, 2019
- Interviewed by Nicole Allshouse of Talk of Alabama on Alabama's ABC 33/40 to discuss voter registration and photo ID delivery. July 12, 2019
- Participated on Matt Wilson's Podcast Living Life on Purpose. July 12, 2019
- Toured the Great Southern Wood facilities in Henry County. July 15, 2019
- Visited the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville during the 50th anniversary celebration of the Apollo moon launch. July 17, 2019
- Met with Jamey Johnson at Iron City in downtown Birmingham during the production of the voter registration and photo ID promotional TV ad. July 18, 2019
- Spoke to the members of the Tuscaloosa Exchange Club about the accomplishments of the SOS Office and the record breaking numbers in voter registration and voter participation. July 18, 2019
- Spoke to the members of the DeKalb County Mayors Association to give a report from the SOS Office. July 28, 2019
- Attended the portrait unveiling ceremony for Steve Skipper at the Birmingham Museum of Art. July 28, 2019
- Spoke to the members of the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police at their Summer Conference in Baldwin County. July 29, 2019
- Met with the Boy Scouts from Pack 25 and Troop 25 from Prattville at the State Capitol during their visit. July 31, 2019
- Interviewed on The Fred Holland Morning Show on WTKI Talk Radio 105.3 FM and 1450 AM in Huntsville. August 1, 2019
- Visited the Governor William Wyatt Bibb actor at the Constitution Village in Huntsville during the production of the voter registration and photo ID promotional TV ad. August 1, 2019
- Spoke at the Hoover Technology Roundtable event at McLeod Software in Hoover. August 7, 2019
- Interviewed by Andrew Zimmern for the new MSNBC documentary series called *What's Eating America* at Dreamland in Montgomery. August 7, 2019
- Spoke at the STARS Leadership and University Advocates Conference at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Resort. August 8, 2019
- Interviewed by Don Dailey of Alabama Public Television's Capitol Journal about the absentee bill to reduce voter fraud. August 8, 2019
- Attended The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Next Gen First Responder Birmingham Shaken Fury Operational Experiment at Legion Field with other state and local officials. August 22, 2019
- Visited with the Consul General Takeshita Shinozuka, Japanese Ambassador Aikawa, and Alabama's Consul General Mark Jackson at the Capitol City Club in Montgomery. August 22, 2019
- Spoke to the pharmacy students in the National Community Pharmacy Association meeting at the Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn University. August 23, 2019
- Spoke at the regular monthly meeting of the Cullman County Farmers Federation. September 6, 2019
- Spoke at the Limestone County Senior Adult Funfest in Athens. September 6, 2019
- Attended a breakfast meeting with key members of the Shoals Area Chamber of Commerce in Lauderdale County. September 11, 2019
- Visited with St. Clair County Deputy Sheriff David Ashley in Pell City. September 12, 2019
- Delivered a morning message to the members of First Baptist Church Center Point in Jefferson County. September 15, 2019
- Brought words of encouragement to the students of Asbury High School in Marshall County. September 19, 2019

Quarterly Accomplishments

- As of September 27, 2019, 1,352,073 people have registered to vote since Secretary Merrill took office on January 19, 2015, which sets the total to a record-breaking 3,524,615 registered voters.
- The educational campaign for people to have a photo ID to vote was finalized.
- In an effort to save taxpayers money, all cities, counties, and state public officers were notified that the *Acts of Alabama* will be available on the Secretary of State's website rather than printed as a set of books each year.
- The Secretary of State's social media accounts were modernized to better-serve the people.
- Morgan and Madison Counties became the sixth and seventh counties, respectively, to provide online business filings.
- Secretary Merrill sent out guidance to the Probate Judges in preparation for educating students for the student poll worker internship program.
- Since Secretary Merrill took office in 2015, the SOS Office has saved taxpayers \$2,275,767.79 by downsizing staff, canceling unnecessary services, and ensuring that funds are spent for only high priority necessities.



Attention All Undergraduate Students!



Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill is looking for interns to work within the office during the Summer of 2020. 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://www.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 3, 2020**.

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 advisor or professor 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 \$8.27 per hour worked.

How long will I have to work each day?

The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and other times as designated, 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 2, 2020**. 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 Systems.

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!

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State Capitol

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State Capitol

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334-353-2022

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Government Support / Authentications & Trademarks

State House

Rooms 224 & 226

334-242-7224 / 334-242-5325

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Information Systems

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**Don't Miss Volume 5 Issue 4,
Coming January 2020!**