

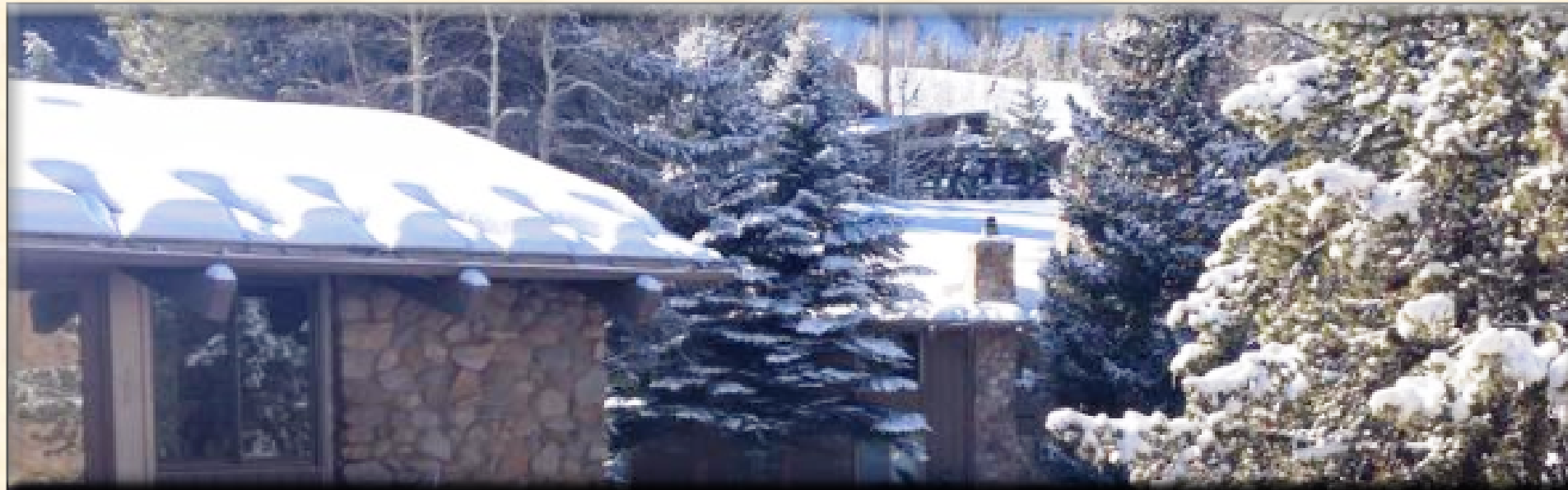


# Alabama Secretary of State John H. Merrill Quarterly Report

Oct., Nov., & Dec. 2015

## January 2016

Volume 1  
Issue 4



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**ERIC & The Interstate Crosscheck**

Secretary Merrill honors  
Mr. Gregory P. Butrus

See what's coming up in our next  
issue!

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# ERIC & The Interstate Crosscheck

Ensuring the integrity of our voter rolls across state lines.

## Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

- “ERIC,” organized by the Pew Organization, is a “non-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors made up of member states,” according to eric-states.org. Secretary Merrill is a member of the Board of Directors.
- ERIC allows participating states to pro-actively register anyone with a driver’s license to vote, while keeping the voter rolls up-to-date.
- A cost-saving data list compares each voter’s information to the DMVs,’ postal services,’ and social security organizations’ data, which helps the state know if a voter has passed away or moved.
- All personal information is anonymized and handled by the participating states.
- As of October 2015, the member states include Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Washington D.C.
- In order to join ERIC, a one-time initiation fee of \$25,000 and a yearly fee of \$21,035.00 are required.
- As a result of joining the program, Alabama is required to send mailings to all Alabamians with driver’s licenses who *aren’t* registered to vote. The Secretary of State’s Office must cover the postal costs, which are currently unknown. However, the Pew Research Group has awarded Alabama a grant for \$137,500 to help cover the expenses.
- Mailing is scheduled to take place no later than February 2016.



<http://www.ericstates.org/>

## Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program

- Organized by Kansas Secretary of State Kris W. Kobach and structured after the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 “to ensure that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained,” the program “protects the integrity of the electoral process by ensuring the maintenance of an accurate and current voter registration roll for federal office elections.” All states are eligible and free to join, and there’s no cost to participate in the Interstate Crosscheck System.
- Once the participating states pull the data every January 15<sup>th</sup> using a designated data format, the information is uploaded to a secure FTP (File Transfer Protocol) site hosted by Arkansas, which is then compared to other data by the Kansas IT Department. After the results are uploaded to the FTP site, the states download and process the data, while Kansas is responsible for deleting the other states’ information.
- The files are encrypted and secured, and the integrity of the original voter registration list is protected and uncompromised.
- As of October 2015, the member states include Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Virginia, amongst several others.
- As of 2012, 45,247,823 records were processed and compared in the program.

\* For more information on the Interstate Crosscheck Program, visit [www.nased.org/NASED\\_Winter\\_2013\\_PP.../KANSAS.pdf](http://www.nased.org/NASED_Winter_2013_PP.../KANSAS.pdf).





# Secretary Merrill Honors Mr. Gregory P. Butrus

# Quarterly Accomplishments

Birmingham Attorney Gregory Butrus received Secretary Merrill's fifth and final NASS Medallion Award of the year on November 6, 2015. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and its affiliated law school, Mr. Butrus currently works as a partner in the Energy Section of the Balch & Bingham LLP law firm, handling state and federal legislative matters and government relations laws, political law compliance and regulation, and economic development policy and issues, amongst various other subjects. He worked for U.S. Senator Howell Heflin in Washington, D.C. and also served on a variety of boards and committees, which includes but is not limited to the Alabama State Bar in the Elections, Ethics, and Government Relations Law Section, the Business Council of Alabama's Judicial and Legal Reform Committee, the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws, the Birmingham Bar Association, the Alabama Law Institute, the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation Board of Directors, the Alabama Study Committee of Campaign Finance Reform, the Children's Hospital Committee for the Future, and the Governor's Black Belt Action Committee. Secretary Merrill was pleased to nominate all five recipients for the NASS Gold Medallion Award in 2015 and plans to nominate others for the award in 2016.



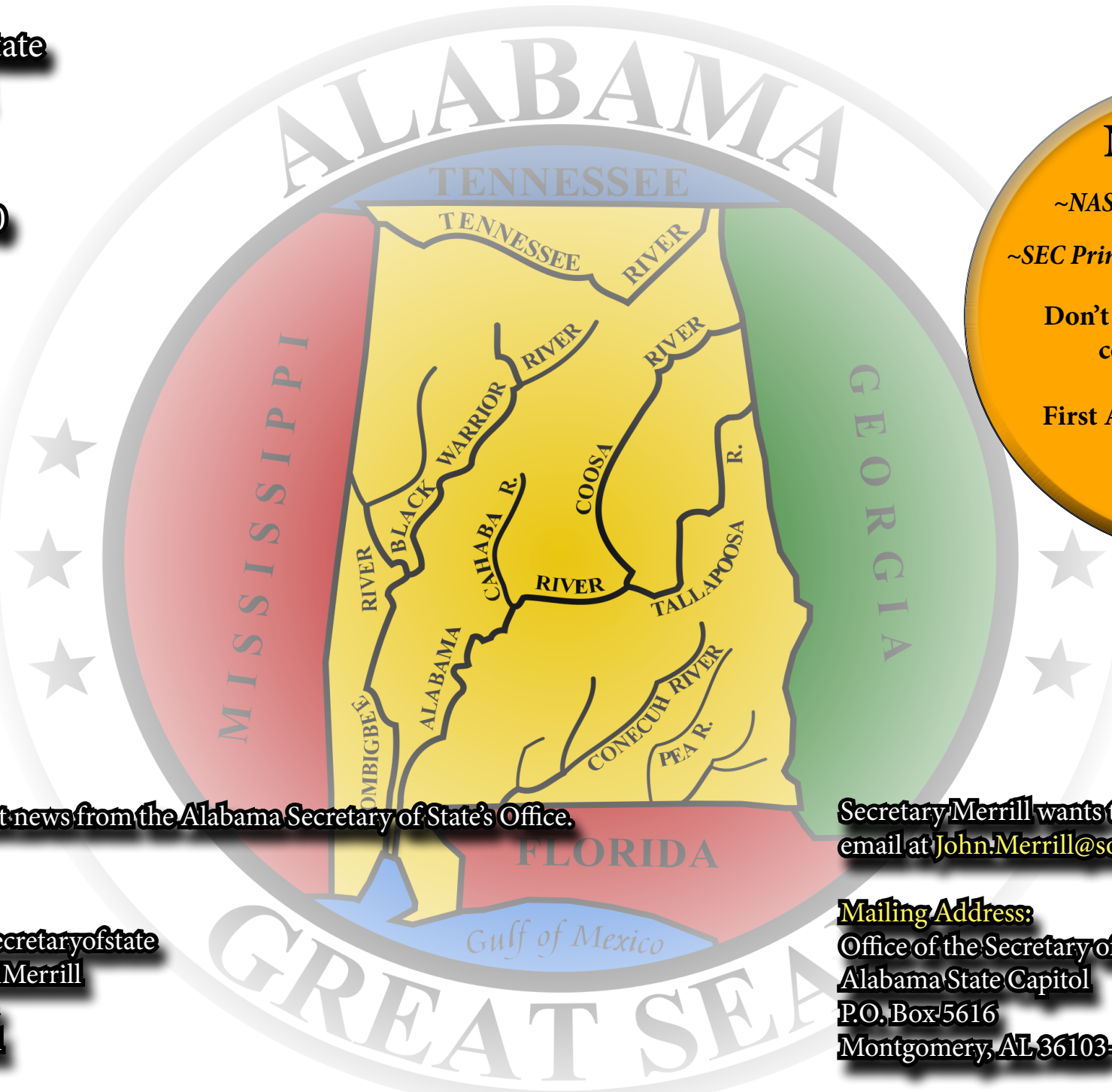
www.nass.org



- As of December 2015, Secretary Merrill has visited all 67 counties at least once to discuss voter registration and voter photo I.D. delivery.
- The Secretary of State's Office contributed to the 2016 United Way Campaign, achieved 100% employee participation, and exceeded the donation goal.
- The Secretary of State Office's Elections Division held a Board of Registrars training session, which involved nearly 200 participants.
- The Secretary of State's Office helped plan and participated in the Alabama Elections Conference on October 28-29, 2015.
- On December 12, 2015, Secretary Merrill graduated in the 29<sup>th</sup> Toll Fellowship class, which was held in Nashville, Tennessee during the Council of State Government's annual meeting. Fred Smith, the Founder and CEO of FedEx, served as the event's speaker. (\*See photos).



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## Next Issue:

*~NASS Winter Meeting*

*~SEC Primary: Election Night Reporting*

**Don't miss Volume 2 Issue 1,  
coming April 2016!**

**First Annual Report Release:  
February 2016**

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