As provided in the Illinois Constitution, the Office of the Secretary of State’s main functions are to maintain official state records and the state seal. However, many additional responsibilities have been added over the years, making the office one of the largest and most diverse of any of its counterparts nationwide.

As the second-largest state constitutional office, the Secretary of State’s office is visited by more Illinois residents than any other in state government. The office generates approximately $2 billion in annual revenue with more than $480 million a year designated for state highway construction funds. The office manages one of the largest computer databases in Illinois, keeping track of approximately 9 million drivers, 11 million registered vehicles, 467,000 corporations and 173,000 securities salespersons. The office also is an important resource for educating the public about traffic and school bus safety, drunk driving, securities fraud, literacy and organ/tissue donation.

Secretary of State Jesse White has worked diligently to enhance customer service, promote safety on Illinois roads and strengthen the integrity of the office. Technology upgrades in the office have allowed the online renewal of driver’s licenses and license plates as well as a variety of business transactions. White’s efforts to restore public trust in the office include establishing a code of conduct for employees, setting strict fundraising policies that prohibit employee contributions, giving his Inspector General subpoena powers, and increasing penalties for offering or accepting bribes.

Secretary White has initiated numerous traffic safety initiatives that have made Illinois a national model and led to fewer fatalities on Illinois roadways. In 2009, White chaired the Distracted Driving Task Force, which led to the passage of laws banning texting while driving and using cellphones in school and construction zones. On Jan. 1, 2014, Secretary White’s initiative to crack down on the issuance of court supervision for drivers involved in fatal crashes took effect. The new law will ensure that these drivers are ineligible for court supervision unless they have maintained a clean driving history.

In his continued efforts to combat drunk driving, Secretary White has strengthened Illinois’ innovative Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) program. In January 2009, the program was expanded to require all first-time DUI offenders to install a BAIID in their vehicles. The program is credited with a 24 percent decline in drunk-driving deaths in the state. A program upgrade effective in July 2013 requires an in-car camera to accompany every BAIID installation. The new law provides additional accountability to a program that has received national acclaim as a model in the fight against drunk driving.

Two measures spearheaded by Secretary White to enhance Illinois’ heralded Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program for young drivers also take
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effect in 2014. Kelsey’s Law prohibits the issuance of a driver’s license to a person under age 18 who has an unresolved traffic citation. Effective July 1, persons aged 18-20 applying for a driver’s license for the first time must complete a six-hour adult driver training and education course before obtaining a license. Previously, at age 18 a teen could obtain a license without any driver education whatsoever. Since enhanced GDL provisions were implemented in 2008, including extending the instruction permit phase to nine months and establishing additional passenger and nighttime driving restrictions, teen driving deaths in Illinois have fallen by 60 percent.

The Secretary of State’s confidential Emergency Contact Database allows individuals to enter their emergency contact information on the Secretary of State’s website. In an emergency, law enforcement personnel can access the database through LEADS (Law Enforcement Agencies Data System). More than 200,000 people have registered on the database since its creation in August 2009.

The Secretary of State’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program continues to be a model for other states. Secretary White’s First-Person Consent legislation, effective in January 2006, made a person’s decision to be a donor legally binding. Family consent is no longer required. The state’s donor registry currently tops 5.4 million potential donors.

Secretary White’s office has overhauled the state’s Commercial Driver’s License program, including requiring CDL holders who move to Illinois to pass written and road exams in order to be licensed in this state. The program has been credited as one of the best in the nation by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Secretary White’s efforts to reduce the misuse and abuse of disability license plates and parking placards has won praise from law enforcement agencies and the disability community. He also initiated a law that increases fines and penalties for illegally parking in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities.

Among his other duties, Secretary White serves as State Librarian, overseeing the Illinois State Library and the state’s literacy program. As State Archivist, White has oversight of the Illinois State Archives and its seven regional depositories at universities statewide.
Accounting Revenue

The Accounting Revenue Department receives and deposits all revenue collected by the Office of the Secretary of State into funds designated by statute. At $2 billion annually, the department collects the third-largest source of income for the State of Illinois. The department also oversees all aspects of money management associated with revenue collections, including processing refunds, collecting on insufficient fund checks, and analyzing revenue and sales data for comprehensive program planning.

Field staff members conduct audits on Illinois-based interstate trucking companies registered under the International Registration Plan (IRP), more than 600 remitters who issue Temporary Registration Permits, and all banks and currency exchanges participating in the Secretary of State’s Over-the-Counter Sticker Sales Program.

Administrative Hearings

The Administrative Hearings Department conducts hearings for individuals seeking driving relief after a driver’s license suspension or revocation. Formal hearings primarily involve multiple DUI offenders, and detailed inquiries are conducted to determine whether a DUI offender will endanger the public’s safety and welfare if driving privileges are restored. Informal hearings involve general driver’s license matters and legal challenges to license revocations and suspensions. Informal hearing officers also provide consultations for DUI offenders requiring a formal hearing.

Safety Responsibility hearings determine probable fault for motorists involved in crashes. Non-driver hearings involve the denial, cancellation, suspension or revocation of vehicle titles and registrations, automobile dealerships, remittance agents, commercial driving school licenses and IRP audits, as well as Motor Vehicle Review Board and Department of Business Services cases.

Illinois State Archives

The State Archives maintains state records of permanent, legal, administrative or historical value dating back to 1734, with more than 76,000 cubic feet of records. Important documents that have deteriorated are restored and repaired in the restoration laboratory, which treats more than 60,000 documents annually.

Information available through the State Archives includes materials relating to the Illinois Territory; public land sales; federal and state censuses; Civil War units; banking and state finance; public works projects; the Illinois and Michigan Canal; transportation, education, mental-health and social-service agencies; labor issues; law enforcement and corrections; and military documents. Between its in-house staff and 50 online databases, the Archives handles more than 28 million reference requests annually, including more than 26,000 requests for information from other state agencies.

The Records Management Section acts as a service agency for state and local agencies. It offers advice and provides for the economical and efficient management of records.
ensures maintenance and security of those documents to be preserved, and separates records of temporary value for disposal.

The Archives also works to preserve historical local government records through the Illinois Regional Archives Depository System (IRAD). Working with the Local Records Commission and local officials, the State Archives transfers valuable records to seven state universities designated as official regional depositories.

**Budget & Fiscal Management**

The Budget and Fiscal Management Department prepares the Secretary of State’s budget for presentation to the General Assembly. The department manages expenditures for the office’s $394 million annual budget with appropriations for 58 different funds, while monitoring receipts for more than 80 funds. In accordance with state Comptroller reporting requirements, department staff prepares fund financial statements, an annual Financial Audit Report for the Office of the Secretary of State and the State of Illinois Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The Voucher Section audits and processes about 53,000 non-payroll vouchers annually, including travel, commercial and refund transactions. The Payroll Unit processes approximately 4,500 payroll warrants twice a month utilizing 78 pay codes. The Purchasing Division processes about 1,100 contracts annually in accordance with the Illinois Procurement Code and Purchasing Rules, conducts nearly 150 competitive bids, and processes 450 purchase orders and requisitions annually.

**Business Services**

The Department of Business Services is the official administrative agency and document repository for all business entities formed or registered to do business in the state of Illinois. These entities include corporations, not-for-profit corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), limited partnerships (LPs) and limited liability partnerships (LLPs). The department also manages filings processed under Revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) and administers Trademarks and Service marks issued by the state. The department maintains electronic records of all business entity documents administered by the department.

The Corporations Division maintains records of corporations dating back to the mid-1800s. More than 374,000 business corporations and 91,000 not-for-profit corporations are currently registered to transact business in Illinois. In 2012, the division incorporated 39,200 new business corporations and 5,900 not-for-profit corporations, collecting about $219 million in revenue.

The Liability Limitation Division administers statutes pertaining to LLCs, LPs and LLPs. Since 1994, the division has formed or registered more than 337,000 LLCs, 38,000 LPs and more than 2,700 LLPs. In 2012, the division collected more than $70 million in revenue. The UCC Division administers the provisions of Revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code and processes filings made under the Federal Tax Lien Act. With more than 800,000 secured interest filings on record, the division collected more than $3 million in revenue in 2010.
The department offers many online services for businesses in Illinois on the Secretary of State’s website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Communications

The Communications Department coordinates the writing, design and production of all printed, audiovisual and online materials distributed by the office. Major publications include the biennial *Illinois Blue Book* and the *Handbook of Illinois Government*, *Illinois Rules of the Road* booklets and Illinois highway maps.

The department creates various materials about the office's myriad programs and services, including brochures, booklets, newsletters, posters, videos and displays. The department is required by statute to print the weekly *Illinois Register*, containing the proposed and adopted rules of state government.

Through the Secretary of State's press office, Communications disseminates information on office programs, services, policies and procedures to news media outlets statewide. The department also coordinates e-mail correspondence received from the public through the Secretary of State’s website.

Court of Claims

The Court of Claims processes claims of monetary damages or personal injury against the state. Secretary of State Jesse White serves as ex-officio Clerk of the Court of Claims. The Clerk's office provides support services to the seven judges and 16 commissioners of the court. The court also awards compensation to victims of violent crimes under the Crime Victims Compensation Act, as well as benefits to families of police officers, firefighters and military personnel killed in the line of duty.

The Court of Claims provides a listing of case dispositions on the Secretary of State’s website. Opinions of significant legal importance are printed in their entirety in the *Court of Claims Reports*. During fiscal year 2013, the Clerk's office processed more than 8,500 cases, awarded approximately $24 million and docketed thousands of motions.

Driver Services

The Driver Services Department issues driver's licenses and state ID cards at 137 Driver Services facilities statewide. Facilities also provide driving record abstracts, vehicle registration sticker sales and voter applications. Several facilities serve as regional commercial driver's license facilities, and mobile units provide services at part-time locations and at special events statewide. Currently, there are nearly 9 million licensed drivers and more than 3 million state ID cardholders in Illinois.

The Safe Driver Renewal Program allows qualified drivers to renew their licenses online, by phone or by mail. Nearly 5 million drivers have taken advantage of the program since its inception. The department also oversees a statewide database of court supervisions, available only to courts and law enforce-
ment authorities in an effort to identify habitual traffic offenders.

Driver Services manages more than $1.2 million in federal highway safety grant funds for projects to improve traffic safety in Illinois. The Safe Ride Program mandates fingerprinting and criminal background checks of all new school bus driver applicants. The Keep Me in a Safe Seat program manages several child safety seat fitting stations across the state.

Beginning July 1, 2014, persons aged 18-20 applying for a driver's license for the first time and with no formal driver education training must complete a six-hour driver training course. The department will establish the curriculum and designate materials to be used in the course, as well as certify and oversee online course providers.

The Secretary of State’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program provides funding to educate the public about the critical need for organs and tissue. Employees at Driver Services facilities statewide are an important link to registering potential donors. The department also administers the Super Seniors Program, providing seniors with the knowledge needed to obtain or renew a driver's license.

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The Index Department derives its duties from the Illinois Constitution and maintains the official records of the acts of the General Assembly and the executive branch of government.

The Administrative Code Division maintains files for all state agency administrative rules as mandated by the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. The division also publishes the weekly Illinois Register, containing all proposed and adopted rules of state government.

The Public Records Division files Statements of Economic Interests as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act; assigns Public Act numbers to legislation; conducts the drawing for Senate terms of office; registers deposits of international and domestic wills; and certifies election results for state, federal and various local officials.

The Notary Public Division issues and renews notary public commissions and grants apostille certifications, certificates of authority for notaries, and certificates of incumbency for county and circuit clerks. The Lobbyist Division registers lobbyists and maintains expenditure disclosure reports for lobbyists and their employing entities.

Information Technology

The Department of Information Technology maintains the technology and communications infrastructure of the office and develops better ways of serving the public through technology. The department is involved in all technology initiatives within the office from the telephone systems to the website, to document management, to the maintenance of computers and wireless devices. It also handles the development and maintenance for all computer-based systems, including computer-generated reports, computer entry screens and customer transactions.
The Secretary of State’s computer network includes more than 4,000 users in 24 office buildings and 137 Driver Services facilities. Many agencies outside the office rely on Secretary of State database information to provide needed services to Illinois residents. Law enforcement officers nationwide can access the database for Illinois driver’s license and vehicle information through the law enforcement LEADS system.

Inspector General

The Office of the Inspector General, which includes the Executive Inspector General, investigates allegations of wrongdoing involving Secretary of State personnel to enforce the high ethical performance standards imposed by Secretary White. When criminal conduct is involved, the Inspector General makes a referral to and works with the appropriate prosecutor’s office.

The Inspector General’s oversight includes monitoring all aspects of procurement and enforcing governmental revolving-door prohibitions. The office’s jurisdiction extends to investigating alleged wrongdoing by lobbyists and entities that employ lobbyists. The office also conducts regular program audits and special reports of Secretary of State operations to identify and eliminate waste, fraud and abuse, as well as to identify vulnerabilities in the system and suggest appropriate action.

Intergovernmental Affairs

Intergovernmental Affairs serves as a central, reliable informational resource for federal, state and local officials, their staffs and related associations, as well as for other Secretary of State departments. The department also oversees outreach efforts on Secretary of State programs and services at many public, governmental and educational venues across the state.

Internal Audit

The Office of Internal Audit is responsible for reviewing and testing accounting and financial activities to provide a continuing appraisal of the adequacy and effectiveness of management controls. Secretary White has charged the office with providing informed and constructive analysis of existing and proposed procedural, operational and other non-accounting functions and duties within the scope of internal auditing.
Legislative Affairs

The Legislative Affairs Department develops, coordinates and directs the Secretary of State's legislative agenda and serves as Secretary White's official liaison to the General Assembly. The department analyzes legislation affecting the office, represents Secretary White before Illinois House and Senate committees and provides an array of constituent services for legislators.

Operational & Technological Security

The Department of Operational and Technological Security is responsible for major disaster contingency planning, preparedness and recovery from natural disasters, man-made emergencies and terrorist incidents affecting the office statewide. This includes the protection of employees, buildings and equipment, thereby reducing and mitigating disruptions to Secretary of State operations. The department shares oversight of security issues with the Department of Information Technology, including protection against the improper or illegal use of the computer network and effective response to incidents of cyber-terrorism.

Personnel

The Personnel Department administers personnel services as established by the Secretary of State's Merit Employment Code and the Rules of the Department of Personnel. The department is responsible for establishing positions, testing and hiring applicants, and training and disciplining employees.

Programs administered by the department include health, dental and life insurance benefits, workers' compensation, deferred compensation, applicant testing, employee training, affirmative action and equal employment opportunity, and labor relations.

Physical Services

The Physical Services Department is responsible for property management of the 20 buildings that comprise the State Capitol Complex and surrounding area in Springfield and four buildings in Chicago. General maintenance and rehabilitation is provided for more than 3 million square feet of office space, 27 surface parking lots and 750,000 square feet of grounds. As custodians of the Capitol Complex and Secretary of State offices in Chicago, Physical Services employees maintain the offices of 60 departments and commissions and more than 100 miles of sidewalks and parking lots.

Physical Services supports many special events at the Capitol Complex and at civic events statewide. Tours of the State Capitol are given daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., except on major holidays. The Visitors’ Center across from the Capitol pro-
vides tourist information and a video presentation. The department also provides ware-
housing for office supplies, custodial and trades materials, and processes more than 8 mil-
ion pieces of mail annually.

Police

The Secretary of State Police regulates a broad spectrum of the automotive industry in Illinois by enforcing laws and administrative regulations. The Operations Division deploys uniformed sworn investigators throughout the state to combat fraudulent driver's license and ID card rings, inspect automobile and automotive parts dealers, and conduct anti-drunk-driving patrols and other traffic enforcement programs. The department also enforces the laws and administrative regulations pertaining to the Secretary of State's office.

State Capitol Police provide armed security for the nine build-
ings in the Capitol Complex in Springfield to ensure public safety, identify and mitigate threats, detect criminal activity and prevent the loss of property within the complex. The Hazardous Device Unit employs highly trained bomb technicians and explosive detection canines who provide logistical support to the Capitol Police as well as to federal, state and local agencies.

Programs & Policies

Programs and Policies staff researches and develops initiatives to fulfill the long-range objectives and goals set forth by Secretary White. Staff members work with other Secretary of State departments to develop innovative programs to improve public service and to ensure the timely implementation of new initiatives required by the General Assembly. The department also works in partner-
ship with the public and private sectors in providing improved serv-
ices and reduced costs for Illinois residents.

Securities

The Illinois Securities Department regulates the offer and sale of securities in Illinois. Securities offerings must be registered with the department, unless exempt by law, and entities that engage in broker-dealer activities or investment advisory services must be licensed with the department.

Enforcement Division investigators and attorneys investigate complaints from investors and issue subpoenas and administrative orders in cases where the law is violated. Enforcement staff also refers cases to criminal authorities and assists in the investigation and prosecution of investment fraud. Special agents with police powers are authorized to seek seizure and forfeiture of assets through the Attorney General's office. Where assets are forfeited, civil actions are filed to return funds to defrauded investors. Audit staff conducts audits of broker-dealers and investment advisers. Audits that uncover fraud are referred to Enforcement staff, and notices requiring corrective actions are issued.
The Securities Department is active in investor education and financial literacy programs, conducting seminars for investors and providing financial literacy teaching guides to Illinois schools. More information is available at www.AvoidtheScam.net.

**Illinois State Library**

The Illinois State Library is the principal information resource for state government. The library has a collection of more than 5 million items and subscribes to numerous electronic databases and services that allow patrons access to thousands of resources. The State Library serves as a regional federal documents depository, maintains an authoritative collection of historic and contemporary Illinois documents, and houses more than 190,000 maps.

The State Library supports the Illinois Library and Information Network (ILLINET), consisting of thousands of libraries statewide. It also funds a network of three library systems that work with member libraries to coordinate library services and resource sharing.

The State Library administers grants to support and expand library services, enhance technology, and build and renovate libraries. Secretary White’s innovative mentoring and technology program for junior high-age students — Project Next Generation — is administered at several public libraries statewide.

The State Library promotes reading with programs such as the annual statewide Family Reading Night, Letters About Literature, and the Read for a Lifetime Program for high school students. The library’s Talking Book & Braille Service provides more than 28,000 print-disabled Illinoisans with talking books, braille books and other services. The Literacy Office addresses the educational needs of adult learners and families through three types of literacy projects: adult volunteer tutoring, family and workplace. Dedicated volunteer tutors assist learners at nearly 200 literacy projects statewide.

**Vehicle Services**

The Vehicle Services Department processes vehicle titles and registrations, issues license plates and renewal stickers, and maintains vehicle records. The department issues nearly 3.5 million title documents and registers 11 million vehicles annually, generating more than $1 billion in revenue for the state. The department also licenses and regulates vehicle dealerships to protect buyers from illicit or temporary operators and prevent the sale of stolen vehicles.

The department administers the Electronic Registration and Title (ERT) program, which allows for faster processing of title documents and immediate receipt of permanent license plates and registration documents. More than 750 Illinois dealerships and 2,000 financial institutions participate in the program.

Illinois license plates are manufactured by Macon Resources, Inc., in Decatur, a rehabilitation training facility for persons with disabilities. Producing plates in Illinois has saved the state millions of dollars while encouraging skills development of persons with disabilities.

The department offers license plate renewal, and vanity and personalized license plates through the Secretary of State’s website.
To monitor compliance with the state’s mandatory insurance law, Vehicle Services mails questionnaires to random vehicle owners to verify insurance coverage. The department suspends the registrations of uninsured motorists and processes registration rein-statements.

**Merit Commission**

The Secretary of State’s Merit Commission approves Personnel rules and actions under the Merit Employment Code. The commission also conducts hearings on the appeals of employees regarding position classifications and certain disciplinary actions taken against employees. The commission then enforces compliance with its decisions. No more than three of the five commission members may be affiliated with the same political party.

**Merit Commission Members:** Ferdinand P. Serpe, *chair*, Michael Masterson, Judith Myers and James Taylor.

**Secretary of State’s Staff Members**

- **Thomas Ned Benigno**  
  *Deputy Secretary of State; Chief of Staff*

- **Terri Coombes**  
  *Deputy Chief of Staff*

- **James B. Burns**  
  *Inspector General*

- **Irene Lyons**  
  *General Counsel*

- Linda Piccioli .................................................................Executive Assistant to the Secretary
- Cassandra Hudson ..........................................................Executive Assistant to the Secretary
- Leo Louchios ......................................................................Senior Policy Advisor
- Bob Yadgir ........................................................................Senior Policy Advisor; Director, Communications
- Anthony Burnett ..................................................................Senior Policy Advisor
- Annette Czarobski ............................................................Executive Staff
- Chester C. Czesak .............................................................Executive Staff
- Jacqueline DiCianni ..........................................................Executive Staff
- Glenna Jones ......................................................................Executive Staff
- Dave Druker ........................................................................Executive Staff
- Henry Haupt .........................................................................Press Secretary
- Elizabeth Kaufman ............................................................Deputy Press Secretary
- Michelle Penwitt ...............................................................Director, Scheduling
- Joyce Smith ..........................................................................Director of Advance, Downstate

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