



# 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

As this month begins, the legislature has been picking up speed and moving toward what most observers believe will be a late May adjournment. That may be more likely since the economy appears to be on the mend and the State Funding Board recently set revenue growth estimates that include marginal improvement over last spring’s projections. (see story on page 4) These new expectations will allow Governor Bill Haslam to avoid making significant reductions to the budget he proposed earlier this year.

To further aid our long-term economic prospects, Governor Haslam and Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) Commissioner Bill Hagerty unveiled Jobs4TN, the administration’s job growth strategy in an [April media release](#). According to the announcement, the Jobs4TN plan focuses on:

- Prioritizing the strategic recruitment of target industries;

- Assisting existing Tennessee businesses in expansions and remaining competitive;
- Supporting regional and rural economic development strategies; and
- Investing in innovation and reducing business regulation.

While Tennessee has been fortunate to welcome several new companies to the state in recent years, Commissioner Hagerty points out that in 2010 nearly 86 percent of the job growth in Tennessee could be attributed to expanding companies already located in Tennessee and an additional 13.2 percent came from newly-created businesses, which means a meager 1.2 percent came from business relocations to Tennessee. This information and more can be found on the ECD web site. See the Department of Economic and Community Development: [Jobs4TN](#) Plan, dated April 20, for more information. As I have traveled

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our great state meeting with professional and civic groups and chambers of commerce, many business owners have asked me, “Why doesn’t the state do more to help those of us who are already here?” I believe this new comprehensive approach can and will yield great dividends for our economy and Tennessee’s future. I applaud Governor Haslam and Commissioner Hagerty for their judicious and proactive approach to creating jobs.

Now in my third legislative session as Tennessee’s Secretary of State, I continue to be impressed with the commitment and dedication exemplified by the members of our legislature. While what most Tennesseans see are 15-second

clips on the evening news or brief newspaper articles regarding the news of the day, they don’t get to see the earnest discussions legislators have about government’s role in the progress of our state and their aspirations for future generations.

These legislators spend months away from their families, friends and primary vocations in their efforts to build a better Tennessee. I hope as you see them in your community, you will thank them for their service.

And I thank you for the privilege of serving as your Secretary of State. Please call me if I can ever be of assistance.

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## GIVE WITH CAUTION WHEN HELPING STORM VICTIMS

April brought tremendous storm damage to Tennessee and surrounding states. In the wake of this tragedy, many Tennesseans may want to help by giving their time or money. Secretary Hargett advises people to use caution when donating money to those claiming they will provide help to storm victims.

“Tennesseans are very generous people who want to help when disasters like this occur,” Secretary Hargett said. “Unfortunately, there are corrupt individuals and organizations who may try to take advantage of that generosity. Before making charitable contributions, would-be donors should try to learn as much as they can about individuals and organizations who claim to be raising money for relief efforts.”

Secretary Hargett recommends researching charities before making donations, paying by check instead of giving out credit card numbers and asking lots of questions.

“We urge everyone who suspects a charity of fraudulent activity to call the Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming,” said Todd Kelley, the head of the division. “We want to help ensure that donations made to charitable causes actually reach the people they are

*“TENNESSEANS ARE VERY GENEROUS PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP WHEN DISASTERS LIKE THIS OCCUR,” SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.*

intended to help.” The Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming, which is part of the Office of the Secretary of State, is authorized to investigate and impose civil penalties against individuals or groups who engage in fraudulent or misleading fundraising activities.

Information on registered charities, including their annual financial reports, is available on the Secretary of State’s web site at: [www.state.tn.us/sos/charity](http://www.state.tn.us/sos/charity). To obtain information about charities by telephone or to report suspicious activity, call the Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming at (615) 741-2555.

## FREE PRACTICE TESTS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE TENNESSEE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY

There seems to be a test for everything these days. Students and people who are changing careers are especially challenged with stressful - at times overwhelming - required tests. The Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) can help. TEL is available to everyone in Tennessee and provides the tools needed to prepare for a variety of exams and take studying to the next level.

One of the features available in TEL is Learning Express Library, an online collection of study guides, practice tests and math and reading improvement courses. These exams and courses can be taken at any time. They are timed and structured to simulate an actual test-taking experience, but there's no waiting for the results in the mail. Exams are scored instantly and offer personalized recommendations on future study needs.



“Students of all ages face challenges in preparing for their future,” said Secretary Hargett. “Success in education begins with preparation. The resources available through TEL show students

what to expect and how to prepare for and excel at academic challenges.”

TEL is administered by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, which is part of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Some practice tests available through TEL include:

- GED
- AP & CLEP
- ACT & SAT
- GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT
- PRAXIS I & II
- CDL
- ASVAB

To take advantage of the LearningExpress Library’s collection, look for the “Test Prep” prompt at [www.tntel.info](http://www.tntel.info) or visit a local library for free Internet access and instructions. Create a personal username and password to track scores and results, then start preparing for the future today!

The Tennessee Electronic Library is funded by the Tennessee General Assembly and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information about the resources available through TEL, e-mail: [tel.tsla@tn.gov](mailto:tel.tsla@tn.gov). 



SECRETARY HARGETT RECENTLY PRESENTED A MEDALLION AWARD TO THE YMCA'S YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. ACCEPTING THE AWARD ON BEHALF OF THE PROGRAM WERE: (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) FORMER GOVERNOR WINFIELD DUNN, A MEMBER OF THE YMCA FOUNDATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE'S BOARD, TAYLOR NORTON, A BRENTWOOD ACADEMY STUDENT WHO SERVED AS GOVERNOR IN A MOCK SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SEAN MCGUIRE AND COLLIN BARRETT, ALSO YMCA BOARD MEMBERS. MEDALLION AWARDS ARE GIVEN TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS THAT HELP PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION, VOTER PARTICIPATION AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

## STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS RE-APPOINTED

Seven election commissioners were recently re-appointed to new terms during a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly. The following commissioners will serve new four-year terms:

- Judy H. Blackburn of Morristown, a Republican who has served since June 2009
- Tom DuBois of Columbia, a Republican who has served since March 2009
- Greg Duckett of Memphis, a Democrat who has served since May 2007
- Tommy Head of Clarksville, a Democrat who has served since May 2007
- James H. Wallace Jr. of Jackson, a Republican who has served since May 1995
- Tom Wheeler of Clinton, a Democrat who has served since February 1992
- Kent D. Younce of LaFollette, a Republican who has served since June 2009



The State Election Commission appoints county election commissioners throughout Tennessee and oversees their activities and performance.

State election commissioners also work closely with the state Coordinator of Elections and the Division of Elections staff to ensure that elections are fairly and properly conducted. The Division of Elections is part of the Office of the Secretary of State.

“I am impressed with the work the State Election Commission has done since I took office,” Secretary Hargett said. “I believe the General Assembly made a very wise decision in re-appointing these commissioners to new terms. Our Division of Elections will work with them to continue to ensure the integrity of elections in all 95 counties.” 🇺🇸

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## STATE FUNDING BOARD SETS REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR

Based on some encouraging economic signs, the Tennessee State Funding Board is projecting modest growth in state revenues for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Last month, the board estimated that overall state

revenues will grow between 3.10 and 3.35 percent for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The board projected that the growth rate for the general fund balance will be from 3.40 to 3.70 percent above the current fiscal year’s estimated

general fund balance, which funds the largest portion of state government expenses.

For the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, the board projected that overall state revenues will be between 3.90 and 4.15 percent higher than the prior year's revenues.

The board's projections represent its consensus on the revenue forecast. Prior to reaching consensus, board members heard presentations from economists, all of whom forecast some improvement in the economy in the months ahead.

Board members, including Secretary Hargett, cited recent increases in sales tax collections as one clear sign the state's revenue picture is improving.

The board's revenue estimates are used by the governor, members of the General Assembly and their staffs for budget planning purposes.

In addition to Secretary Hargett, members of the Funding Board are Governor Bill Haslam, Comptroller Justin P. Wilson, Treasurer David H. Lillard Jr. and Finance and Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes. 🇺🇸

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## TECHNOLOGY GRANTS FOR RURAL LIBRARIES

More than 70 communities across Tennessee are receiving grants to upgrade technology at rural libraries.

These grants are the product of a partnership between the Office of the Secretary of State and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. State funds and the capacity of the Tennessee State Library and Archives to manage the program were leveraged to secure additional funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development as a match to the corresponding local communities. This was done in a quest to strengthen rural communities by developing libraries.

The libraries will receive state funds totaling more than \$1 million.

"Libraries in rural areas play an especially important role in connecting citizens with the resources and opportunities that are oftentimes isolated to urban areas," said Secretary Hargett. "These grants will go a long way toward providing vital access to computers and the Internet, which is particularly helpful in some of the areas that were hit the hardest by the recession."

Grants may be used to cover costs for computer equipment, new training, educational opportunities, Internet access and other enhancements.



*SECRETARY HARGETT AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE CAMERON SEXTON PRESENT A GRANT CHECK TO SUSIE RANDLEMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE ART CIRCLE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN CROSSVILLE.*

These grants will help rural communities get access to information on employment opportunities, job training, small business development and education. Libraries are a reliable resource for those who cannot get an Internet connection or afford a home computer. 🇺🇸

## MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURE



The Department of State's offices, including the Tennessee State Library and Archives, will be closed on Monday, May 30 to observe Memorial Day. This closure is consistent with the practices of other state and federal offices. If you need to conduct business with the department, please plan accordingly.

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Blake Fontenay, Constitutional Officers'  
Communications Director  
615-253-2668

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### **Secretary of State**

Tre Hargett  
Penny Shelton, Executive Secretary  
615-741-2819

### **Administrative Procedures**

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