

The Office of the Mississippi

# Secretary of State

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



DELBERT HOSEMAN  
*Secretary of State*

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**DELBERT HOSEMAN**  
*Secretary of State*

## Our Mission

The Secretary of State's Office serves the citizens of the State of Mississippi and fulfills statutory requirements for Business Services, Charities, Education & Publications, Elections, Policy & Research, Public Lands, Regulation & Enforcement and Securities in a transparent, efficient and cost effective manner.



## Key Priorities

The Secretary of State's Office has targeted key priorities for fiscal year 2016 and for each of the eight divisions of the Secretary of State's Office. The plans to facilitate these priorities for each division of the Agency are highlighted within this 2016 Annual Report.



## Message from Delbert Hosemann



The Office of the Secretary of State was first established in our State's original Constitution in 1817. Over the years, the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State has been entrusted with a number of duties, responsibilities and functions by the State Legislature.

The Agency's functions range from the oversight of Gulf Coast Tidelands and 16th Section Lands to scrap metal sales; from the registration of pre-need cemetery plans to the registration of corporations; from conducting elections and allowing voters to change their voter registration address online to conducting investigations of securities firms and charities. The Agency's list lengthens each year as the legislature trusts our agency with more state functions designed to protect our citizens. We have worked to reduce costs to citizens and speed delivery of services by fully automating our filing system and improving our website. We are particularly pleased with Y'all Business and the thousands of pieces of data/information for each Mississippi County accessible on this site.

We are proud of the services we provide daily to our citizens, and invite you to contact us for any information or assistance you may need.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Delbert". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "D" and a cursive "elbert".

Delbert Hosemann  
Secretary of State

# About the Secretary of State



*The Office of the Secretary of State is dedicated to being both a service and information agency. There are eight divisions within the Secretary of State's Office: Business Services, Charities, Education & Publications, Elections, Regulation & Enforcement, Securities, Policy & Research and Public Lands. In addition, the Agency employs executive and administrative staff which help oversee the various functions of the office.*

## Locations

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### JACKSON

401 Mississippi Street  
Jackson, MS 39201-1004  
(601) 359-1350

New Capitol Building, Room 105  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 359-3123

125 South Congress Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 359-1350

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### TUPELO

431 West Main Street/Suite 403  
Tupelo, MS 38802  
(662) 844-0194

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### HERNANDO

316 West Commerce Street  
Hernando, MS 38632-2120  
(662) 449-3362

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### GULFPORT

1701 B 24th Avenue  
Gulfport, MS 39501-2972  
(228) 864-0254



# About the Secretary of State

## Divisions

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### Business Services

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The *Business Services Division* administers Mississippi's Corporation, LLC and UCC laws and handles filings related to business formations and regulation. The Division also issues notary commissions, registers correspondence schools, and administers trademark, service mark, and non-profit laws. It serves as a default agent for service of process.

### Charities

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The *Charities Division* registers charitable organizations and professional fundraisers that solicit contributions in the State, in addition to responding to charities complaints and investigating potential charities fraud.

### Education & Publications

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The *Education & Publications Division* produces and distributes statutory publications of the State, including the Official and Statistical Register, known as the "Blue Book." The Division also oversees the annual K-12 Promote the Vote program and other educational outreach efforts.

### Elections

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The *Elections Division* administers the State Election Code, trains municipal and county Election Commissioners, and enforces campaign finance and lobbying requirements, as well as supports the Secretary of State in his role as Chief Elections Officer for the State of Mississippi.

### Policy & Research

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The *Policy & Research Division* acts as a research and development arm for the Agency, looking for new ways to streamline services and develop potential legislation.

### Public Lands

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The *Public Lands Division* administers and supervises State-owned lands, including 16th Section School Trust Lands, Public Trust Tidelands, Lieu Lands, and Tax-Forfeited Property. Public Lands also maintains an inventory of Agency-held lands.

### Regulation & Enforcement

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The *Regulation & Enforcement Division* is tasked with regulating pre-need/perpetual care providers, enforcing scrap metal laws in the State, and overseeing administrative procedures for State government. The Division also conducts Scrap Metal Law Enforcement Training.

### Securities

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The *Securities Division* administers Mississippi's Uniform Securities Laws and investigates securities fraud. The Division also registers State investment advisers, and broker-dealer firms and representatives.

# Public Lands

## By the Numbers\*

**12,841**

16th Section Land leases

**\$82.6 million**

Revenues from 16th Section leases \*\*

**\$22.4 million**

Revenue from surface leasing

**\$19.1 million**

Sales of timber/forest products

**\$9 million**

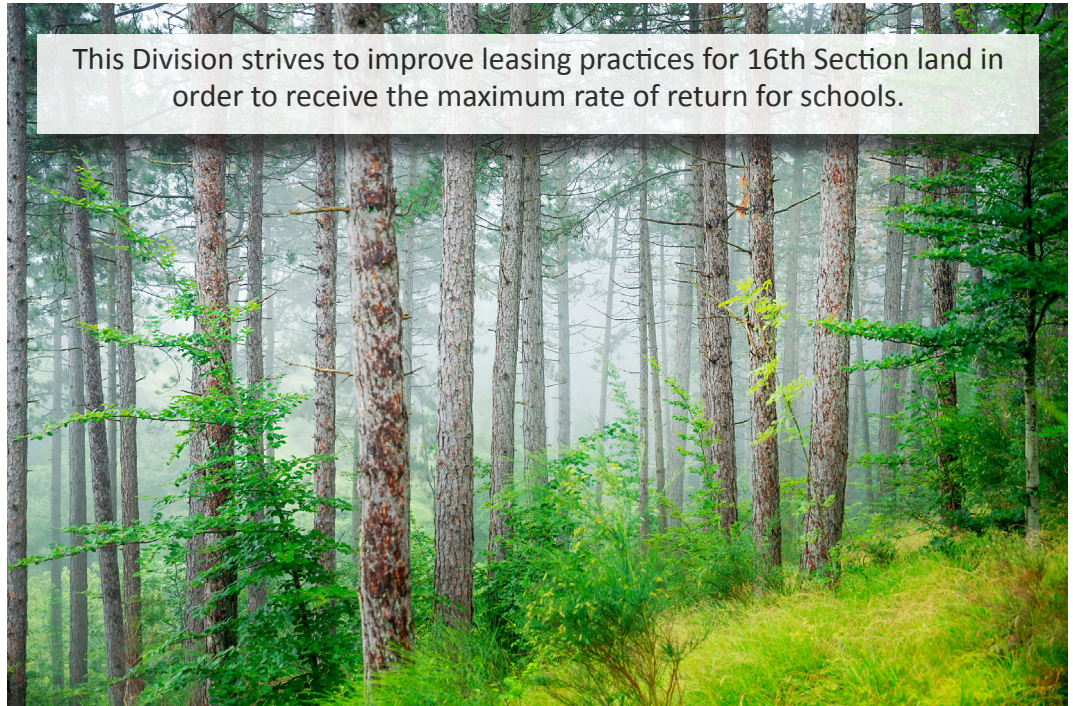
Oil and gas royalty payments



\* 99 of 102 school districts reporting as of Dec. 12, 2016.

\*\* All 16th Section Land revenue stays with the local school district

## 16th SECTION LANDS



This Division strives to improve leasing practices for 16th Section land in order to receive the maximum rate of return for schools.

The Public Lands Division continues to fulfill the constitutional and statutory duties regarding the stewardship of 16th Section Public School Trust Lands and Lieu Lands, timber, and the Public Trust Tidelands.

The Secretary of State serves as supervisory Trustee overseeing the management and leasing of more than 640,000 acres of 16th Section Public School Trust Lands by 102 local school districts. The Public Lands Division strives to improve leasing practices on 16th Section lands.

The Division maintains a map on the Agency website showing the approximate location of all hunting and fishing leases across the State, with rental information and contact information for managing school boards.

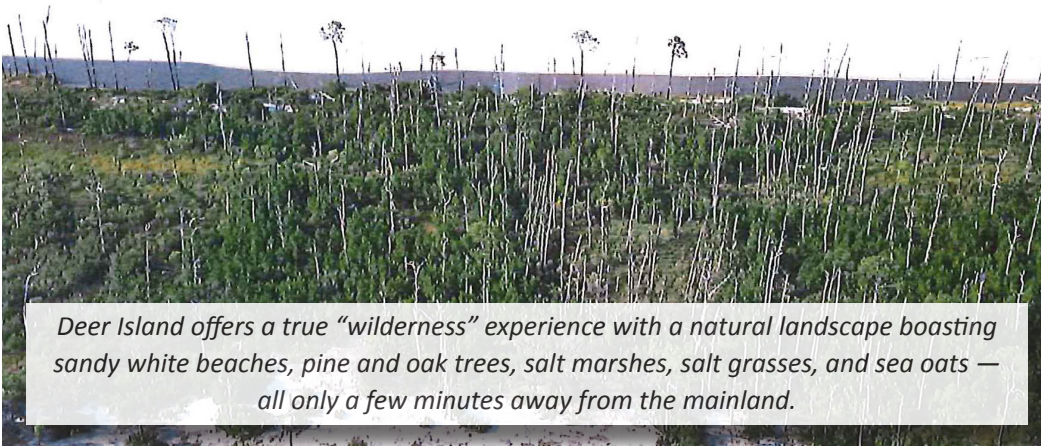
The Agency website also publishes public bid notices for hunting and fishing leases, agricultural leases, sales of timber and other forest products, and oil and gas leases.

The Secretary of State and Mississippi Forestry Commission maintain a cooperative partnership with local school districts to manage timber assets. This Division maintains presale inventories of timber sold by lump-sum sale, monitors current timber harvest operations, inspects properties for proper usage and waste, and assists businesses by emerging markets for renewable energy in determining the availability and type of resources available on public school trust lands.



# Public Lands

## PUBLIC TRUST TIDELANDS



*Deer Island offers a true "wilderness" experience with a natural landscape boasting sandy white beaches, pine and oak trees, salt marshes, salt grasses, and sea oats — all only a few minutes away from the mainland.*

Public Trust Tidelands and submerged lands are under water naturally subject to tidal influence. The inland boundary is the mean high tide line established over 19-years epochs, and the seaward boundary is the State boundary, about 10 miles south of the barrier islands. These Tidelands are owned by the State in trust for the citizens of Mississippi. The Secretary of State is the trustee of this great public trust.

It is declared to be the public policy of this State to favor the preservation of the natural trust of the public tidelands and their ecosystems and to prevent the despoliation and destruction of them, except where a specific alteration of specific public trust tidelands would serve a higher

public interest in compliance with the public purpose of the public trust in which such tidelands are held. (Miss. Code Ann. 1972 §29-15-3)

With regard to the Public Trust Tidelands and submerged lands held by the State in trust, the focus of this Division is to:

- Protect public use and public access
- Acquire property for preservation and protection in the coastal preserve system
- Support the restoration of degraded public wetlands
- Develop the use of Public Trust Tidelands for recreational and educational purposes which meet the higher purpose for which the trust was established

*More than a decade ago, the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office began work on a plan to acquire Deer Island for permanent preservation and inclusion in the Mississippi Coastal Preserves System to protect Deer Island for Mississippi residents and future generations.*



## By the Numbers

### 1700s - 1800s

Deer Island was used as hunting grounds by Native Americans as early as 8000 B.C. A cattle ranch by a French settler in the mid 1700s and a small population of coastal settlers making a living farming and fishing in the 1800s.

### 550 acres

Deer Island is approximately 550 acres, 5 miles long, 2,500 feet at its widest point, and 7/10ths of a mile south of the Biloxi Point Cadet Harbor.



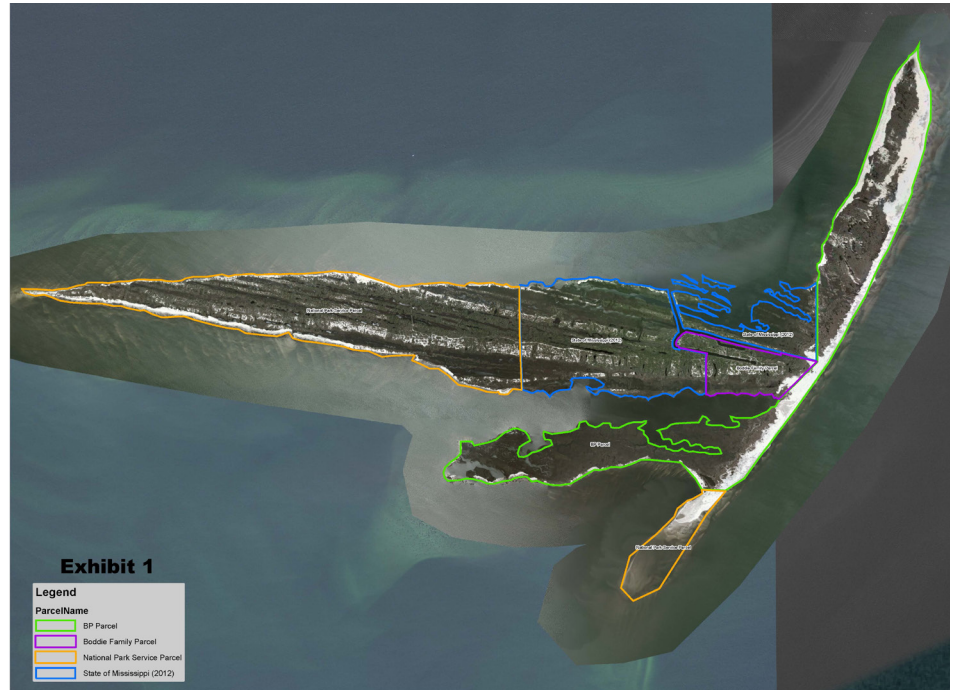
# Public Lands

## Mississippi Acquires Cat Island



*"After two centuries, Mississippi is getting its island back. Cat Island is a special treasure because of its natural beauty and the protection it offers the Mississippi Gulf Coast."*

**Delbert Hosemann**  
Secretary of State



*The above map details ownership of Cat Island prior to the December 2016 transaction deeding 492 acres to Mississippi. The land outlined in green was previously owned by BP and is now owned by the State.*



*Mayors from the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, and DMR Executive Director Jamie Miller celebrate the acquisition of a significant part of Cat Island, the westernmost of the State's four barrier islands.*



*Governor Phil Bryant and Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann execute the deed for 492 acres of Cat Island previously owned by BP to be conveyed to the State of Mississippi. No State taxdollars were expended in the land transfer.*



# Public Lands



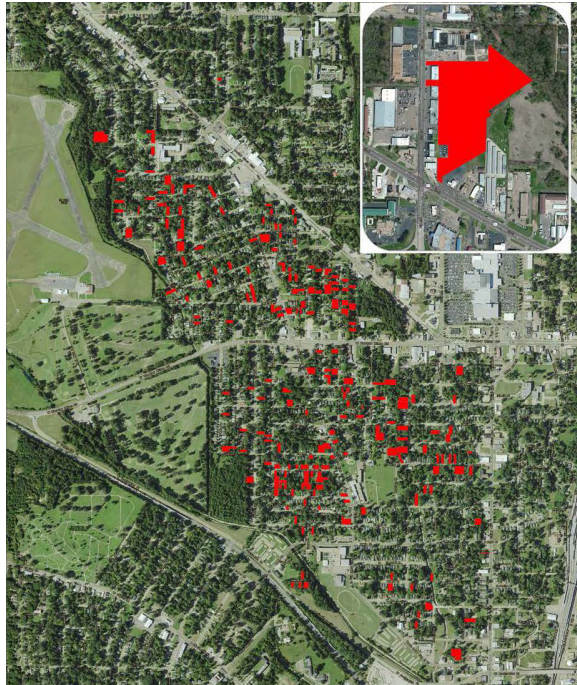
*Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann announced the opening of two online tax forfeited property auctions, which included 379 properties valued at \$7.4 million in Jackson and 100 properties valued at \$800,000 in Waveland.*

## TAX FORFEITED LANDS

All properties for which ad valorem taxes are past due are subject to sale by the county in which the lands are located. Any lands not purchased at the local tax sale are stricken from local tax rolls, and transferred to the State, subject to sale by the Secretary of State pursuant to applicable statutes. The Secretary of

State works to sell these lands and return parcels to productive use. Through private ownership, these lands once again produce property tax revenues for the counties and municipalities in which they are located. Currently, the State holds more than 13,000 tax forfeited lands valued at approximately \$75 million.

*A recent online tax forfeited property auction in Jackson included the Southport Mall Shopping Center, located at Highway 80 and Ellis Avenue, which was valued at \$1.46 million. Those interested in tax forfeited property can visit the Secretary of State's website to view parcel maps and other relevant information.*



## Highlights

Tax forfeited lands can be transferred to governmental entities without cost for public use.

2016 property sales total more than \$1.7 million.

Held six auctions for tax forfeited properties and enabled an online bid process to increase participation.

An inventory of tax forfeited lands owned by the State is now available on the Secretary of State's website.

Approximately 400,000 acres of agency lands are under State ownership.

## Agency Lands

Our continued goal is to provide the members of the Legislature, agency officials, county officials, and the general public accurate land information to allow proper utilization and management, and, where the Legislature deems appropriate, transfer parcels so they may be transitioned back onto the county property rolls.

# Business Services

## By the Numbers

**72,202**

Phone calls for business-related services.

**417,052**

Corporate documents and UCC's filed with the Secretary of State's Office.

**27,010**

Notary applications/renewals and Apostille registrations.

## IMPROVING BUSINESS PRACTICES IN MISSISSIPPI

*The Business Services Division provides business-related services to anyone wishing to do business in Mississippi. The Secretary of State's Office developed Y'all Business to help small businesses locate or expand in the State of Mississippi. This website is part of our Office's continuing effort to promote jobs in our great State. It provides a wealth of detailed information you need for your job and your business.*

Use Y'all Business interactive map tools to take a close look at a county or community where you are now doing business and to research where you may want to expand or open a new venture.



Investigate hundreds of categories of critical data and explore existing businesses in a targeted area and investigate demographic data and buying trends of potential customers.



## Business Services



### STARTING A BUSINESS

The Business Services Division is the starting point for many entrepreneurs wishing to conduct business in the State.

Consumers can search for a unique business name, check their corporate status, order certified documents and search other companies. Business

Services assists with the formation of corporations, limited liability companies, foreign business trusts, limited partnerships and other business structures. State law determines the structure of each business.



### NOTARIES PUBLIC

The Business Services Division oversees all notaries public in the State and receives nearly 5,000 notary applications and renewals per year. The Division investigates all notary complaints.

Apostilles and Authentications are prepared and attached to documents to verify authenticity or validity. Many of these documents are presented in foreign countries.

# Business Services



## UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) filings are also handled through this division. These secured transactions are recorded and accessible to financial institutions, governmental agencies and others engaged in commercial lending and trade.



## STATUTORY SERVICES

The Division is also responsible for a wide array of statutory responsibilities including accepting service of process, recording pesticides, registering carnivals, circuses, polygraph examiners and recording public official bonds.

## TRADEMARKS & SERVICE MARKS

Trademarks and Service Marks are recorded and approved through this division. Recent trademarks legislation proposed by the Secretary of State's Office and adopted by the Legislature received international recognition as one of the most forward, aggressive trademark laws in the nation.



## CHARTERS & ANNEXATIONS

This division also files interlocal agreements, municipal charters and records annexations for all municipalities.



# Elections

This Division works for fair, unbiased elections through accountability and training as Mississippi citizens exercise their right to vote.



In 2015, Mississippians went to the polls to elect all statewide, state district, legislative, countywide and county district offices. The eight statewide offices include: Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, State Auditor, Commissioner of Insurance, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce. These offices, among others, represented regularly elected offices, and appeared on the Primary Election Ballot to determine political party nominees and the General Election Ballot to determine the ultimate winners.

In addition to the regularly scheduled elections, registered voters in Congressional District 1 elected a new Congressman in a specially-called election on General Election Day to fill the vacancy created by the death of Congressman Alan Nunnelee. By House Bill 703, the Legislature created seven (7) new circuit and chancery court judicial positions, which were also filled by special elections held on General Election Day.

Initiative Measure Number 42 appeared on the General Election ballot, and for the first time, an alternative proposed by the Legislature, designated as Alternative Measure No. 42A, was appeared on the General Election ballot as well.

## SUPPORTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN FAIR ELECTIONS

The role of the Elections Division will continue to include election administration, training county and municipal election officials, managing the Statewide Election Management System (SEMS), providing elections-related financial, technical and legal support to the counties and municipalities, receiving election returns, assisting local elections officials in carrying out their election-related responsibilities, and collecting campaign finance and lobbying reports.



## What We Do

Assist county and municipalities in preparing for elections

Train and certify county and municipal election officials, Election Commissioners

Maintain and publish campaign finance and lobbying reports

Accept constitutional initiative filings

Accept qualifying paperwork for statewide, Judicial and Legislative candidates

Maintain the statewide voter registration database



# Elections

## By the Numbers

**5,717**

Voter IDs issued from  
January 2016 to Dec. 20,  
2016

**1,112**

Number of Lobbyist Annual  
Reports

**631**

Phone calls received in on  
2015 General Election Day

**14 observers and  
18 counties**

Observed on 2015 General  
Election Day

**718,185**

Votes Cast on 2015 General  
Election Day

## Campaign Finance and Lobbying

The Division is streamlining the reporting systems for campaign finance and lobbyists through a more user-friendly, computer-driven approach. The Agency has consistently advocated increased public disclosure and transparency from elected officials, candidates and lobbyists. Maintaining open and accessible information is a top priority for the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State.

Mississippi law requires that all candidates for public office disclose to the public the sources of their receipts and disbursements.

Those disclosures lead to a more informed electorate and increase the likelihood of fair and unbiased elections. The Elections Division maintains such filings and provides guidance to candidates regarding reporting requirements. Campaign Finance and Lobbying reports may be viewed online by the general public on the Secretary of State's website ([www.sos.ms.gov](http://www.sos.ms.gov)).

Mississippi law requires all lobbyists register with the Secretary of State's Office in order to conduct business in the State.

## Training

The Elections Division provides certification programs and continuing education training programs to county and municipal election commissioners and executive committees. Training programs address substantive law as well as technical aspects of the Statewide Elections Management System (SEMS) and the Statewide Voting Machine System. Training is provided to election officials on how to operate specific voting devices, as well as how to train individual poll managers for Election-Day responsibilities. This division is focused on utilizing current technology, such as webinars and online poll manager training, to make our training accessible to election officials throughout the State.

## SEMS

The Elections Division works with election officials of counties and municipalities to maintain a statewide voter registration database, known as the Statewide Elections Management System, or "SEMS." This Division provides education and the tools available to the appropriate election officials in order to maintain accurate voter rolls.

## Other Activities

### Certification of Election Results

The Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State is responsible for certifying Statewide elections and multi-county elections.

### ACCESS Grants

The Division administers federal ACCESS grants to assist counties in making their polling places compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and more accessible to voters with disabilities.

### Initiatives

All proposed amendments to the Mississippi Constitution must be registered with the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office. The official ballot title and summary are

prepared by the State Attorney General. Initiatives are only valid for one year, during which time a petition must be circulated to gather signatures to place the measure on the next statewide general election ballot.

### Public Requests from individuals, candidates and Federal Agencies

The Elections Division responds to numerous public records requests for voter registration statistics, Statewide and district voter rolls, election results, Uniformed and Overseas Voter statistics and the number of voters casting an absentee ballot. The Division provides information to the public on a Statewide and national level.



# Education & Publications

## Publications

Blue Book

Charities Report

Directory of State & County  
Officials

Elections Calendar

General Laws

House Journal

Judiciary Directory & Court  
Calendar

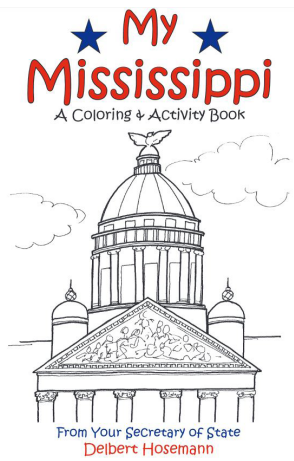
Local & Private Laws

Magnolia Booklet

Mississippi Constitution

My Mississippi Coloring  
Book

Senate Journal



## INFORMATION OF RECORD FOR STATE CONSTITUENTS

The Education & Publications Division of the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State produces State and Agency documents in traditional paper-and-ink publications as well as digital versions on the Agency's website. Interim updates are also made to the digital versions of traditionally formatted print publications.

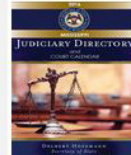
The *Official and Statistical Register of the State of Mississippi* (more commonly known as the Blue Book), is published in hard-cover, paperback, and digital versions.

The Division designs and prints several State and Agency publications in-house, including the *Magnolia Book* (Mississippi Guide Book), Promote the Vote materials, Agency brochures and Voter ID materials. In addition to publishing both print and digital versions of the Judiciary Directory and Court Calendar, the Elections Calendar and the Directory of State and Local Officials, the Division oversees the chaptering, indexing and distribution of all adopted legislation and compiles the information annually for publication of the General Laws and Local and Private Laws of the State. It also publishes House and Senate Journals for each legislative session.

### DOWNLOADABLE PUBLICATIONS (PDF)



2012-2016 Blue Book



2016 Judiciary Directory & Court  
Calendar



2016 State & County Directory



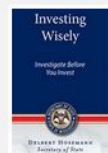
Guide to the Magnolia State



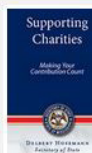
Mississippi Elected Officials



Mississippi Symbols Sheet



Investing Wisely



Supporting Charities

# Education & Publications

Promote the Vote is an annual voter education program sponsored by the Secretary of State's Office to educate Mississippi students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 about the political process and civic duties. The goal is to encourage students to become informed citizens and voters as adults. The award-winning program is free



for all public, private, parochial and home-school classrooms and offers a full curriculum developed in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Education. Promote the Vote includes classroom and extra-curricular activities, grade level art and writing contests and a statewide mock election preceding every statewide general election.



The Education and Publications Division hosts the Agency's annual Promote the Vote Awards Ceremony each year at the State Capitol in February, where students are honored for top honors in competitions including art, political cartoon, essay and political party.



Secretary Hosemann presents each student with a medal and certificate of achievement. Legislators and school officials are on hand to congratulate their district winners. Secretary Hosemann also presents teachers with tokens of appreciation for their support of the Promote the Vote program.





# Securities

## By the Numbers

**\$17,555,430**

Amount of revenue collected in filings, administrative enforcement cases and miscellaneous fees.

**43**

Investment adviser firms now registered with the Office of the Secretary of State.

**67**

Conducted more than 67 investigations, which included possible securities laws violations.



*This division protects investors in the State from unscrupulous organizations using the most up-to-date Securities laws in the nation.*

## MORE INVESTMENT FIRMS UNDER STATE REGULATION



In addition to enforcing the Mississippi Securities Laws, the Securities Division is responsible for the regulation and registration of securities firms, agents and products.

The Securities Division regulates and registers investment adviser firms in Mississippi having less than \$100 million in investment funds under management. Currently there are 43 investment adviser firms registered with the Division, which also examines Mississippi branch offices of broker-dealer firms registered in the State. For FY 2016 the Division examined 40 firms and conducted over 67 securities investigations.

Sources for these investigations included complaints and tips of possible securities laws violations from investors and the public. Of these 67 investigations, over 32 cases were for notice filings of Federal Regulation

D Offerings that were filed late.

During the FY 2016 the Division collected \$10,861,335 in offering related filings, \$6,784,650 in registration filings for securities professionals and firms, \$109,445 in administrative enforcement cases for a total of \$17,555,430 in revenue. This revenue included 128,514 professional filings and 27,443 offering related filings which were processed by the Division.

The Division began accepting Regulation D notice filings electronically in December 2014 which has enabled the Division in reduce the turnaround time for processing these filings. In FYE 2016 the Division received 261 electronic Regulation D filings compared to 403 paper Regulation D filings, and is on track to receive more electronic filings than paper filings for FY 2017.

# Charities

## PROTECTING YOUR CHARITABLE DOLLARS

*This division protects Mississippi donors from unscrupulous charities who might prey on our citizens.*

Through enforcement of the Mississippi Charitable Solicitation Act, the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State's Charities Division is responsible for protecting donors in the State. The Charities Division protects Mississippians and works to ensure their hard-earned dollars are used for the purpose intended.

Each year, the Secretary of State's Office promotes a "Check your Charity" campaign during the holiday season. This division will continue to encourage Mississippians to check their supported charities with the Secretary of State's Office before they donate.

The Charities Act requires the registration of every nonprofit soliciting contributions and having fundraisers with the Charities Division. The Charities Act does allow certain organizations to be exempted from this registration requirement. However, this exemption is not automatic. The organization must request the exemption by submitting the online notice of exemption form.

The Charities Act not only strengthens the



Agency's ability to enforce laws against dishonest charities, but also gives the Charities Division the authority to subpoena witnesses and documents during investigations and to bring actions in Chancery Court to stop illegal

activities, collect fines and remove charitable corporate status. Through the strong enforcement of the Charities Act, Mississippi donors can have more confidence in their charitable giving.

To protect Mississippi donors, a key priority of the Agency is to make it more difficult for organizations to misappropriate charitable dollars. The Agency will continue working with charitable organizations in the state to maximize the amount of funds allocated for actual charitable purposes. Increasing the transparency in charitable organizations and providing this information to Mississippians allows our citizens to have peace of mind in charitable giving.

In an effort to streamline the registration requirement to make it more efficient, the legislature passed a law revising the filing date of charities to be the same date as their filing date with the Internal Revenue Service.

## For Your Protection

Armed with the most up-to-date Charities laws in the nation to protect Mississippians

An annual "Check your Charities" campaign lets you know how your hard-earned dollars are spent

Charities Renewal Filing Date is same as charity filing date with the Internal Revenue Service.

## Supporting Charities

*Making Your Contribution Count*



DELBERT HOSEMANN  
Secretary of State



# Regulation & Enforcement

This division registers and regulates businesses subject to their jurisdiction, such as funeral homes, cemeteries and scrap metal dealers.

## PROTECTING THE CONSUMER'S INTEREST



The Regulation & Enforcement Division of the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State serves various consumer protection interests with its regulation of pre-need funeral providers, privately owned cemeteries, and scrap metal dealers and recyclers. These business entities are examined and audited by division staff to determine if the business is complying with State legislation and regulations designed to protect the consumers' interests.

Examinations and audits may be either complaint-based or randomly selected. Violators are subject to administrative fines, suspension of a license, or, in extreme cases, revocation of a license issued by the Division. Additionally, this division licenses and monitors the activities of Athlete Agents under the Mississippi Athlete Agent's Act. This Act helps to protect young athletes in the State from falling victim to unscrupulous sports agents who might otherwise attempt to take advantage of an athlete's inexperience when signing with a professional sports team.

The Regulation & Enforcement Division publishes the *Mississippi Administrative Bulletin* and the *Mississippi Administrative Code* where all State government rules and regulations are accessible to the public on the Secretary of State's Office website. The Division supports both the public and State agencies with procedural steps for adopting rules and obtaining public comment in the process.

## What's Ahead

The Division is positioned to take the lead in supporting law enforcement agencies throughout the state with building successful cases for prosecuting metal theft. In January 2016 the Division with support from the MS Department of Agriculture and the MS Attorney General's Office created the Mississippi

Delta Ag-Theft Task Force. This task force is comprised of state and local law enforcement agencies in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee. The purpose of the task force is to deter agricultural equipment and metal theft and to coordinate efforts in the prosecution of those who commit such crimes.

# Policy & Research

## PROMOTING BUSINESS LAWS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Policy & Research Division is the research and development engine of the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office. This division collaborates with volunteer panels of Mississippians selected by the Secretary of State to develop potential legislation and identify innovative solutions to challenges facing the State and the Agency. Many of the recommendations from these study groups have been adopted by the Mississippi Legislature, including reforms to Mississippi's corporate,

LLC, nonprofit, trademark, and securities laws.

This year the Legislature adopted proposals amending the Securities Act to provide for specific notice filings, changing the deadline for renewing charity registrations, allowing corporations to establish venue for shareholder disputes, updating election crimes, allowing the sale of tax-forfeited property by online auction, and updating voter registration information through an online portal.

### Policy Initiatives

#### Senate Bill 2200

*(effective July 1, 2016)* - Amends Section 75-71-302 to provide for notice filings of new types of federal covered securities created by the federal JOBS Act. The bill also amends Sections 75-71-310 to allow the fee currently charged for notice filings of certain federal covered securities to also be charged for these new federal covered securities.

#### Senate Bill 2447

*(effective July 1, 2016)* - Moves the deadline for a charity to file the annual renewal to the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of the organization's taxable year; this will allow charitable organizations to more easily maintain and update filings in conceit with requirements by other state and federal agencies.

The bill also allows the Secretary of State to promulgate rules to provide for extensions of the filing due date and to impose an administrative penalty for failure to comply.

#### Senate Bill 2483

*(effective July 1, 2016)* - Amends

provisions related to information a corporation must set forth in its articles of incorporation, as well as information that may be set forth in its bylaws.

This bill permits a corporation to set forth in its articles of incorporation or bylaws a provision designating venue for derivative proceedings, or other internal corporate claims, in the appropriate court of the county where the corporation's principal office is located.

#### Senate Bill 2649

*(effective July 1, 2016)* - Provides process for appeal of any penalties imposed by the Secretary of State for violations of the provisions of law on the placement and sale of cemeteries, regulation of scrap metal, and charitable corporations.

#### House Bill 809

*(effective July 1, 2016)* - Requires the Secretary of State, with the support of the Department of Public Safety, to establish a secure Internet website to permit registered electors to change their name, address or other

information set forth in the electors' existing voter registration record.

#### House Bill 866

*(effective July 1, 2016)* - Amends various penalties for election crimes to bring those in line with penalties applied to similar misdemeanors or felonies. The bill also moves several criminal provisions from within the election code to the proper place in the election crimes chapter of Title 97.

#### Senate Bill 2111

*(effective July 1, 2016)* - Authorizes the chancery clerk to certify the list of all lands struck off to the state by completing and submitting the form with the chancery clerk's electronic signature, vesting title in the State, and amends Section 29-1-75 to extend the repeal date applied to purchase of tax-forfeited lands by corporations and nonresident aliens. Section 29-1-37 is amended to authorize the Secretary of State to sell state-forfeited tax land by online auction and to adopt procedures and rules for these auctions.



# Business Services

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(Including Business Services, Charities, Regulation & Enforcement, Securities)



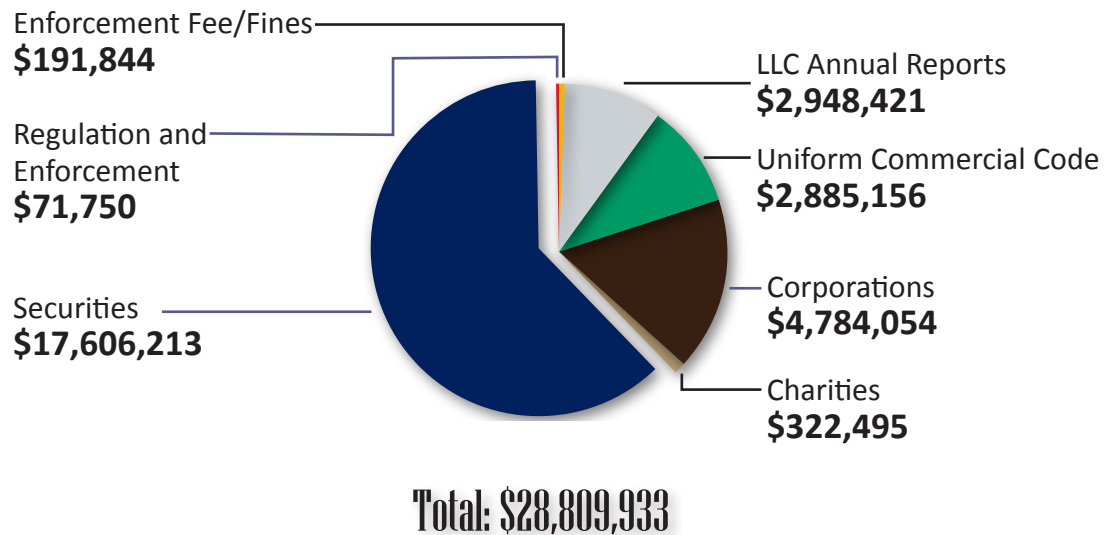
### Efficiencies

- Increase online services provided for businesses and corporations
- Maintain turnaround times for customer filings to less than 24-48 hours
- Provide more opportunities and methods for enforcement education



- Increase registration of Scrap metal dealers
- Reduce turnaround time for approval of Private Placement Securities Offering filings
- Increase number of routine exams of securities firms and investment advisers

### Fee Income: FY 2016

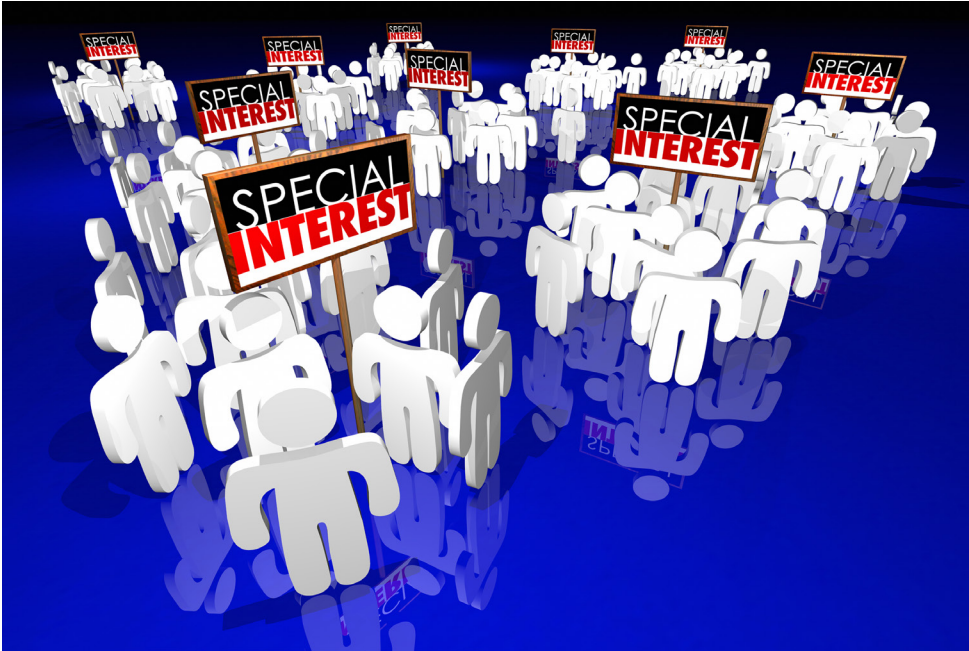


### Our Performance

CATEGORY	OUTPUT
UCC documents filed	321,736
Telephone calls received	72,202
Other Corporate documents filed	50,338
Annual reports filed (Corp)	44,978
LLC annual reports filed	84,083
Notary registration/renewals apostilles	27,010
Charity registration & renewals (offerings)	4,617
Trademarks	402
UCC searches	341
Securities/Charities audits, examinations & renewals (firms/agents)	167
Securities/Charities legal actions (dispositions & opinions)	513

# Elections

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



### Efficiencies

- Continue to promote fair and honest elections by providing accurate election reports
- Streamline campaign finance and lobbyist filings and reports
- Provide election training sessions with internal staff, reducing vendor expenditures
- Continue to promote increased voter registration and turnout

### Fee Income: FY 2016

*Lobbying Registrations*  
*Civil Penalties from Lobbying*  
*Civil Penalties from Campaign Finance*  
*Candidate Qualifying Fees*  
*Public Record Requests*

**Total: \$45,926**

### Our Performance

CATEGORY	OUTPUT
Lobbying reports	5,347
Campaign finance reports	3,195
Election training sessions	37





# Education & Publications

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



The Education & Publications Division provides publications, Mississippi flags and document certifications to the general public. This Division also produces all elected officials' commissions and certification documents for municipal and county Election Commissioners throughout Mississippi.

### Efficiencies

- Continue to provide publications required by statute
- Continue providing accessibility of publications to constituents
- Continue compiling and providing statistical statewide information

### Our Performance

CATEGORY	OUTPUT
Publications distributed	60,000
Constituent services	2,900
Bills chaptered and recorded	645
Agency promotion and exhibits	22
Agency publications produced	31

# Public Lands

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



### Efficiencies

- Continue to conserve, preserve, protect, and manage the public lands of Mississippi
- Continue to make available to the public, all records of real property belonging to or under the control of the State of Mississippi
- Implement an electronic environment for sales and collection of reporting data on public lands

### Our Performance

CATEGORY	OUTPUT
16th Section leases managed	12,841
Tax forfeited applications processed	5,566
Tax forfeited patents issued	1,301





# Administration and Executive

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Efficiencies

- Continue to monitor and improve Agency internal controls/procedures to increase accountability for property and monies received specific to finance, purchasing, human resources and information services
- Continue to upgrade the technological systems to provide better constituent services



### External Factors

- Changes in the economy, positive or negative, can affect the number of filings processed which may increase or decrease the amount of revenue
- External factors can change the direction of projects, funding and revenue
- Legislative directive changes the course of projects and funding



### INTERNAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The Secretary of State has offices in Jackson, Gulfport, Hernando and Tupelo to better serve the entire State. An office within the Capitol building in Jackson receives and records executive documents from the Governor. This is part of the Secretary of State's role as "Keeper of the Capitol."

Each division of the Secretary of State's Office establishes senior-level priorities. These top priorities are discussed during senior staff meetings. Performance measures are collected and reported quarterly. Budgetary constraints are reviewed when new or expanded priorities are considered or requested.

### Our Performance

CATEGORY	OUTPUT
Parcels of mail processed	83,269
Help Desk requests completed	4,609
Payment vouchers prepared	6,748
Personnel transactions processed	97
Agency sponsored sessions	10

#### Additional Efficiencies: Turnaround Time

Vendor payments	5 days
Tax forfeited county refunds	5 days
Travel reimbursements	5 days

# Contact the Secretary of State

## Agency Contacts

### Assistant Secretaries of State (Divisions)

Business Services

**Tom Riley**

(601) 359-1684

Charities

**Tanya Webber**

(601) 359-1048

Education & Publications

**Amanda Frusha**

(601) 359-6344

Elections

**Kim Turner**

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Policy & Research

**Preston Goff**

(601) 359-3101

Public Lands

**Bill Cheney**

(601) 359-6377

Land Sales and

Acquisitions

**Kelly McMullan**

(601) 359-1327

Regulation &

Enforcement

**Dave Scott**

(601) 359-9055

Securities

**Cheryn Netz**

(601) 359-1334

## Executive

**Delbert Hosemann**

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**Doug Davis**

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**Lisa Moore**

Dir. of Finance and Administration Services

Lisa.Moore@sos.ms.gov

**Leah Smith**

Assistant Secretary of State  
of Communications

Leah.Smith@sos.ms.gov

## Topics

**16th Section Land**

(601) 359-6377

**Apostilles/Notary**

(601) 359-1615

**Campaign Finance**

(601) 359-1358

**Cemeteries**

(601) 359-6747

**Charity Lookup**

(601) 359-1371

**Corp./LLC/UCC**

(601) 359-1633

**Elections Hotline**

(800) 829-6786

**Flags**

(601) 359-6344

**General Laws**

(601) 359-6344

**Gov. Commissions**

(601) 359-3123

**Lobbying**

(601) 359-6353

**Public Records Request**

(601) 359-6349

**Scrap Metal**

(601) 359-6361

**Securities Investigations**

(601) 359-1363

**Tax Forfeited Land**

(601) 359-1557

**Tidelands**

(228) 864-0254

## State Offices

### Jackson

P.O. Box 136

401 Mississippi Street

Jackson, MS 39201

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Fax (601) 359-1499

125 S. Congress Street

Jackson, MS 39201

(601) 359-1350

Fax (601) 359-1499

400 High Street, Room 105

New Capitol Building

Jackson, MS 39201

(601) 359-3123

### Tupelo

431 W. Main Street, Ste. 403

Tupelo, MS 38804

(662) 844-0194

Fax (662) 842-3892

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316 W. Commerce Street

Hernando, MS 38632

(662) 449-3362

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### Gulfport

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and information agency

DELBERT HOSEMANN  
*Secretary of State*

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