



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

Greetings! I hope everyone had a happy Independence Day and that you are coping well with the summer heat.

Although this year’s session of the General Assembly has ended, efforts to document our legislators’ hard work aren’t finished. In fact, most people are not aware the Legislative Audio Recording Program, which is handled by the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA), continues throughout the year.

The program began nearly 60 years ago when legislators decided they needed to keep records of their meetings for posterity. After a few years of experimenting with different providers and methods, they assigned the project to TSLA’s staff.

While the project initially began with recordings of only Senate and House floor sessions, the program eventually expanded to include more legislative

proceedings, standing committee meetings and other meetings by request. To make the process easier, microphones were installed on the desks in the chambers and long-wearing magnetic tape was used for the recordings.

By 2006, legislators required that all proceedings, including committee meetings and subcommittee meetings, be recorded and archived. That was a great step toward creating greater transparency in state government.

Since some legislative committees meet monthly, TSLA continues to make and store new recordings throughout the year.

The TSLA audio archives staff carefully stores these valuable recordings for researchers, students or anyone who has an interest in them. As with the other library materials, citizens may access these first-hand

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accounts of history in the making. Records from 1955 to the present can be referenced by public act or bill number and the year.

The information that legislative recording and legislative history provides is invaluable. Generations of Tennesseans will have more accurate accounts than are available in news articles or even textbooks. They'll have access to the live testimony and debate given on issues. This is valuable to citizens and the courts in determining legislative intent.

In another step to increase transparency, our Publications Division has posted all of the acts and resolutions from the first session of the 107th General Assembly on our web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/sos/acts/index.htm>.

Tennessee law requires our office to publish the text of all the acts and some – but not all – resolutions

that have been approved by the General Assembly. We have decided to take our responsibility to make these documents accessible a few steps further by scanning in the actual images of the legislation and by publishing all of the resolutions that are passed, not just those we are legally required to publish.

Our office is always trying to find new ways to make government more accessible and transparent. I hope Tennesseans will take advantage of the legislative recording archives and the legislation online to find out more about state government.

As always, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State. Please feel free to contact my office if you have comments or suggestions.

ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION NOW ONLINE

All of the legislation approved this year, during the first session of the 107th General Assembly, is now available online at the Office of Secretary of State web site. These documents – including 510 public acts, 32 private acts and 1,071 resolutions – can be found at:

<http://www.tn.gov/sos/acts/index.htm>.

This is the first year that all resolutions – not just those required by law to be published – are available on the web site.

“The General Assembly worked tirelessly to pass good legislation and to end its work in a timely manner,” said Secretary Hargett. “Our office has also worked quickly to make sure all Tennesseans

have access to these acts and resolutions as soon as possible. Making all of this information available online increases government transparency and keeps citizens informed.”

The online documents are scanned versions of the original documents. Next year, at the end of the second session of the 107th General Assembly, the Tennessee State Library and Archives will store these documents for preservation.

For questions about the online posting of acts and resolutions, contact the Division of Publications at 615-741-2650 or e-mail Richard.Arnold@tn.gov or Cody.York@tn.gov.

“THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORKED TIRELESSLY TO PASS GOOD LEGISLATION AND TO END ITS WORK IN A TIMELY MANNER,” SAID SECRETARY HARGETT.

JUDY BLACKBURN ELECTED CHAIR OF TENNESSEE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

Judy Blackburn, a resident of Morristown, was recently elected to chair the Tennessee State Election Commission. Her term of office continues through May 31, 2012. Ms. Blackburn has been a member of the State Election Commission since May 2009.

“I’m a very patriotic person and believe strongly in the voting process,” said Blackburn. “I have always been more interested in fair and balanced elections than specific candidates.”

The State Election Commission has seven members. These individuals are appointed by members of the General Assembly to four-year terms.

“We congratulate Judy Blackburn on her new position as chair of the Election Commission,” said Secretary Hargett. “I know she will work hard

to ensure safe and fair elections in Tennessee.”

The State Election Commission appoints county election commissioners and works very closely with county election officials throughout the state. 🇺🇸



JUDY BLACKBURN TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE AS A STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER. SHE WAS LATER ELECTED CHAIRMAN BY HER PEERS ON THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION.



A TEAM FROM THE TENNESSEE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED - HUMAN AND CANINE - RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN VISION WALK, A FUNDRAISER THAT SUPPORTS RESEARCH OF DISEASES THAT AFFECT SIGHT.

TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES NEW HOURS, NEW AMENITIES

The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) has changed its hours of operation and is in the process of adding new amenities for visitors. Along with the change in hours, TSLA is now providing access to manuscript collections on Saturdays. Visitors will also soon have a patron lounge where they can take breaks from their research or eat lunch without leaving the building.

TSLA's new hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time. Patrons may still send inquiries to the reference desk any time at reference.tsla@tn.gov.

The change in hours will provide service to users during what have been identified as the peak times. The new lounge area will increase comfort for patrons taking breaks from long days of research. A vending machine and cold storage for lunches are among the amenities planned for the small lounge.

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH), which is located in the TSLA building, remains open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time. It is strongly recommended that LBPH patrons call ahead on Mondays since the rest of the building will be closed.

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

"Although our hours have changed, TSLA will continue to provide a high level of service to its visitors," Secretary Hargett said. "Our research has indicated that we will be open during the times visitors most want us to be. And with the new lounge, it will be a more comfortable experience for visitors while they are here. We're also working hard to accommodate the substantial number of

people who do online research by making more information available through our web site."

"First-class professional reference service is still

a priority for us," added State Librarian Chuck Sherrill. "At the same time, we are constantly adding new online indexes, digital images and resources to the web site for 24/7 access to our collections. Tennesseans who are too far away to visit frequently find these services especially valuable."

The TSLA building is located at 403 7th Avenue North in Nashville, next to the State Capitol building. For questions about TSLA, call (615) 741-2764 or visit <http://www.tn.gov/tsla/>. 

"ALTHOUGH OUR HOURS HAVE CHANGED, TSLA WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE TO ITS VISITORS," SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.

TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) now offers the first historical mapping system of its kind in the nation. The Tennessee Civil War Geographic Information System (GIS) Survey pairs interactive technology with the State Library's extensive archives, showing hundreds of

locations where Civil War battles, engagements, skirmishes and military actions took place.

The survey applies aerial photography, street maps and land use maps to historical records. It also links narrative information about these events from the Tennessee Civil War Sourcebook. Complete

accounts of all the state units that served in the war are searchable by county along with 1860 United States Census data.

The Tennessee Civil War GIS Survey is a project of TSLA and is funded by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service.

“Learning about the Civil War is fundamental for understanding Tennessee history,” said Secretary Hargett. “By linking information from the State Library and Archives with maps, you have the

experience of touring battlefields across the state without ever leaving your home.”

Other TSLA materials used in the project include original documents, photos, historic maps and military unit histories indexed by counties of origin. The Tennessee Civil War GIS Survey builds on efforts of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association and is funded by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. The interactive GIS technology application is now available at http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar_test/. 

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. 

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