



Michigan Department of State

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson

About the department...

The Department of State is the oldest department within Michigan state government and is administered by the secretary of state, the third-ranking official in the state, after the governor and lieutenant governor. The department has contact with more Michigan residents than any other state agency. Michigan, along with Maine and Illinois, is one of three states where the secretary of state is responsible for elections as well as vehicle registrations and the licensing of drivers.

Secretary of State



Secretary of State Ruth Johnson is Michigan's 42nd secretary of state.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson was elected in 2010 to a four-year term. She serves as the chief motor vehicle administrator and chief election officer for the state's nearly 10 million residents and is a member of the executive branch of government. Approximately 1,500 employees work for the department.

Johnson has improved customer service by putting more services online at ExpressSOS.com where over one million

transactions were completed in the site's first six months, reducing lines at branch offices. During her first year in office, Johnson introduced her Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) initiative, a comprehensive plan to help ensure integrity in elections through stronger campaign finance laws, new policies and the expanded use of technology. Under Johnson's leadership, Michigan has added nearly one million names to its organ donor registry thanks in large part to public awareness efforts within branch offices and a partnership with Gift of Life Michigan and the Michigan Eye-Bank.

In fiscal year 2012, the Michigan Department of State collected \$2 billion in revenue, with 93 percent going to roads, education and the state's General Fund.

Secretary of State Facts and Figures

- 30 million vehicle records
- 10 million vehicle registrations; 907,000 watercraft registrations
- 7.45 million registered voters (November 2012)
- 131 Secretary of State branch offices
- 50,000 branch office transactions per day
- 524,000 people joined Michigan's organ donor registry in 2012, an increase of 64.5 percent over 2010, the year prior to the current campaign

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Primary Duties

- Statewide authority over election processes and election integrity
- Oversight of vehicle records and the processing of vehicle and watercraft registrations (Michigan is among the top three states for boat registrations)
- Administration of driver education and motorcycle safety programs
- Management of the state's official repository of records
- Document certification as Keeper of the Great Seal and management of the notary public program
- Administration of traffic safety programs
- Responsible for Michigan's Organ Donor Registry

