



# THE BLUE PAGES

## TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE

### Tre Hargett

Our mission is to exceed the expectations of our customers, the taxpayers, by operating at the highest levels of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and accountability in a customer-centered environment.

## From the Desk of the Secretary

As we are nearing the end of this year, the Division of Elections is already very busy making preparations for elections that will be held in 2012. There are many legal and logistical issues that go into planning a successful election. For me, the most important of these issues is ensuring ballot integrity.

This means that when eligible voters go to the polls, they can be confident their votes have been properly recorded and counted – and that ineligible voters aren’t able to cancel out legitimate votes by casting illegal ballots.

Lately, there has been a lot of media coverage about a new law that will go into effect next year, requiring voters to show photo identification before casting their ballots. (See the story in this issue of *The Blue Pages* about some of the steps our staff is

taking to inform Tennesseans about the new law.) This law will help prevent a type of fraud known as voter impersonation.

To most people, in an age in which cases of identity theft are so prevalent, this is a matter of common sense. In fact, in a national poll conducted by Rasmussen Reports earlier this year, 75 percent of survey respondents said they support the idea of requiring photo IDs to vote. If photo IDs are required to board an airplane, cash a check or perform numerous other trivial daily tasks, then it stands to reason that they should also be required to protect what is arguably our most precious democratic right.

Of course, voter impersonation is not the only method by which fraudulent ballots could be cast in an election. That is why our Division of Elections,

### INSIDE

Tennessee Maintains Strong Credit Ratings . . . . .	2
Division of Elections Continues Outreach Efforts on Photo ID Law . . . . .	3
Governor’s Proclamations Now Available on Secretary of State’s Web Site. . . . .	3
Parker’s Crossroads Hosts Second Civil War Exhibit . . . . .	4
Expanded Eligibility for Workers’ Compensation Exemptions Takes Effect . . . . .	5
Rule Making Hearings and Lists of Rules . . . . .	6

working with county election officials throughout the state, has identified and purged from voting rolls thousands of dead people, people who were illegally registered in more than one state and convicted felons who have not had their voting rights restored.

Keeping voter rolls updated is a process which requires constant vigilance, but it is important to maintain the highest level of confidence possible in our elections. Be assured that my staff will continue its work in that regard, as well as taking other steps necessary to ensure that Tennessee

elections are conducted with the highest degree of integrity.

As always, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or comments that you may have.




## TENNESSEE MAINTAINS STRONG CREDIT RATINGS

Tennessee got some good news this month when the country's three major bond rating agencies reaffirmed their ratings for the state's credit worthiness. Fitch and Moody's Investor Services both gave Tennessee AAA ratings, which are the highest available. Standard and Poor's maintained its AA+ rating, which is the second highest available.

Following the reports from the rating agencies, the state sold bonds this week. One goal of the sale was to refund (refinance) some of the state's existing debt, which will save taxpayers about \$5.6 million over time.

Secretary Hargett was part of a delegation of state officials that made two trips to New York earlier this year to meet with the rating agencies and help convince them the federal government's ongoing financial challenges were not adequate reason to downgrade Tennessee's credit rating. He also participated in a presentation that was made available to prospective investors prior to the bond sale.

"During our presentation, I conveyed how Tennessee's leadership continues to govern in a fiscally prudent manner worthy of the highest credit ratings," Secretary Hargett said. "Tennessee is a low-debt state and we continue to demonstrate our willingness to make the necessary tough decisions to live within our means - unlike the federal government. The legislature, under the leadership of Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey and Speaker Beth Harwell, is a willing partner with the governor in his efforts to provide sound management throughout state government." 



SECRETARY HARGETT MAKES A PRESENTATION TO BOND RATING ANALYSTS.

# GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATIONS NOW AVAILABLE ON SECRETARY OF STATE'S WEB SITE



Wondering if Gov. Haslam has provided special recognition to any individuals, groups or causes this month? Thanks to another initiative by the publications division of the Secretary of State's Office, that information is now available online.

The governor's official proclamations are part of a growing list of state documents available at <http://www.tn.gov/sos/pub/index.htm>.

Earlier this year, the Secretary of State's

publications division began posting online all acts and resolutions approved by the General Assembly – not just those required by law. A wealth of other information, including pending and adopted state rules and details about rulemaking hearings, is also available at the site.

“It is very important that we make public records as accessible to Tennesseans as possible,” Secretary Hargett said. “Posting these proclamations online is another step in that direction. That information should be - and now will be - readily available to anyone with access to a computer. I commend our publications division for leading the way in making these proclamations more readily available.”

## DIVISION OF ELECTIONS CONTINUES OUTREACH EFFORTS ON PHOTO ID LAW

Officials in the Secretary of State's Division of Elections will be extremely busy in the weeks and months ahead as they continue their efforts to inform voters about a new requirement that voters bring photo IDs to the polls.

This month, they are teaming with the AARP, a nonprofit group that provides services to people age 50 and older, on a series of town hall meetings at different locations across the state. Those meetings will provide opportunities for AARP members to learn what types of photo IDs are acceptable, what types are not and what to do if they don't have valid photo IDs.

Also, working with county election officials, the Division of Elections has organized town hall meetings that will be held in all 95 counties in Tennessee Nov. 1.

People interested in attending those meetings can get information from their county election offices.

The Division of Elections is partnering with other groups that serve the disabled and underprivileged to help spread the word to their members. And there will also be training sessions for county elections administrators on how to implement

the new law during November.

“I commend Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins and his staff for the work they are doing to educate voters about the photo ID law,” Secretary Hargett said. “I believe that by the time next year's elections are held, Tennesseans will have a good understanding of the law and will know what types of identification will be accepted at the polls.”

*“I COMMEND COORDINATOR OF ELECTIONS MARK GOINS AND HIS STAFF FOR THE WORK THEY ARE DOING TO EDUCATE VOTERS ABOUT THE PHOTO ID LAW,” SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.*



## PARKER'S CROSSROADS HOSTS SECOND CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT

Parker's Crossroads, a small community located along Interstate 40 halfway between Nashville and Memphis, is becoming an increasingly popular destination for Civil War history buffs.

For the second time this year, the Parker's Crossroads Visitors Center is hosting a traveling Civil War exhibit on loan from the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA). The exhibit focuses on 1861, the year the Civil War began. To commemorate the Civil War's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, TSLA plans to prepare exhibits chronicling each year of the war.



The 1861 exhibit, which is free to the public, highlights the impact of slavery on the country, the fallout from the divisive election of 1860, the start of the Southern secession movement and Tennessee's gradual shift toward becoming a Confederate state. That year's major military actions are also highlighted, including the shelling of Fort Sumter, the Battle of Bull Run and the implementation of the Union blockade.

Steve McDaniel, deputy speaker for the state House of Representatives and a history enthusiast, had the idea to bring the exhibits to Parker's Crossroads, which was the site of a Civil War

battle between Confederate forces led by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and Union troops led by Gen. Jeremiah C. Sullivan Dec. 31, 1862.

"Having this exhibit in Henderson County is a great way to educate West Tennesseans and interstate travelers about this significant part of our history," said Rep. McDaniel, whose legislative district includes the area. "Since not everyone had the means or opportunity to see the exhibit when it was on display at the TSLA building in Nashville, this makes the exhibit accessible to more people."

TSLA is a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

"Deputy Speaker McDaniel had a great idea to bring TSLA's exhibits to Parker's Crossroads," Secretary Hargett said. "It is our department's goal to make sure as many people as possible get to see these exhibits. I encourage other legislators to contact us if they know of suitable locations for displaying our traveling exhibits."

The Parker's Crossroads Visitors Center previously hosted TSLA's "Looking Back at the Civil War" exhibit, which features digitally-scanned documents and digital photos of Civil War artifacts provided by Tennesseans.

The Visitors Center is located at 20945 Highway 22 North in Parker's Crossroads, at exit 108 on I-40. The center is open from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., seven days a week. The exhibit will remain there until April. For more information about the Visitors Center, contact Kim Parker at (731) 968-1191. 🇺🇸

## EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION EXEMPTIONS TAKES EFFECT

More people are now eligible to claim exemptions from workers' compensation as a result of a new law that took effect this month.

The law expands eligibility for people who can apply for and be listed on the Workers' Compensation Exemption Registry, which is administered by the Secretary of State.

The expanded eligibility requirements are a result of the General Assembly's passage of SB 1550, which was signed into law as Public Chapter 422 in June.

"I am pleased that the General Assembly has entrusted my office with the responsibility of administering the Workers' Compensation Exemption Registry," Secretary Hargett said. "I am sure there are a number of business owners who will take advantage of the expanded eligibility for exemptions that was created by the new law. We look forward to serving them."

The changes to the law allow business owners in the construction services industry to opt out of the requirement to cover themselves with workers' compensation insurance if they meet certain ownership requirements. The new law increases from 3 to 5 the number of business owners of a corporation, limited liability company or partnership that can qualify for the workers' compensation exemption.

Each applicant must hold at least a 20 percent ownership in the business to qualify for an exemption. An applicant may also qualify for the exemption if the applicant is an owner in a family-owned business, regardless of the percentage of ownership. A sole proprietor

may also apply for the exemption if he or she owns 100 percent of a business' assets.

The filing fee for an initial workers' compensation exemption registration is \$200 for a person who does not have an active license issued by the

State Board for Licensing Contractors and \$100 for a person who already has an active license issued by the State Board for Licensing Contractors.

The new law also allows a person to qualify for a subsequent workers' compensation exemption that is associated with another business as long as business ownership requirements are met. Business owners can qualify for an unlimited number of subsequent exemption registrations as long as they meet the qualifications for each registration for which they apply. The filing fee for each subsequent workers' compensation exemption registration is \$20.

Applications may be completed and submitted online at <http://tnbear.tn.gov/wc> or at the Tennessee Department of State Business Services Division's customer service counter on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the William R. Snodgrass Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue in downtown Nashville.

Applicants who qualify and who submit their applications online will receive instant confirmation of their exemptions. Applications submitted in person or by mail will be processed in 10 or fewer business days from the date the application is received in the Business Services Division's office.

For questions about the application process, please call (615) 741-2286 or email [WorkersComp.ExemptionRegistry@tn.gov](mailto:WorkersComp.ExemptionRegistry@tn.gov). 

*"I AM PLEASED THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS ENTRUSTED MY OFFICE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ADMINISTERING THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION EXEMPTION REGISTRY," SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.*



# RULE MAKING HEARINGS AND LISTS OF RULES

Rule making hearings are open to the public. The web link below will provide information about the location and times of the hearings. Information about the rules going into effect includes changes or additions to rules.

To view the rule-making meeting notices online, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/RulemakingHearings.php?>

To view the rules scheduled to go into effect, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/PendingRules.php?>

If you have suggestions on how the online posting of the state’s rules could be more “user-friendly,” please contact Richard Arnold at 615-741-2650 or email him at: [Richard.Arnold@tn.gov](mailto:Richard.Arnold@tn.gov) 

S  
e  
c  
r  
e  
t  
a  
r  
y  
  
o  
f  
  
S  
t  
a  
t  
e  
  
T  
r  
e  
  
H  
a  
r  
g  
e  
t  
t



**To receive future  
issues of  
THE BLUE PAGES...  
electronically,  
sign up online:  
<http://tn.gov/sos/subscribe>**

Blake Fontenay, Constitutional Officers’  
Communications Director  
615-253-2668

 [Follow SOS on Twitter](#)

**Secretary of State**  
Tre Hargett  
Penny Shelton, Executive Secretary  
615-741-2819

**Administrative Procedures**  
615-741-7008

**Business Services**  
615-741-2286

**Charitable Solicitations & Gaming**  
615-741-2555

**Elections**  
615-741-7956

**Library and Archives**  
615-741-2764

**Public Policy**  
615-741-2819

**Publications**  
615-741-2650

**[www.tn.gov/sos](http://www.tn.gov/sos)**



Pursuant to its policy of non-discrimination, the Department of State does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or military service in its policies, or in the admission or access to, or treatment of employment in, its programs, services or activities.

