



# 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.

### VOTER PHOTO ID LAW PASSES MAJOR TEST

#### *From the Secretary's Desk*

The results from Tuesday's election are in – and Tennessee's voter photo identification law has proven to be a huge success.

Almost 625,000 Tennesseans participated in Tuesday's presidential primary elections. Those elections were the first statewide test for the photo ID law approved by the General Assembly last year.

Thanks to the hard work and preparation by our Division of Elections, there were no major problems related to the implementation of the law. In fact, there were hardly any issues at all.

I'm happy to report that all but a tiny fraction of voters (a few hundredths of one percent of the total) came

to the polls with proper identification. Those without photo IDs were allowed to cast provisional ballots, and then return to their local election commission headquarters within two working days with proof of their identities in order to have their ballots counted.

While I'm pleased with the way the election was conducted, I'm not surprised. Over the last few months, Division of Elections staff members were involved in producing and distributing more than 1 million pieces of literature, organized town hall meetings in all 95 counties and made countless appearances across the state to train county election officials and inform citizens about the new law. They also forged partnerships with groups such as AARP, Tennessee

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Disability Coalition, and Tennessee Farm Bureau, which were instrumental in extending the outreach of our efforts.

That work paid off. According to a poll released by Middle Tennessee State University last week, 83 percent of Tennesseans said they were aware of the new law – a significant increase from the 71 percent who said they were aware in MTSU’s poll last fall.

MTSU’s poll also demonstrated the broad public support for the law. Eighty two percent of poll participants said they were in favor of the law, with only 11 percent against. That clearly demonstrates that this is not a partisan issue. This widespread support could not be achieved unless Republicans, Democrats and independents favored the law.

Turnout was also strong in comparison to the 2004 presidential primary, the last year only one political party had a contested race. In 2004, slightly fewer than 470,000 voters participated.

It was great to see Tennesseans playing such an important role in this year’s presidential primaries. In many years past, the presidential primary contests were decided before our citizens got a chance to vote. This year, however, national media repeatedly described Tennessee as one of the key states the candidates needed to win on Super Tuesday.

We realize, of course, that our work is not over. There will be other elections, including the presidential general election in November. We will continue to work hard to make sure our elections are fair and properly conducted.

As always, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State. If you have questions or comments, please don’t hesitate to contact my office.

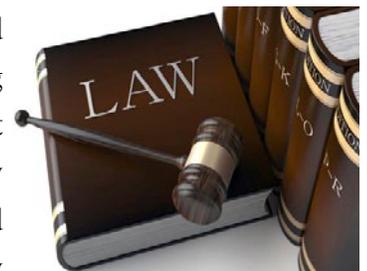
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## UT LAW SCHOOL HOSTED ADMINISTRATIVE LAW FORUM

Law students and faculty at the University of Tennessee – College of Law were treated to an administrative law forum and docket day with guest Thomas G. Stovall, director of the Secretary of State’s Administrative Procedures Division and Chief Administrative Judge.

On Feb. 6, Judge Stovall joined College of Law professor Wendy Bach and three other attorneys to discuss the practice of administrative law. On Feb. 7, Judge Stovall presided over an entire docket of Department of Safety forfeiture cases dealing with the seizure of property by local law enforcements agencies for violations of the drug control and DUI statues. Numerous law students and faculty members were observers at both events.

“Attending the Administrative Docket Day was a unique learning experience,” second year law student Carlos Yusnan said. “My concept of administrative law prior to this day consisted of a world filled with boring rules and regulations pertaining only to government agencies. This view radically changed after observing a few of the cases before the court.”



Judge Stovall also met with the students and answered questions both about the practice of

administrative law in Tennessee as well as potential employment opportunities that may exist for new lawyers.

“Overall, this experience provided me with a new perspective on the scope of administrative law and on the issues that arise for defendants who are not represented or familiar with civil and criminal systems,” Yusnan said.

The Administrative Procedures Division provides professional administrative judges to resolve disputes between citizens and governmental agencies in an impartial manner. Last year, more than 12,000 contested cases were docketed or scheduled. 🇺🇸

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## TENNESSEE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT HIGHLIGHTS STATE’S AUTO INDUSTRY



With nearly 900 companies and more than 100,000 employees, auto manufacturers, suppliers and parts retailers make up a large segment of Tennessee’s economy. In March, the Secretary of State’s office is highlighting five of these businesses in its Tennessee Business Spotlight.

The Tennessee Business Spotlight is a new program featured on the Secretary of State’s web site that highlights selected companies with overviews of their products and operations including employment figures, photos, and links to their Internet and social media sites. March’s theme is “Tennessee - Wheels in Motion.”

The highlighted companies are:

- **AutoZone** of Memphis
- **Bill Gatton Automotive Group** of Bristol
- **General Motors Spring Hill Manufacturing**
- **Toyota-Bodine Aluminum Tennessee** of Jackson
- **Volkswagen Chattanooga**

“We are very fortunate in Tennessee to host many automotive manufacturers and their related suppliers, as well as the companies involved in selling and supporting the products in the after-market category,” Secretary Hargett said. “These organizations have a dramatic economic impact on our state and employ thousands of Tennesseans. We are proud to showcase them in our Tennessee Business Spotlight program to recognize and share how these businesses create jobs and help drive our state’s economy.”

To view the Tennessee Business Spotlight, go to [www.spotlight.tnsos.net](http://www.spotlight.tnsos.net).

To nominate a company to be recognized in Tennessee Business Spotlight, please visit the web page and click the “Suggest a Business” link or call (615) 532-5605. 🇺🇸

## ONLINE EXHIBIT SHOWCASES TENNESSEE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

A new online exhibit in the Tennessee Virtual Archive (TeVA) highlights the architectural history of the Tennessee School for the Deaf in Knoxville. This digital exhibit features images of the unique buildings on the historic Tennessee School for the Deaf campus, many of which were designed in the 1920s by noted architect Thomas Scott Marr. Marr, who was deaf himself and a graduate of the school, founded the prominent Nashville architectural firm Marr and Holman.

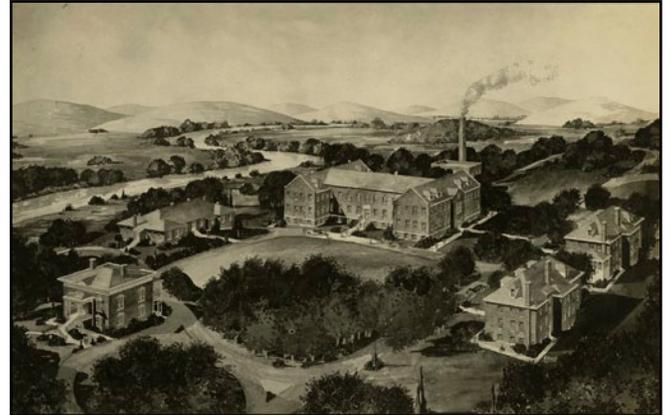
The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) has a special connection with the School



*THOMAS SCOTT MARR*

for the Deaf as a partner in the Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program. This

service, which operates from the Nashville Public Library, serves all Tennesseans. Among the services offered are an extensive library of books about hearing issues, assistive devices for loan and testing, accessible children's programming and access to video relay services. See the web site



*TENNESSEE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF IN KNOXVILLE.*

for more information: <http://www.tn deaflibrary.nashville.gov/>

As with other TeVA digital collections, the photographs, sketches, and postcards that make up the Tennessee School for the Deaf exhibit are pieced together from a number of TSLA's manuscript collections. This new digital collection can be accessed on the web at: <http://teva.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15138coll11>. 

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## BUSINESS ANNUAL REPORTS DUE APRIL 1

Businesses across the state with fiscal years that end December 31st have until April 1 to file their annual reports with the Secretary of State's Business Services Division. In December 2011, the division mailed more than 162,000 letters to business entities reminding them of the deadline. As of March 5th, more than 114,000 of these businesses still had not filed their annual reports.

The process of filing an annual report can be completed online at <http://tnbear.tn.gov/AR>.

In addition, people who have questions or need further assistance may contact the division by e-mail at [Business.Services@tn.gov](mailto:Business.Services@tn.gov) or by telephone at (615) 741-2286. 

## MEET DIBORA BULT

With two young sons, the Bult family of Nashville didn't need to celebrate birthdays with Barbie birthday cakes. That changed last spring, though, when Ryan and Teresa Bult adopted their daughter Dibora from Ethiopia.

Dibora's father was a Muslim who converted to Christianity, then began evangelizing and preaching Christian principles around Ethiopia. When he died from a disease, Dibora's mother tried the best she could to care for Dibora and her four-year-old brother before eventually deciding to send Dibora to an orphanage.

Dibora's mother told orphanage workers: "I want a better life for Dibora, in an orphanage or an adoptive family."

She got her wish.

A little more than a year ago, the Bults received a call from their adoption agency, All God's Children, saying the family had a referral.

"Ryan and I were in Atlanta when we received the call," Teresa said. "We pulled into the parking garage, went up to the hotel, got online and looked at her. Immediately we sent the documentation to an international pediatrician."

When the family met Dibora for the first time, she immediately hit it off with the Bults. Well, almost immediately.



*THE BULT FAMILY MEETS DIBORA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ETHIOPIA*

"My oldest son peeked around the corner and said 'I see her, I see her,'" Teresa said. "We gathered together as a family and walked through the gate where she was playing with a fire truck. On first glance, she ran away.



*THE BULT FAMILY*

"She came back and sat on my lap, which was really sweet, but she still looked at us like we were crazy," Teresa continued. "She played with our boys, which was very sweet as well."

The Bults needed to return to the United States before bringing Dibora back, due to Ethiopian adoption regulations. Four weeks later, Teresa and Ryan headed back to Ethiopia for their "gotcha" date - that time to bring their little girl home.

"On our way back, we had an eight hour layover in Washington D.C. and we hung out and played," Teresa said. "It was very interesting to see the transition with her personality – she became more

outgoing, jumping all over and being goofy, not the shy girl we knew at all.”

When they returned to the Nashville airport, Dibora was welcomed by 20 or 30 of the Bults’ family and close friends.

“She was very excited and began playing with everybody,” Teresa said. “Any worry we had completely left us. She was having a blast.”

Though the adoption agency prepared the Bults for the worst case scenarios with training courses and home studies, nearly everything about being in the United States has been exciting to Dibora.

“We have had a few ah-ha moments with her as any parent would with the challenges of parenting,” Teresa said. “For the most part, though, she has jumped right into every situation. Her first time at a swimming pool, she just jumped right in thinking she could swim. When Christmas rolled around, it was like she had always been with our family.”

On February 1, the Bults celebrated Dibora’s third birthday, Barbie cake and all.

“Dibora fits like a glove into our family,” Teresa said. “She’s the puzzle piece to our family that we never knew we were missing,” Teresa said.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LAWSON (8), DIBORA (3) RYDER (10)

International adoptions in Tennessee require an apostille or authentication by the Tennessee Secretary of State’s office. For more information on document authentication, call (615) 741-0536 or go to [http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/apostilles.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm).

“This service is one that is not necessarily associated with state government, but one that makes a very positive impact on not only families’ lives, but also the young children who are adopted by loving families here in Tennessee,” Secretary Hargett said. “We are proud to offer this service to Tennesseans.” 🌟

## INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

Some people may have the impression that the only thing state employees do is push paper around. This story is an example of how state employees positively impact Tennessean’s lives and the lives of children worldwide. International adoptions require an apostille or authentication, depending on the nation of origin, by the secretary of state in the state where the documents were signed. This certification of the signatures’ validity on the documents is much like the notary publics would be on the local level. Apostilles/authentications are processed in the Secretary of State Division of Business Services. Over 12,100 apostilles and authentications were processed last year.

Documents may be submitted by mail or in person.

For more information, contact: Division of Business Services, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Snodgrass Tower, 6th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243, 615.741.0536, [business.services@tn.gov](mailto:business.services@tn.gov), or visit [http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/apostilles.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm)

## PLAN TO VISIT THE CAPITOL?

Every legislative session, many chambers of commerce, youth organizations and other groups visit the Capitol to discuss important issues and to learn more about state government. In the past, some groups have expressed interest in hearing from Secretary Hargett or a representative of his office.

“It is always a privilege to meet with citizens, especially when they have made the extra effort to visit the Capitol to engage our civic process,” Secretary Hargett said. “Tennesseans deserve to know what’s going on in state government and the different facets of state government and I am happy to talk with them about the unique and important work we do.”

Secretary Hargett and his staff have already been busy this legislative session, speaking at events and with numerous leadership groups at the Capitol. These include:

- Bedford County Leadership and Youth Leadership
- Chester and Henderson Leadership
- Dyer County Leadership
- Gibson County Leadership
- Hardin County Youth Leadership
- Lawrence County Leadership
- Leadership Middle Tennessee
- Millington Leadership
- Robertson County Leadership
- Tennessee Disability Coalition
- Tennessee PTA 2012 “Students Storm the Hill”
- Weakley County Leadership and Youth Leadership
- WestStar Leadership
- Wilson County Leadership and Youth Leadership

If you would like for Secretary Hargett to speak to your group about the office’s operations when you’re visiting the Capitol, please call (615) 741-2819 to schedule a time. 



# 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 Cody York at 615-741-2650 or email him at: [Cody.York@tn.gov](mailto:Cody.York@tn.gov). 

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