

CAPITOL REPORT

News & Updates from Your State Capitol
By Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin



Election Year Gets Underway with New Voter ID Law

The Elections staff is preparing for an election year that begins early and involves new laws.

Act 595 of 2013 requires voters to show photographic identification when voting. The law goes into effect January 1, 2014, and Secretary Martin's administration has worked throughout this year to prepare for the Act's requirements.

Most state- or federally-issued photo identification is acceptable. Arkansas citizens with no form of valid photo identification may obtain a free voter ID card from their county clerk, if they are registered to vote. The ID is valid only for voting.

The Secretary of State's office provided and installed equipment for every county clerk's office to meet the requirements of Act 595. Clerks have received cameras, ID card printers and new voter registration computers. Staff have provided on-site training in each county, with additional training offered at the County Clerks Association's fall conference.

The new requirements will be first implemented in two special elections on January 14: a local Yell County election and the Senate District 21 special general election in Craighead County. Results for the special Senate election can be tracked in near-real time on the Secretary of State's election night reporting page at www.sos.arkansas.gov.

To find more information about the Voter ID law, please check out our unique website at www.faceyourvote.org.

Candidate Filing Season

Candidate filing for the 2014 election cycle begins at noon on Monday, February 24, and continues through noon on Monday, March 3. Filing for judicial candidates will begin and end at 3 p.m. on the same dates. The 2014 election cycle will be the first time that candidates for district judge are required to file with the Secretary of State's office. Candidates for circuit, appellate and state Supreme Court justices have previously done so.



Installing voter ID system in Little River County

Voter Outreach

The Elections division has continued proactive outreach with agencies under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). Public assistance and other agencies are required to offer voter registration. Elections personnel educate and train staff at those agencies and conduct on-site visits. This helps facilitate voter registration requests and ensures that agencies have supplies and documentation needed for NVRA compliance. For a list of agencies where you can register to vote go to: www.bit.ly/ArkVoting.

The Secretary's Minute

Year three of my administration is coming to a close, and much has happened. Preparing for this special season is an excellent opportunity for us to look back at the past several months and prepare for the busy months ahead.

The legislative session produced many new laws, most of which have already gone into effect. One with a major effect on this office and all voters will become effective January 1. Voters will be required to show photo identification before voting. The Legislature created a very broad list of acceptable photo IDs. Learn more at www.faceyourvote.org.

Major renovations occurred at the Capitol during the summer and autumn. The interior of the dome closely resembles its historic appearance after the repairs and fresh paint.

Any time is perfect to visit your State Capitol, but this is my favorite season to show off the building. Christmas decorations are appearing all over the building in preparation for the 75th anniversary Capitol Lighting Ceremony. It will be held at dusk on Saturday, December 7.

See MINUTE continued on page 2

That day is also the 72nd anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, which brought the United States into World War II. The Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance will be held immediately prior to the lighting ceremony. I hope you will join us for both ceremonies: the solemn honor to Arkansas's veterans of that attack and the celebration of traditions and family.

December 9 - 20, school choirs and groups from around the state will be performing Christmas songs in the Capitol Rotunda. Come to the Capitol and hear these enthusiastic young people and the music of the season.

I need to remind businesses of a vital deadline. Franchise taxes must be paid by December 31 to avoid forfeiture of corporate charter. Any business closing must file formal dissolution papers with our office by December 31 to stop accruing franchise taxes.

Early next year, we will hold candidate filing for the midterm elections, and the legislature will meet in fiscal session.

I wish you and yours a joyful Christmas with your friends and family, and a very happy new year. I look forward to what we will accomplish over the coming months.

Mark Martin

Arkansas Secretary of State

Connect with Us!

News & Info

-  sos.arkansas.gov
-  facebook.com/ARSecofState
-  facebook.com/ARStateCapitol
-  twitter.com/ARSecofState

Photos & Videos

-  youtube.com/ArkansasSOS
-  picasaweb.google.com/SOSarkansas

Restorations Bring Century-Old Craftsmanship to Life



A century ago, craftsmen at the Arkansas State Capitol painstakingly carved detailed leaf and flower motifs in the plaster of the interior dome. Dipping fine brushes into more than a dozen paint shades, they highlighted the carving and trim throughout the dome.

Over the next century, the paint faded and was replaced with less attention. And the beauty of the space was forgotten. Restoration this year has reversed that process, and the dome again showcases the original workmanship.

"It has been a lengthy project," Secretary Martin said. "But the dome looks beautiful, and I think all Arkansans will be pleased with the results."

Baldwin & Shell Construction Company began work in late July. For five weeks, in overnight shifts, crews installed scaffolding to reach the top of the inner dome. From the Capitol's second floor, the scaffold rose 112 feet, with two levels of plywood "dance floors." At 25 feet above the Rotunda floor, the first dance floor served as a staging area. The upper platform was 87 feet higher. From there, workers used sections of rolling scaffolding, ranging up to 25 feet in height, to reach into the dome.

Evergreene Architectural Arts of Oak Park, Illinois, sampled paint from each area of the dome — between every rib and every line, down to the bottom layer of paint. These were analyzed and colors recreated to match the dome's 1914 appearance.

Workers peeled, repaired and primed the plaster. The actual painting took roughly 45 days using 16 different shades for the relief work on the trim, background planes, egg-and-dart trim and carved leaves and flowers. Evergreene's painters added decorative glazing to emphasize details, making them more visible. Faux marbling of plaster mimics the marble used elsewhere in the Capitol.

Restoration and scaffolding removal, which was completed in mid-November, was performed at night to avoid disrupting the Capitol's daily business. The result is a stunning panorama of art that visitors can easily see and admire.

"I'm very pleased with the work," Secretary Martin said. "Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the workers this summer, visitors to the Capitol can more easily see the fine craftsmanship original to the building."

Join us December 5, 10 a.m. for the official unveiling!

Window for Franchise Tax Program Closes Dec. 21

Arkansas corporations whose charter was revoked before this year have just a few weeks to return to good standing with the state under a one-time amnesty program. The franchise tax penalty and interest grace period continues through December 31, 2013.

Act 1041 of 2013 was passed to ease repayment of old or forgotten franchise tax. It provides a one-time amnesty for corporations whose charter was "revoked" on or before December 31, 2012. Such entities may pay up to three years of delinquent franchise taxes without penalties or interest.

To qualify for the program, visit www.bit.ly/FTamnesty and download the relevant forms for each filing year. Submit the completed forms and required fees to the Secretary of State's Business and Commercial Services

Division either by mail or in person at 1401 W. Capitol, Suite 250, Little Rock, AR 72201. Online filing for this program is not available.

Last Chance for 2012 Payments

Businesses that did not submit current annual reports and corporate franchise taxes by the May 31 deadline must file by December 31, 2013, or be revoked. Even if a company has closed, franchise fees and penalties will continue to accrue until formally dissolved with the Arkansas Secretary of State. Companies that do not dissolve by December 31, 2013, will also be subject to franchise taxes for the 2014 tax year.

For more information, call (888) 233-0325 or (501) 682-3409 or e-mail corprequest@sos.arkansas.gov.

Choirs, Lights, Santa and a Big Tree!



The lights on the Capitol will go on at dusk during the December 7 lighting ceremony.

The Capitol Lighting Ceremony

Arkansas's holiday season officially begins with the annual Christmas lighting ceremony at the State Capitol on the evening of Saturday,

December 7. Little Rock's Big Jingle Jubilee Holiday Parade will make its way down Capitol Avenue, ending at the State Capitol. The Capitol's festivities begin at dusk.

Combined Ceremonies: Pearl Harbor and Lighting



This year's lighting ceremony coincides with Pearl Harbor Day. The Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance reminds us to stay hopeful for peace, not only during the holiday season, but continually throughout the year.

This ceremony will open the evening activities at the Capitol with a solemn reminder of the service and sacrifice of the survivors and their families.

The Fleet Reserve Association and Natural State Brass Band will lead the Pearl Harbor Remembrance. That ceremony will lead directly into the 75th anniversary of the Capitol's lighting.

Representatives from the Arkansas Easter Seals Society will help Secretary of State Mark Martin illuminate the Capitol with hundreds of thousands of lights outlining the building. The blue lights just above the Capitol's front entrance, spelling "Peace" in honor of Arkansas's veterans of Pearl Harbor, will be lit during the Capitol lighting ceremony. And this year the back of the building will be lit for the first time.

The lighting ceremony concludes with a grand finale of fireworks high above the gleaming Capitol dome. This will be seen across the capital city's sky.

Afterward, families can venture inside the Capitol to discover perfect

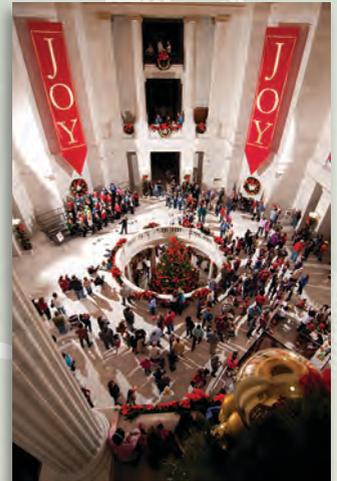


backdrops for family photos. The Top of the Rock Chorus will perform in the rotunda, and the most anticipated man of the holiday season will make an appearance to welcome the children and find out who's been naughty or nice!

Be sure to stop by Santa's Workshop on the Capitol's second floor while in line to see the jolly old elf. Kids will get to sneak a peek into Santa's office, mailroom and assembly line.

Decking the Halls

The Capitol Christmas Tree crowns the Capitol's display again this year, rising from the first-floor rotunda. The tree is scheduled for delivery to the Capitol on December 2. The lights and scenery will remain through New Year's.



Sounds of the Season

Music of the holiday season will flow through the halls of the Capitol during the weeks of December 9 through December 20. Approximately 175 school choirs and dance troupes will perform in the Capitol rotunda during the season. They can be heard each weekday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's a highlight of the season for the performers and State Capitol staff members, as well as the many family members who also make the trip to Little Rock.

Collectible Ornaments

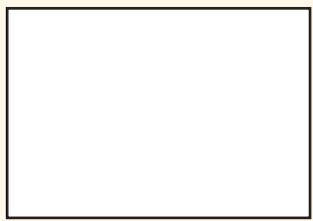
The series of collectible Capitol ornaments continues this year. This year's ornament is an oval depicting the Capitol's dome, dominated by the Arkansas State Flag.

For the second year, a portion of the proceeds from ornament sales will be donated to Arkansas Children's Hospital.

The ornament is available in the Capitol Gift Shop or online, along with previous ornaments in the series.



For a schedule of choir performances, photo galleries and other information, visit our "Holiday 2013" web page at www.sos.arkansas.gov



SECRETARY OF STATE
MARK MARTIN



State Capitol, Suite 256
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

www.sos.arkansas.gov



Use the QR code reader on your mobile device to see the full schedule of Christmas festivities at the Capitol.

Holiday Highlights

- Pearl Harbor Commemoration and Capitol Lighting Ceremony**
Saturday, Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m.
- Festival of Choirs**
Dec. 9-20

Join Us for the 75th Anniversary Capitol Christmas

It can't be Christmastime in Arkansas without its official kick-off event — the State Capitol Lighting Ceremony, which marks its 75th anniversary on Saturday, December 7, 2013.



The tradition began on December 18, 1938, when the Capitol's dome and central pediment first came ablaze with the light of 1,000 red and blue electric bulbs. Just above the Capitol Avenue steps, then-Secretary of State Crip Hall placed a 25-foot evergreen on a turntable, its branches painted silver and illuminated by blue lights.

For this year's celebration, Capitol elves are busy putting the finishing touches on lights and decorations, including some new touches for 2013. It all gets underway with the arrival of the Capitol Christmas tree, slated for December 2. The

annual lighting ceremony begins at dusk on **Saturday, December 7**, following Little Rock's Big Jingle Jubilee Downtown Christmas Parade. Choirs from around the state will then fill the Capitol halls with sounds of the season over the following two weeks.

Whether you come for the lights and fireworks of the lighting ceremony, the music or the wonderful scenery throughout the Christmas season, we look forward to sharing the spirit of the season with you.

Look inside for more details on all the festivities!

