Secretary of State  
July 2017  

Agency Overview - Highlights  
For the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

Secretary of State  
Corey Stapleton (R), statewide elected official, 4-year term expires January 1, 2021.  
Contact info: 444-2827, Corey.Stapleton@mt.gov

Website:  
http://sos.mt.gov/

Agency Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elections</th>
<th>Business services</th>
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<tr>
<td>• The secretary of state is the chief election officer of the state.</td>
<td>• Files and maintains records of secured financial transactions, such as liens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Maintains uniformity in the application, operation, and interpretation of the election laws and in the use of voting systems.</td>
<td>• Reviews, maintains, and distributes public-interest records of businesses and nonprofit organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provides advise and training.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Maintains public election records.</td>
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Records management  
• Maintains official records of the executive branch and of the acts of the legislature and keep the great seal.

• Attest to the governor's signature on executive actions.

Business services  
• Files and maintains records of secured financial transactions, such as liens.

• Reviews, maintains, and distributes public-interest records of businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Other  
• Files administrative rules adopted by state agencies.

• Serves on the state Board of Land Commissioner s and the Board of Examiners.

• Serves on the Capital Finance Advisory Council.

• Commissions notaries public.
Agency Overview - Highlights

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Programs, FTE, and Not Budgeted Funding - 2019 Biennium

Source: Legislative Fiscal Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>FTE</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>State Special</th>
<th>Federal Revenue</th>
<th>Proprietary</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total Funding</th>
<th>% General Fund</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Government Services (covers all divisions)</td>
<td>54.50</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$12,122,625</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$12,122,625</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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Budget Summary

- The Secretary of State's Office (SOS) is funded entirely through non-budgeted proprietary funds, which are not included in HB 2. These proprietary funds are derived from fees charged by the office for services, document sales, etc., as authorized in statute.

- Any available federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds will be expended by the end of FY 2017.

Administratively Attached Agencies

- Commissioner of Political Practices
- Board of Canvassers

Statutory Advisory Councils:

- None

Statutorily Required Reports:

- Uniform Commercial Code Secured Transactions Report (amended in 2013 to no longer be required unless there are changes to the relevant uniform code rules) 30-9A-527, MCA.

Most Recent Legislative Audits

- Financial-Compliance Audit, For Two fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2016 - 16-19
  No recommendations.

Election Bills That PASSED During 2017 Session

* denotes By Request of SAVA
** denotes By Request of SOS

- HB 83* - Bennett - Generally revise election laws
- HB 87** - Swanson - Transfer jury list duties from secretary of state to court administrator
- HB 103** - Custer - Generally revise election laws - administrative cleanup
- HB 282 - Cuffe - Grant county commission authority to correct certain election results
- HB 287 - Bennett - Revise absentee ballot list confirmation laws
- HB 388 - G. Hertz - Revise voter qualification & designation in irrigation district elections
- HB 405 - Cook - Generally revise laws applicable to local government
- HB 447 - R. Fitzgerald - Authorize cancellation of local uncontested general elections by

Compiled by Sheri Scurr, Research Analyst
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municipalities
- **SB 163** - Regier - Revise election judge qualifications
- **SB 178** - Swandal - Revise when a primary must be held for county nonpartisan offices
- **SB 274** - Buttrey - Revise and clarify special purpose district election laws
- **SB 352** - Olszewski - Referendum on prohibition of ballot collection by certain individuals

**Election Bills That FAILED During 2017 Session**

** denotes By Request of SOS
- **HB 51** - Custer - Authorize online voter registration
- **HB 86** - Swanson - Authorize youth election judges
- **HB 155** - G. Hertz - Eliminate election day as state holiday
- **HB 212** - Essmann - Ballot Interference Prevention Act to restrict ballot collection
- **HB 357** - Skees - Generally revise laws related to strengthening voter identification
- **HB 371** - Bennett - Allow late registrant absentee ballots to be dropped off at polling locations
- **HB 394** - Curdy - Adopt national popular vote bill
- **HB 397** - Custer - Revise polling place hours
- **HB 305** - S. Fitzpatrick - Specify how election to fill U.S. representative vacancy may be conducted
- **HB 448** - R. Fitzgerald - Allow counties to ask voters to approve nonpartisan or partisan elections
- **HB 525** - Funk - Authorize automatic voter registration
- **HB 532** - Abbott - Establish online voter registration
- **HB 636** - Hamlett - Revise election laws for supreme court justices
- **HJR 33** - Bennett - Interim study resolution on election system modernization
- **SB 256** - Brown - Revise school district election laws
- **SB 297** - J. Hinkle - Generally revise laws related to voters in school district elections
- **SB 301** - Brown - Revise federal office holder state vacancy and appointment laws
- **SJR 7** - Brown - Resolution to encourage an amendment to U.S. constitution to allow temporary appointment to fill vacancy is U.S. House

**SAVA Study Areas Since 2013**
- Study on combining elections, 2013-14 interim (SJR 14)
  - Resulted in SAVA general revision bill to standardize and simplify statutes concerning administrative dates and deadlines for special district and local elections (HB 84)
  - 2017 follow-up clean-up bill (HB 83)

**Hot Topics of 2017 Session**
- Special election for U.S. Representative (to replace Rep. Ryan Zinke)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/title</th>
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<td>Corey Stapleton - Secretary of State</td>
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