



DELBERT HOSEMANN
Secretary of State



My fellow Mississippians:

Eudora Welty once said that a good snapshot stops a moment from running away. I am pleased to present to you the 2009-2012 version of the *Official and Statistical Register* for the State of Mississippi, our “snapshot” of the Magnolia State. The focus of this latest edition of the “Blue Book” is not where we have been, but rather, where we are and where we are going.

To concentrate where we are, our agency has updated statistical information in the Blue Book. For the first time, municipal election returns are included in the publication. We have made every effort to provide not only historical facts and figures in this fundamental historical reference, but the most up to date information that would be useful for years to come.

To focus on where we are going, we have worked meticulously to highlight all that Mississippi has to offer. We have a lot of to be proud of in Mississippi. The citizens of our State are the most generous in the nation. We have good access to transportation and waterways; a sustainable, trainable workforce; and our universities and junior colleges offer strong educational and research capabilities. In addition to those strong attributes, we have an abundance of natural resources. This year, we have designed the Blue Book to showcase the opportunities, talents and natural resources of our Great State, as well as our greatest asset—the culture of her people.

Mississippi is constantly redefining itself. But throughout that redefinition, our citizens have remained the same--the same warm, compassionate people with the same strong, unfailing values. Coupled with the unparalleled possibilities for our future, Mississippi's potential is unlimited. It is my hope that bright future shines in this edition of the Blue Book.

Sincerely,



Delbert Hosemann
Secretary of State

The Mississippi Official and Statistical Register is published every fourth year after a presidential election in accordance with Section 39-5-15 of the Mississippi Code of 1972. The next edition will be available in 2013.