

CAPITOL REPORT

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



Arkansas Preps for Nov. 4 General Election

Now that the May 20 Primary has had its say, the General Election awaits! Candidates and voters now look toward a historic election day, slated for Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Approximately 346,318 Arkansans selected statewide and local candidates for spots on their party's ballot. That equates to about 21 percent of the 1.6 million registered voters in Arkansas that took their vote to the polls.



Voting in North Little Rock during the May 20 Primary

"Statistically, we see about 20 percent turnout for the Primary, so we were pleased to see slightly more than that in the first election since the passage of the voter ID law," Secretary of State Mark Martin said.

A few highly anticipated Primary races may have helped ensure that percentage stayed steady.

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The Secretary's Minute

Just like the summer heat in Arkansas, the work never stops at your State Capitol. From collecting Franchise Taxes, executing a successful primary, to restoring history, this edition of the Capitol Report highlights just a few of the many activities of the Secretary of State's office over the last few months.

I invite you to join us on our journey as we uncover some of the forgotten history of the Capitol. Our latest discovery was found beneath 100 years of paint on the columns in the first floor rotunda. We discovered scagliola, a unique faux marble technique commonly used in the early 1900s. While it is still in the research phase, there are plans to restore the columns to their original finish.

Other projects that are now complete and available for you to see are the Capitol's skylights and the inner dome. The inner dome, with its hand-carved, gold-leaf details, is beautiful to see in its original 1914 splendor. Work is underway to continue the elaborate details over the House of Representatives chamber and, later, the Senate.

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Exhibit Celebrates 75 Years of the Arkansas Livestock Show

In 1938, a group set out to revitalize the fading, inactive state fair. The Arkansas Livestock Show Association aimed to use the fair to help Arkansans rethink farming, as well as to create an occasion of "city and country" coming together. Today's Arkansas State Fair features the time-honored mix of livestock, crafts, food, noise music and fun.

the collections of the State Fair Museum, the exhibit tells the story of the present-day fair and its predecessors, which include events held in Hot Springs, Jonesboro and Little Rock's Fair Park. This year's State Fair will be Oct. 10-19 at the State Fairgrounds in Little Rock.

The State Capitol salutes the Livestock Show Association's 75-year tenure with its summer exhibit, *See You at the Fair*. Created in collaboration with the ALSA and drawing on



See 75 YEARS continued on page 2

I'd like to thank and recognize all the divisions of my office, but especially those who have carried out key obligations over the last few months:

- *First, our Business and Commercial Services Division collected about \$26 million in Franchise Taxes and extended deadlines to businesses in counties affected by April's deadly tornadoes.*
- *Second, the Elections Division ensured a successful Primary Election and Runoff. We have received high praise for our online Election Night Reporting. It offers fast, efficient tallies and reports on voting results as counties report them.*
- *And third, our Capitol Facilities Division diligently performs the many tasks that go into keeping the Capitol standing in its grandeur. The staff oversees everything from the contractors who are restoring the Capitol, to ensuring the Master Plan we created for the Capitol is followed. As an engineer, I know how vital a long-term plan is for identifying maintenance and restoration needs, and, especially, planning for those expenses. The Master Plan outlines a full scope of responsibilities, from major structural projects, to semi-annual duties such as polishing the marble floors, to daily routines such as checking light bulbs, and even hourly tasks such as cleaning restrooms. Planned preventative maintenance is cost-effective; it allows us time to budget and apply for the grants necessary to fund restoration. Nearly \$1.7 million of the \$2 million price tag of restoration so far during my term has come from the Natural Cultural Resources Commission.*

I am proud of all of the divisions of my office and for their service to Arkansas. I, like Secretaries of State before me, strive to be a good steward of the job entrusted to me by the people of Arkansas. It is my pleasure and honor to serve.

Mark Martin
Arkansas Secretary of State

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Led by El Dorado oilman T.H. Barton, the ALSA revived the state fair during the Great Depression to encourage farmers to diversify with livestock, rather than continue to over-rely on staple crops. The intent was serious, but the fair would be fun as well: rodeos, competitions, amusements, "fair food" and celebrity appearances were featured.



See You at the Fair artifacts include:

- Rare photographs
- Prize ribbons,
- Instruments autographed by stars who have at the Fairgrounds' famed Barton Coliseum venue
- The saddle presented to the Fair's Rodeo Queen of 1966
- A muslin horse blanket used to publicize the first fair held in Hot Springs in 1906

The exhibit is on display in the Capitol's first-floor galleries now through Labor Day; building hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

ELECTION, continued from page 1

Both major parties selected their nominees for the race to replace Governor Mike Beebe, who is ineligible for re-election due to term limits. Republican nominee Asa Hutchinson will go up against Democrat Mike Ross, Libertarian nominee Frank Gilbert, and Green Party nominee Josh Drake to be the next Governor of Arkansas.

Leslie Rutledge won the race in the only statewide Primary Runoff Election to be the Republican nominee for Attorney General; she now faces state Rep. Nate Steel, a Democrat from Nashville, Libertarian Party candidate Aaron Cash of Springdale in the General Election. The winner will replace Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, who is term-limited.

Other races nominated their candidates for the General Election, including all four of Arkansas's Congressional seats and one of our Senate seats. Seven of the state's constitutional officers will be elected, including the Lieutenant Governor, which is

currently vacant. Secretary of State Mark Martin encourages voters to learn more about the candidates on the November ballot. For that information, as well as polling sites and how to register to vote, go to our website at www.sos.arkansas.gov.

"Our Elections team works year-round with state and local officials to ensure the integrity of the voting process. Although we would like to see more voters cast their ballots—and we do expect to see that in the General Election—I am proud that the Primary Election went well, and I look forward to the same results November 4th," said Secretary Martin. "We are here to serve Arkansas and to provide education, training and any other tools necessary to empower all 1.6 million registered voters to go to the polls and vote!"

To make your voice heard and your vote count in the General Election November 4, make sure you register to vote by October 6th.

New Website Helps First-time Entrepreneurs

A new website from the Secretary of State makes it easier for first-time business owners to open a business in Arkansas.

DreamItDoItArkansas.com asks entrepreneurs five simple questions about their business. Based on the answers, the site presents a summary of the federal, state and local government requirements for opening a business – including licenses, permits, tax obligations and other documents. Our vision for **DreamItDoItArkansas.com** is to streamline interactions between all Arkansas businesses and government agencies.

The “Dream It Do It” concept celebrates the reasons why people become entrepreneurs and encourages site visitors to follow their dreams. Entrepreneur quotes and an inspirational video welcome

visitors, showcases Arkansas small business owners and make the site feel like a mentor.

Our eGovernment partner Information Network of Arkansas built **DreamItDoItArkansas.com** at no cost to taxpayers and has partnered with the Arkansas Venture Center to help promote the site to the entrepreneurial community.

We want to make this resource as useful as possible, and we want to know what you think of it. Through September 15, please go to **DreamItDoItArkansas.com** and complete a quick feedback survey for a chance to attend an \$800 Arkansas Venture Center Pre-Launch Business Model Validation Course. The course will be held at the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce each Monday from 5:30



to 7:30 p.m. for nine weeks beginning in late September. If you’ve got an idea and want to learn the building blocks of a business or are struggling with your startup, this Pre-Launch program can help you or a budding entrepreneur you may know.

Be sure to visit **DreamItDoItArkansas.com** and share it with any first-time entrepreneurs you know.

Education Team Reaches New Locations, Increases Tours

The summer is among the busiest times of year for the Secretary of State’s Education Team. These past few months, which included Arkansas History Month in May, saw the team travelling around the state to inform teachers of the benefits and resources at their disposal. Additionally the team helped students explore the state symbols of Arkansas and discover the history of our State Capitol through guided tours.

Throughout Arkansas History Month, the team hosted a surge of visitors touring the Capitol. The team conducted 83 scheduled tours during the months of May and June, a 10 percent increase from the same period a year ago.



Education staff conduct a workshop for teachers at the State Capitol in July.

The team also conducted presentations on state symbols in May, reaching about 1,870 students of all ages across Arkansas. Feedback from surveys collected at various presentations has been extremely positive.

“Loved the hands-on activities,” one teacher said, adding that, “the students seemed to enjoy being able to touch and see the different state symbols.”

Nine teacher workshops conducted in June and July reached untapped locations such as De Queen, Branch and Hope. Teachers around the state registered to attend the workshops in order to earn professional development hours and have responded well to the workshop offerings.

“I will definitely be using this resource throughout the year,” said a 3rd grade teacher at from Northeast Arkansas.

“This has been one of the most informative workshops I have been to in a very long time,” said one special education teacher who attended the seminar in June.

The Education Team, which is part of the Communications & Education Division, is currently preparing for the semiannual Young Voters Workshop, which is scheduled for September 16-18 at the Association of Arkansas Counties building.

Two Ballot Issues Submitted for Verification

Two proposed ballot measures initiated by the people were submitted to the Secretary of State for the upcoming General Election: an initiated act to increase the state minimum wage and a constitutional amendment to legalize the sale, manufacture and transportation of alcohol statewide.

After initial verification, both petitions fell short of valid signatures; the minimum wage act fell short by over 15,000 of 62,507 required signatures, and the alcohol amendment was short by over 17,000 of 78,133 required. Each sponsor received a 30-day “cure period” in which to gather and submit additional signatures from registered voters. The deadline for submitting additional signatures was Monday, August 18, 2014.



Election staff checking minimum wage petitions.

To make the Nov. 4 ballot, petition sponsors must file sufficient signatures from at least 15 of the 75 counties across Arkansas. Individual signatures can be disqualified if the signer is not a registered voter, for example. Whole petition pages may be found invalid for issues that could include:

- Page is a photocopy, not an original;
- Not signed by a canvasser (the person gathering signatures);
- A petition part signed by more than one canvasser or not signed under oath;
- Canvasser’s verification dated earlier than the date the petition was signed by a petitioner;
- Problems with notarization, such as lacking a notary seal or proper notary signature;
- Failure to attach a legible copy of the entire text of the measure, popular name and ballot title to each petition sheet containing signatures;
- If either sponsor submits additional signatures, the Secretary of State will verify signatures up to 10 percent above the required number.

In addition to the ballot initiatives proposed by the people, voters will consider three constitutional amendments referred by the General Assembly. These amendments pertain to state agency rules; initiatives and referendum; and ethics, financial reform and term limits for elected officials. Full text of the ballot issues is available online at bit.ly/I-and-R.

Business Fees are Key in Education Funding

About \$3 billion – that is the price tag to educate the 475,000 Arkansas students in public schools every year. With 258 school districts throughout the state, every little bit of funding helps. In 2014, the Secretary of State’s Business and Commercial Services Division has collected close to \$26 million in Franchise Taxes; about \$17 million of that has gone toward meeting the annual cost of school funding.

Every incorporated business, whether domestic or foreign, pays an annual fee to do business in Arkansas. Act 94 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003 increased franchise tax rates and required collections over \$8 million to be deposited into an Education Adequacy Trust Fund.

Franchise taxes are due May 1 each year. After December 31, a business that hasn’t paid the franchise fee may have its corporate charter revoked.

“The minimum franchise tax is \$150, an amount paid by around 80 percent of the state’s businesses,” said Secretary of State Mark Martin. “Since 2011, almost

\$65 million of Franchise Taxes has gone toward the Education Adequacy Fund.”

Once given to the districts, the Education Adequacy Fund helps pay for teachers’ salaries, books, enrichment programs, and anything else needed to provide students with a quality education. That education, in turn, creates a competitive workforce in Arkansas.



Franchise Tax deadline day at Business & Commercial Services.

Capitol Master Plan Outlines Restoration Projects

As you walk up the limestone steps, through the bronze doors and into the marble interior of the Arkansas State Capitol, all you have to do is look up to get a glimpse of what was and what is to come. One of the biggest restoration efforts since the Capitol's completion in 1915 is underway. This endeavor is being coordinated by Secretary of State Mark Martin and executed by the Secretary of State's Capitol Facilities Division.



Paint testing on the first floor.

"The first thing we did was to strengthen the integrity of the building's envelope, to protect the interior from the elements," Secretary Martin said. "This was accomplished by creating a building master plan to ensure all upkeep and restoration efforts are accounted for."

The master plan includes all current and future maintenance needs to be assured the Capitol's expenses are anticipated

"Planned maintenance is much less expensive than last-minute repairs," Martin continued. "We want to make sure our State Capitol remains a historical monument that houses our state government for many decades to come."

With the master plan in place, restoration efforts began with replacing electrical infrastructure. Had it not been replaced, outages could have caused the Capitol to be without power for months. Next were exterior skylights in the Senate and House of Representatives chambers and then the inner dome, which are all now complete. The inner dome was a project of painstaking detail. Secretary Martin sought out and selected a restoration team; a team he could trust to utilize the latest technology to research and analyze minute details. They were able to identify the finishes and

materials applied in 1914 by Fayetteville artist and interior decorator Paul Heerwagen, the Capitol's first decorator.

About \$1.7 million of the total \$2 million dollar restoration price tag was paid with grants from the Natural and Cultural Resources Council. The remaining balance was absorbed by the Secretary of State's budget to ensure the Capitol's projects could be completed.

The expenditures for these recent projects were:

- Interior Dome Restoration, \$864,095.65 (\$800,000 grant-funded)
- Senate Skylight Restoration, \$586,944.84 (\$500,000 grant-funded)
- House Skylight Restoration, \$464,768.87 (\$438,658 grant-funded)

Currently, restoration work is underway in the House chamber, which made it necessary for representatives to convene at the Old State House for a special legislative session in June. Other upcoming projects will be the barrel vaults at entrances to both House and Senate ends of the Capitol. These are corroding and in desperate need of an overhaul. The Senate barrel vault will be completed by November. The office will start the House barrel vault after the new year.



Crews carefully remove the stained glass skylights during restoration of the House of Representatives chamber.

Korean War Veterans Receive Peace Medals

Secretary of State Mark Martin recently hosted a medal presentation ceremony and dinner in honor of Arkansas Korean War Veterans. The event was held July 11 in coordination with the Republic of Korea and the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Six decades ago, more than 54,000 American soldiers died, including 461 Arkansans. More than 103,000 were wounded, and 1,000 are still missing in action. We want all veterans to know their heroic service is not forgotten," said Secretary of State Mark Martin. "I was honored to be a part of the ceremony and proud to see our veterans recognized."

The veterans received Ambassador of Peace medals from South Korean Ambassador Suk-bum Park, the Consul-General for the Republic of Korea's Houston consulate.



SECRETARY OF STATE
MARK MARTIN

State Capitol, Suite 256
500 Woodlane Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

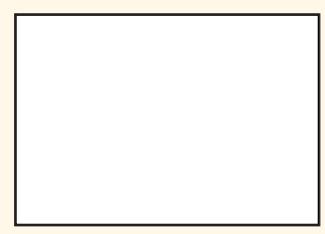
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***Make your voice
heard Nov. 4th!***

Register to vote by Oct 6.

**Use a QR Code app on
your Smartphone or
tablet to check your
voter information.**



The Capitol Abloom



Come see the newest photo exhibit, which recently opened in the Capitol's Lower Level gallery. The images feature the lush colors and textures that bloom around the Capitol grounds each year, as captured by Secretary of State photographers Lori McElroy, Victor Coates and Danny Harris. *The Capitol Abloom* will be on display through November.