



Alabama Secretary of State John H. Merrill

# Quarterly Report April 2016

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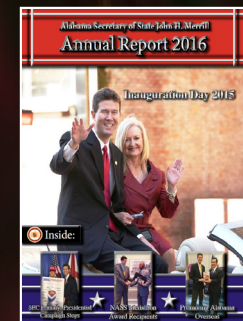
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An Unbelievable Success!



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# ● SEC Primary: An Unbelievable Success! ●

March 1, 2016 proved an eventful and historic day for the State of Alabama. Not only were Alabamians given the opportunity to vote significantly earlier for the presidential primary election, but the amount of participation from voters was the largest turnout in the state's history!

Due to the release of the new Online Voter Registration system that launched in late January, thousands of Alabama citizens registered to vote, resulting in an all-time high of 3.1 million registered voters. 1.25 million participated in the primary election, which is the largest turnout in Alabama's primary voting history.

The weekend before the primary election, Ben Carson, Hillary Clinton, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Donald Trump made final campaign stops in Alabama. Once the polls closed at 7 p.m. on March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Elections Division, along with the Probate Judges, worked late into the night to keep an updated record of the results on the SOS website, thus marking another accomplishment in state history. By the next morning, the elections results from all 67 counties were available to the public via the SOS website. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were declared the victors. The state's Runoff Election will begin April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Have a question for our Elections Division? Give us a call at 334-242-7210.**

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\*Secretary Merrill & Mrs. Merrill attended Iowa's Republican presidential debate in January 2016.



\*Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Jeb Bush in Iowa's 2016 Republican Presidential debate.



\*Donald Trump's last campaign stop in Huntsville, AL on Feb. 28, 2016.



## ● NASS Winter Meeting 2016 ●



\*Photo courtesy of [www.nass.org](http://www.nass.org)

The National Association of Secretaries of State held its annual Winter Conference in Washington D.C. on February 10-13, 2016. Secretary Merrill nominated Civil Rights Attorney Fred Gray for the organization's Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award in 2015, and Mr. Gray formally received the award at this year's meeting.

According to NASS, "the Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award is named after the former U.S. Senator from Maine, who jeopardized her career by speaking out against the red-baiting tactics of Senator Joseph P. McCarthy in the 1950s.

Award recipients are recognized for individual acts of political courage, uncommon character, and selfless action in the realm of public service."

"It was my honor to nominate Fred Gray for his admirable record of professional achievement," said Secretary Merrill. "His contributions to the voting rights movement in this country are powerful and a lasting legacy. It is because of men like Mr. Gray that we as a state have made significant steps toward equality."

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## ● Quarterly Accomplishments ●

- The March 1, 2016 Presidential Primary saw the largest voter turnout of 1.25 million in Alabama's primary voting history.
- All 67 counties participated in the Election Night Reporting, which is the first time each county's election results became available on the SOS website.
- Electronic voter registration through the SOS website was announced on February 1, 2016, which allowed thousands of Alabamians to register to vote before the March 1<sup>st</sup> presidential primary.
- Several families were honored in the second International Adoption Day celebration on February 5, 2016.
- On February 29<sup>th</sup>, the SOS Office announced the date for the Student Mock Election, which will take place October 25, 2016. If you'd like to recommend a student or class in 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in this year's Mock Election, contact Kayla Farnon at 334-353-7854 or [Kayla.Farnon@sos.alabama.gov](mailto:Kayla.Farnon@sos.alabama.gov).
- On March 21, the SOS Office announced its partnership with Alabama Interactive to provide the State of Alabama's first online voter information request portal. The new portal will provide access to lists and voter history to include County Commission Districts, State House Districts, statewide voter lists, and more.
- On March 7<sup>th</sup>, the office released details concerning the Pre-Filing of Online Domestic LLCs.
- Secretary Merrill honored Robert McCurley, former law instructor at The University of Alabama, first and long-time Director of the Alabama Law Institute, and faithful member of the Revision Commission, with the NASS Gold Medallion Award for his service to the State of Alabama on January 14, 2016.

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**Next Issue:**  
*~Legislative Session 2016*  
*~Election Commission Meeting in California*  
  
Don't miss Volume 2 Issue 2, coming July 2016!

Stay up-to-date with all the latest news from the Alabama Secretary of State's Office.

Secretary Merrill wants to hear from you! Send him an email at [John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov](mailto:John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov).

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