

Dear Michigan Motorcyclist:

More and more motorcyclists are out on the Michigan roadway enjoying the ride. Whether motorcyclists ride to enjoy the scenic beauty of our state or for the economical advantages that motorcycles offer, the interest in motorcycling is clearly on the rise. Consider that in 2009, there were about 540,000 endorsed riders in the state. By 2011, that number had grown by 20,000. Let's make sure that motorists and the growing number of motorcyclists alike are sharing the road.



Secretary of State Ruth Johnson leads the way to the 2011 motorcycle safety news conference at the State Capitol.

As part of this effort to make Michigan roadways as safe as possible, I am pleased to present this latest edition of the *Michigan Motorcycle Operator Manual*. This booklet will help you obtain your motorcycle endorsement if you are a novice rider or sharpen your riding skills if you're a veteran rider. About 80 percent of all motorcycle crashes result in injury or death to the motorcyclist. As you will discover when reading this manual, three of the most important actions you can take to keep yourself safe on a motorcycle are to get endorsed, wear the proper safety gear and respect the ride.

Besides offering you this motorcycle manual, the Secretary of State's Office oversees the Michigan Motorcycle Safety Program. Our safety program has 29 training providers, 60 training sites and more than 160 instructors. Since 2004, more than 95,000 riders have been trained in a safety course. To continue to meet the increasing demand for classes, we are expanding the number of training sites offering the Advanced Rider Course and adding new training bikes to the program. More information about the motorcycle safety program is found at www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Please know that in addition to being your secretary of state, I'm also a fellow rider. I bought my first motorcycle when I was a teenager and have loved riding ever since. I encourage motorcyclists and motorists alike to join with me in promoting greater safety on the road by being properly licensed and endorsed, never driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and obeying all traffic laws.

Sincerely,

Ruth A. Johnson
Secretary of State