



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

It is going to take more than the dog days of summer to slow us down here at the Tennessee Department of State. We have been busy about the people’s business. For me it has meant a busy schedule traveling across the state meeting with legislators, civic groups and promoting libraries and archival efforts.

This has included participating in the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Summer Conference in West Virginia. For those of you who aren’t familiar with the organization, NASS is a professional group with representatives from all 50 states and several U.S. territories. NASS provides forums for its members across the country to share ideas and work together in developing effective public policies.

I am very enthusiastic about several initiatives

NASS will be pursuing over the next couple of years. For example, the group is trying to raise awareness about methods for combating business identity theft, which - like personal identity theft - is a significant problem in our country. Also, NASS will be highlighting laws and best practices states have implemented to make the process of forming a new business as efficient as possible. And, in preparation for next year’s presidential elections, we will be encouraging voter outreach efforts.

Additionally, an event that I found most humbling was my election as treasurer of NASS for 2011-2012. I am honored our new president Secretary Beth Chapman (R-Alabama) asked me to consider serving as treasurer and that my colleagues chose me to serve in this post.

With this new role, I hope to use my increased

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interactions with other NASS members to collect ideas that we can implement to benefit Tennesseans and help state government work better for them.

Once again, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State.

If you have questions or comments about the work our department is doing, please contact my office.



WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA AVAILABLE THROUGH TENNESSEE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY

World Book offers the most well-known encyclopedias ever published. Now everyone in Tennessee has a virtual set, thanks to the Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL).

Through the TEL web site, Tennesseans can access all the reference products available from *World Book*, including a Spanish language edition.

The online product is an expanded version of *World Book's* print encyclopedias. Without the space constraints of the printed page, *World Book* has added more pictures, sound clips and more up-to-date information online.

Developed with education experts, *World Book* includes narrated stories, interactive educational games and printable activities perfect for rainy days. There are also games and activities for beginning readers in the "Early World of Learning" section.

"*World Book* is an excellent resource for students of all ages," said Secretary Hargett. "Because TEL is available to all of our state's

residents for free, I hope many students will use this resource to help make their homework projects easier when school starts this fall."

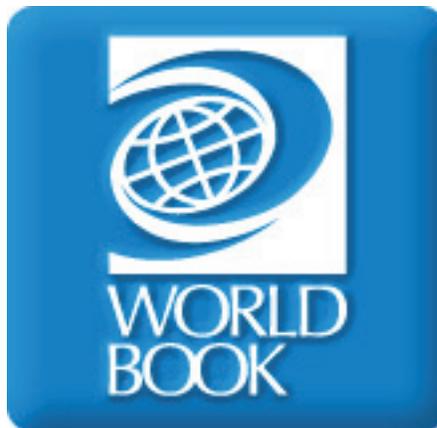
"Just because something is on the Internet, that doesn't mean it's true," said TEL Coordinator Wendy Cornelisen. "However, when people use

World Book, they know they are getting information from a trusted source that is now available anytime, anywhere in Tennessee."

Go to www.tntel.info and click on the *World Book* button to get started.

TEL is funded by the Tennessee General Assembly and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. TEL is administered by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, which is part of the Office of the Secretary of State.

For more information about the resources available through TEL, contact the State Library and Archives at tel.tsla@tn.gov. 



CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE PUBLIC ABOUT PHOTO ID REQUIREMENT FOR VOTING



The Tennessee Department of State has launched a campaign to educate citizens about the new photo identification requirement that will go into effect for elections held in the state after Jan. 1, 2012.

After that date, people who wish to vote will be required to show photo identification when

eligible voter can be impersonated by someone else at the polls. As a voter, I want to know that my ballot counts just the same – no more, no less – as any other eligible voter. Photo IDs help ensure people aren't casting more than one ballot – and that those who are ineligible to vote don't cast ballots at all."

"I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT CITIZENS OF OUR STATE ARE COMFORTABLE WITH THE IDEA OF SHOWING PHOTO IDs IN ORDER TO VOTE – JUST AS THEY MUST DO TO BOARD A PLANE, CASH A CHECK OR PERFORM ANY NUMBER OF ROUTINE ACTIVITIES," SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.

they arrive at the polls. Accepted forms of identification include any photo ID issued by the State of Tennessee - including drivers' licenses - and photo IDs issued by other states or the federal government, including U.S. passports, government employee identification cards and military ID cards.

The law allows people who forget to bring photo IDs to the polls to cast provisional ballots and provide their county election officials with proof of identity within two business days after an election. People who vote absentee are not required to show photo IDs. And people who have religious objections to being photographed may sign oaths acknowledging their identities.

People who can't afford other forms of photo identification may get a state-issued ID, free of charge, at drivers' license offices around the state.

"I believe this new requirement is a common sense step that will increase public confidence in our elections," Secretary Hargett said. "Requiring photo IDs will decrease the chances that an

The Tennessee General Assembly approved the photo ID requirement during this year's legislative session. Sen. Bill Ketron and Rep. Debra Maggart were the prime sponsors of the legislation.

The Department of State includes the Division of Elections, which will be spearheading the outreach effort to citizens. As part of that effort, the Division of Elections has provided local election officials with information about the new requirement that will be distributed to people casting ballots in municipal elections being held around Tennessee this year. Also, information about the new law will be posted on the Department of State's web site.

Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins said those are only two of the many ways the department will be using to get its message out to the public.

"It is very important to us that people understand this new requirement so they are not surprised when they get to the polls next year," Coordinator Goins said. "I am encouraging election officials

and other leaders in Tennessee’s 95 counties to help us spread the word about photo IDs. I invite civic groups and other organizations to contact our office for information that they can distribute to their members – and to invite their county administrator of elections to come to a meeting to explain how the new law will work.”

Secretary Hargett and Coordinator Goins also plan to make the new law a recurring theme during their public speaking appearances around the state.

“I strongly believe that citizens of our state are

comfortable with the idea of showing photo IDs in order to vote – just as they must do to board a plane, cash a check or perform any number of routine activities,” Secretary Hargett said. “A poll conducted this summer by Rasmussen Reports indicated that 75 percent of people across the country support the photo ID requirement – with only 18 percent against it. Other polls have shown even stronger support for photo IDs, so we feel people clearly understand the benefit of making this change in order to help protect the integrity of our elections.” 

SINGER RONNIE MILSAP PROMOTES LIBRARY FOR BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Multiple Grammy Award-winning singer Ronnie Milsap is promoting the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) in a public service announcement that has been distributed to radio stations across the state.

Milsap, whose hit songs include “Smoky Mountain Rain,” “Any Day Now” and “I Wouldn’t Have Missed It for the World,” recently recorded the 60-second spot free of charge. Milsap, who was born with a congenital disorder that caused him to lose his eyesight as a child, has been an LBPH patron for many years.

In the spot, Milsap talks about the wide selection of audio, Braille and large-print books and the new digital players for downloading and playing audio books that are available at the library.

“I am happy to help the Library for the Blind

and Physically Handicapped,” Milsap said. “Reading is not only a great form of entertainment, but it also helps people stay connected to the rest of the world.”

“I WANT TO THANK RONNIE MILSAP FOR HELPING US TO PROMOTE THE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED,” SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.

LBPH is affiliated with the Tennessee State Library and Archives, which is part of the Office of the Secretary of State.

“I want to thank Ronnie Milsap for helping us to promote the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped,” Secretary Hargett said. “The library provides a valuable service to thousands of Tennesseans who are blind or have other physical conditions that make it difficult for them to read standard print books. We need to raise awareness so the library can serve even more people.”

LBPH is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. 

PARKER'S CROSSROADS HOSTS "LOOKING BACK" CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT

Travelers along Interstate 40 can do more than stretch their legs while stopping between Nashville and Memphis: They can also expand their knowledge of Civil War history.

The Tennessee State Library and Archives' (TSLA) exhibit titled "Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee" is now on display in Parker's Crossroads, a historical community along I-40 halfway between the state's two largest cities.

For months, TSLA staff members have been traveling around the state, digitally scanning copies of Civil War era documents and photographing artifacts owned by Tennesseans. The exhibit features a sampling of those documents and photographs.

Some of the featured items belong to residents of Henderson County, where Parker's Crossroads is located.

Bringing the "Looking Back" exhibit to Parker's Crossroads was the inspiration of Steve McDaniel, who in addition to serving as deputy speaker for the state House of Representatives is also a history enthusiast.

"Having this exhibit in Henderson County is a great way to show West Tennesseans how their artifacts were used," said Rep. McDaniel, whose legislative district includes the area. "Hopefully, more people outside of Nashville will be able to see the exhibit and learn about the Civil War."

Parker's Crossroads was the site of a Civil

War battle when Confederate forces led by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest met Union forces led by Gen. Jeremiah C. Sullivan Dec. 31, 1862. Visitors can take self-guided tours of the battlefield site, which now has a bookstore and a new visitors' center where the exhibit is located.



*ASSISTANT STATE LIBRARIAN
ASHLEY BOWERS SPEAKS AT THE
DEDICATION FOR THE PARKER'S
CROSSROADS VISITORS CENTER.*

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

"The 'Looking Back' exhibit has been a great success at TSLA and I'm glad that Rep. McDaniel had an interest in displaying it in his district," said Secretary Hargett. "This is an opportunity for people to view this exhibit while they are at an actual Civil War battlefield."

The visitors' center is located at 20945 Highway 22 North in Parker's Crossroads, at exit 108 on I-40. The center is open from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., seven days a week. The exhibit will remain there through Sept. 30. For more information about the visitors' center, contact Kim Parker at (731) 968-1191. 🌟

CODY RYAN YORK SPEAKS AT NASS SUMMER CONFERENCE

Cody Ryan York, Secretary Hargett's public policy advisor, was one of the featured speakers during the recent National Association of

Secretaries of State (NASS) Summer Conference. York gave a presentation during one of the committee meetings on the use of social media

in state government.

Tennessee has become known to other NASS members for its advanced work in computer applications, web site development and the Twitter social media site to promote news about the department.

York spoke about the different ways the department’s publications division and other

parts of the department are working to put more information online so citizens have expanded access more quickly.

Social media and web development are two of the methods the Office of the Secretary of State is using to distribute information and make doing business with government offices easier. 🌐

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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