

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

Elections

- The secretary of state is the chief election officer of the state.
- Maintains uniformity in the application, operation, and interpretation of the election laws and in the use of voting systems.
- Provides advise and training.
- Maintains public election records.

Records management

- Maintains official records of the executive branch and of the acts of the legislature and keep the great seal.
- Attests 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.

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Programs, FTE, and Not Budgeted Funding - 2019 Biennium

Source: Legislative Fiscal Division

Programs	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Revenue	Proprietary	Other	Total Funding	% General Fund
Business & Government Services (covers all divisions)	54.50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,122,625	\$0	\$12,122,625	0.00%

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

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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 in 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](#))

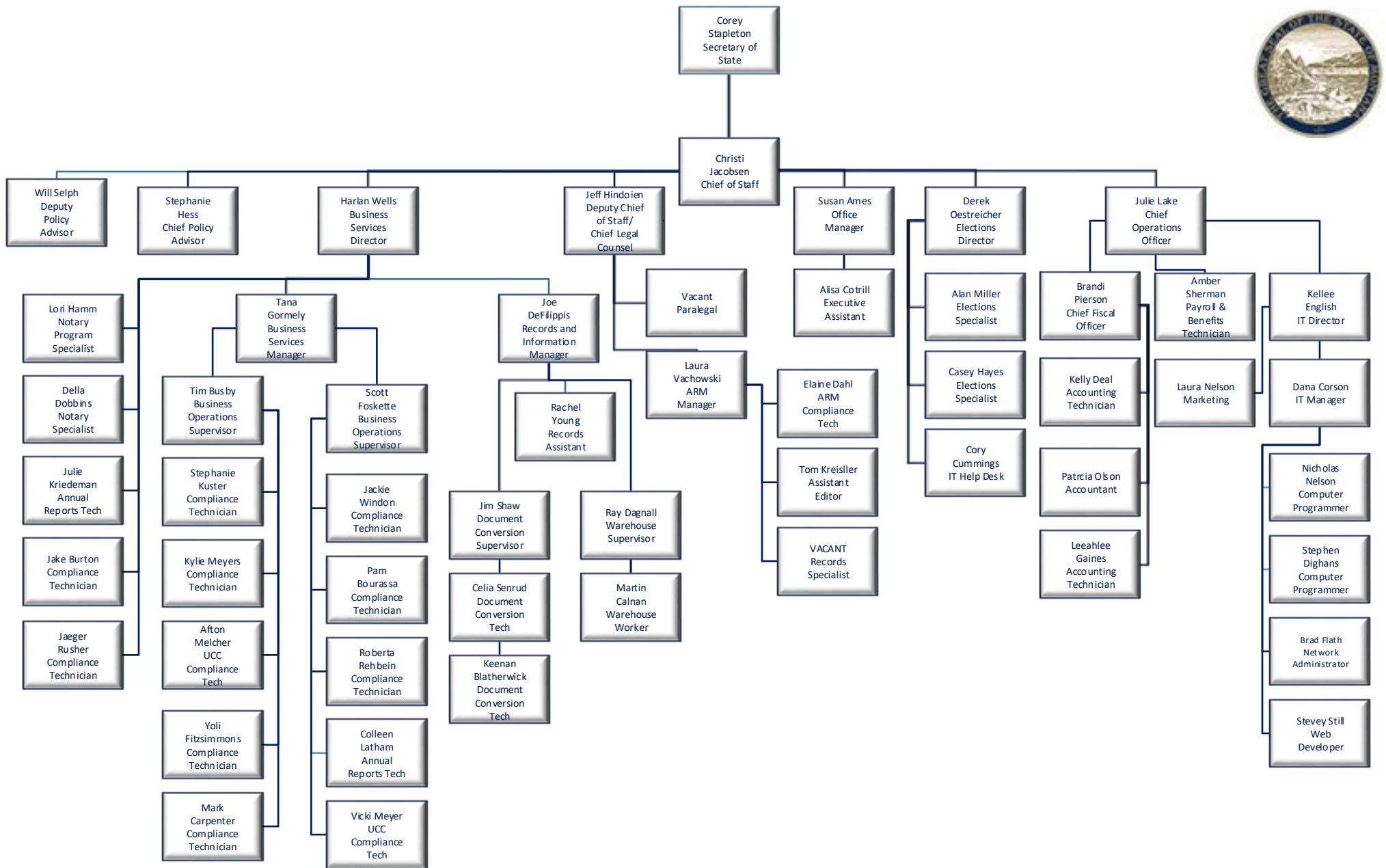
Hot Topics of 2017 Session

- Special election for U.S. Representative (to replace Rep. Ryan Zinke)

ATTACHMENTS

SOS Organizational Chart
SOS Phone Directory

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Secretary of State - Staff Directory

Name/title	Phone	Email
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