



**IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2020**

INTRODUCTION



As with every state agency, the COVID-19 pandemic presented new and unprecedented challenges this year. I'm proud of the way my staff overcame these hurdles and forged ahead to serve Iowa's business community in an efficient manner and to conduct clean, fair elections statewide.

Despite the pandemic and social unrest across the state, Iowa's June 2020 primary shattered all-time records for voter participation. When COVID-19 began making a significant impact on Iowa in March, we had to make some difficult decisions about the upcoming June primary. For the protection of Iowa voters and poll workers, I decided to send absentee ballot request forms to all active registered voters in the state and to temporarily extend the deadline to request an absentee ballot in the state to 40 days.

Encouraging Iowans to vote absentee was crucial to helping slow the spread of the virus. Extending the absentee period helped alleviate pressure on our 99 county auditors by giving them more time to prepare for the unprecedented amounts of requests. The results exceeded our wildest expectations. More than 531,000 Iowans voted in the June 2020 primary, breaking the previous turnout record by more than 80,000. Almost 80% participants cast absentee ballots. We also saw very high turnout for the November 2019 city/school elections, which were merged for the first time.

Throughout the past few years, my office has focused heavily on bolstering the cybersecurity protections for our elections. We work with all 99 counties and a variety of state and federal partners, as well as the private sector, to ensure we have the necessary tools to protect the vote at every level. Every day we strive to ensure the integrity and security of Iowa's elections.

Our Business Services Division processed business filings efficiently despite receiving the second highest number of new business filings in state history. The innovations we've made through the Fast Track Filing system allow my office to provide Iowa's business community with the service it deserves.

Serving as Iowa's Secretary of State is a tremendous honor. I'm extremely proud of the accomplishments the office has attained over the past five and a half years. We have made great strides in protecting Iowa's elections and modernizing our business registration systems. I commend my staff and our election partners across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Pate". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul D. Pate
Iowa Secretary of State

FY 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

VOTING & ELECTIONS DIVISION

Record-breaking June 2020 primary election - The state shattered turnout records for a June primary after more than 530,000 voters cast ballots in the 2020 primary election. Secretary Pate credited the success of the election to Iowa voters, poll workers and county auditors. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and protests going on across the state, Iowans made their voices heard in record numbers. He also thanked Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Iowa National Guard for delivering masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer to the counties so Iowans could vote safely at the polls. The previous high for a June primary was set in 1994, when 449,490 Iowans voted.

Successful merger of city/school elections - More than 359,000 Iowans cast ballots in Iowa's first merged city/school elections held across the state on November 5, 2019. Turnout for school elections increased by more than 150% from four years ago. Secretary Pate's staff joined county, state and federal partners, including Iowa's Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to monitor cybersecurity activities throughout Election Day. There was no increase in cyber alerts or activity on the state or federal level.

Secretary Pate named President of National Association of Secretaries of State - Secretary Pate was unanimously elected President of the National Association of Secretaries of State during the organization's summer conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2019. He served as the NASS President through July 2020. Secretary Pate told his bipartisan colleagues that he would make election security his top priority, both as President of NASS and as Iowa's Secretary of State. He spearheaded NASS' #TrustedInfo2020 initiative, encouraging citizens to remain wary of misinformation and disinformation, and to look to local and state officials for facts about election processes. Secretary Pate also secured Des Moines as the host city for the NASS 2021 Summer Conference.

Iowa wins NASS IDEAS Award for election cybersecurity - Secretary Pate's election cybersecurity efforts have focused heavily on outreach to all 99 counties and partnerships with state and federal agencies. The "Partnerships Pay Dividends: A Roadmap to Election Cybersecurity" initiative was awarded the NASS IDEAS (Innovation, Dedication, Excellence & Achievement in Service) Award through a vote by secretaries of state from across the U.S.

Protecting the integrity and security of a state's elections requires a massive team effort. Cybersecurity is one of the biggest issues election administrators face. The Secretary of State's Office partnered with the State OCIO to ensure all 99 counties received cybersecurity protections. By November 5, 2018, all 99 counties were receiving at least one cyber-service from OCIO and 80 counties were receiving three or more services.

The partners Secretary Pate worked with to secure Iowa's elections included the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Iowa Department of Public Safety, the Governor's Office, the Iowa National Guard, Iowa Counties Information Technology, county auditors and private vendors. Secretary Pate was reappointed to a national committee that works to improve communications between local, state and federal agencies regarding election cyber threats, and to assist with risk mitigation.

Secretary Pate was also a charter member of the Election Infrastructure Subsector Government Coordinating Council (EIS-GCC) when it was created in October 2017 and was reappointed in July 2018 and again in August 2019, also serving in its executive committee. EIS-GCC is the first group of its kind to help important stakeholders share vital information regarding the elections process.

Carrie Chapman Catt Award helps high schools increase voter registration - 18 schools qualified for the Carrie Chapman Catt Award for the 2019-20 school year. The award is given to schools that register at least 90 percent of their eligible students to vote. It was named after Iowan Carrie Chapman Catt, a national leader in the women's suffrage movement who was instrumental in securing passage of the 19th Amendment 100 years ago, granting women access to the ballot box.

Secretary Pate created the award in September 2019 to encourage voter registration in high schools and to promote the new state law that allows 17-year-olds to register and to participate in primary elections.

The 18 schools that qualified in the inaugural year were Isaac Newton Christian Academy (Cedar Rapids, IA), Rivermont Collegiate (Bettendorf, IA), South Page High School (College Springs, IA), St. Mary's High School (Storm Lake, IA), Valley Lutheran School (Cedar Falls, IA), Lone Tree High School (Lone Tree, IA), Pella Christian High School (Pella, IA), Ballard High School (Huxley, IA), Walnut Creek Campus (West Des Moines, IA), Notre Dame Catholic High School (Burlington, IA), Fort Madison High School (Fort Madison, IA), Norwalk High School (Norwalk, IA), Woodward-Granger High School (Woodward, IA), Newman Catholic High School (Mason City, IA), Baxter High School (Baxter, IA), Nashua-Plainfield High School (Nashua, IA), Prairie High School (Cedar Rapids, IA), and Urbandale High School (Urbandale, IA).

Along with those 18 schools, 10 more registered at least 70 percent of eligible students and received a commemorative banner recognizing their achievement. Nine more schools registered at least 50 percent of eligible students and received a personalized certificate from the Iowa Secretary of State's Office.

Iowa registers 350,000 new voters in five years - Two of Secretary Pate's top goals are increasing voter registration and participation. On December 30, 2019, Secretary Pate announced 350,000 Iowans had registered to vote in the state during his five years in office.

Secretary Pate worked with the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop an online voter registration system that launched on January 1, 2016. More than 53,500 Iowans successfully registered to vote or updated their information using the online system in Fiscal Year 2020, including 11,179 during January 2020. Approximately 200,000 Iowans have utilized Iowa's online voter registration system since its launch, as of June 30, 2020. Iowa ranks among the top states in the country in both voter registration and participation.

Safe at Home continues expansion - The Safe at Home (SAH) program continued to grow throughout Fiscal Year 2020. SAH is an address confidentiality program created to protect survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and stalking. As of June 2020, Safe at Home serves approximately 630 participants across 62 counties. Iowa averages more than 3,000 convictions for domestic violence and sexual assault each year.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Fast Track Filing greatly enhances efficiency, customer service - Secretary Pate launched the Fast Track Filing (FTF) advanced online filing tool for business filings during the Spring of 2018. This innovative application greatly enhances the speed and efficiency of the filing process. In fiscal year 2020, 81,533 filings were completed using the Fast Track Filing system, accounting for 57% of all business filings completed with the office.

New business filings done through Fast Track Filing are processed within a maximum of two days, some in as few as five minutes. The system is accessible online 24 hours a day at filings.sos.iowa.gov.

Providing service during the pandemic – The Lucas Building office was closed to the public in mid-March and beyond the remainder of the 2020 fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To assist Iowa businesses, 10 additional types of filings were added to the Fast Track Filing system to expedite service. The Business Services Division leveraged a legacy filing system to enable customers that normally would “walk in” to the office to upload their filing submissions and request escalation of service.

Near-record high for new business filings - The Business Services Division processed the second highest amount of new business entities in state history during the 2020 fiscal year. 24,481 new businesses registered with the Secretary of State's Office between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. The mark is just shy of the record high of 24,720, set in Fiscal Year 2019. 19,861 of the new business filings were done through the Fast Track Filing system.

Since mid-March, when the pandemic was beginning to significantly impact the state, 94 percent of new domestic businesses in Iowa were created using Fast Track Filing.

Fast Track Filing for updating registered agent, UCC filings, fictitious names begins - Fast Track Filing for updating an entity's registered agent became available in the Fall of 2019. UCC filings on the FTF system launched in the spring of 2020. The expedited filing process will

eventually be available for most types of business filings with the Iowa Secretary of State's Office. Fast Track Filing was made possible through the Iowa Legislature's creation of the Technology Modernization Fund in 2017.

Small business partnership with Google, SBDC - As part of an ongoing effort to promote and encourage entrepreneurship in Iowa, Secretary Pate continued his office's partnership with Google and Iowa's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) to help small businesses get off the ground, grow their online presence, and achieve success. The Secretary of State's Office provided space for the Iowa SBDC in its 2019 Iowa State Fair booth. During the fair, the SBDC helped fairgoers learn about valuable entrepreneurial resources.

Efficient processing - The Secretary of State's Office processed 140,882 business entity documents in FY 2020.

GENERAL

Women's Suffrage Centennial commemoration – Secretary Pate promoted the 100th anniversary of women gaining access to the ballot box with a 19th Amendment in Iowa bookmarks, buttons, banners, and art exhibits. Tuesday, July 2, 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of Iowa ratifying the 19th Amendment. To celebrate the centennial, Secretary Pate partnered with local artist Mary Kline-Misol for a rotating display of portraits of prominent women from the suffrage and civil rights movements. The portraits were featured in the State Capitol rotunda next to the Secretary of State's Office.

Additionally, the Secretary of State's Office produced a large 8x8 "19th Amendment in Iowa" banner that was on display at the State Capitol. The Secretary of State also provided free commemorative pins and bookmarks at the State Fair and to civic organizations.

Partnerships with Iowa Cubs, Iowa Wild to promote Iowa Caucuses, voter registration - Secretary Pate partnered with the Iowa Cubs baseball team and Iowa Wild hockey team to promote our state's unique first-in-the-nation caucus status and help fans register to vote. The Secretary of State's Office, along with representatives from Iowa's Democratic and Republican parties were on hand to help register fans to vote and answer questions about the Iowa Caucuses.

Elections 101/Iowa Youth Straw Poll - Secretary Pate developed an online curriculum for Iowa high school students, designed to involve students in civic engagement while educating them about Iowa's unique role in the political process. The "Elections 101" curriculum included two new chapters on women's suffrage and women in politics, in conjunction with the centennial celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment. The curriculum also included an Iowa Youth Straw Poll in the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020. Hundreds of schools and more than 20,000 students participated each time, casting ballots for their preferred candidates in the Iowa Caucuses, as well as Iowa's congressional races.

Honor a Veteran with Your Vote/Partnership with Hy-Vee - Secretary Pate continued to expand the Honor a Veteran with Your Vote program. Honor a Veteran is a way to pay tribute to those who served in the military that fought for our rights to choose our representative form of government. Secretary Pate partnered with Hy-Vee to distribute 30,000 Honor a Veteran postcards at all their Iowa stores in conjunction with the grocery chain's annual Veterans' Day free breakfast for military veterans and active duty personnel.

State Fair Straw Poll - Thousands of people voted in Secretary Pate's 2019 State Fair Straw Poll. The goal was to get Iowans excited about voting and the 2020 Iowa Caucuses. During the State Fair, staffers at the Secretary's booth also helped numerous Iowans register to vote.

Partnership with the Iowa League of Heroes for "Be A Voter" initiative - Secretary Pate and the Iowa League of Heroes continued their partnership to promote voter registration and civic engagement in Iowa. "Be A Voter" trading cards, featuring the League of Heroes posing at the State Capitol, were produced by Secretary Pate's office. Thousands of cards were distributed, and the superheroes helped Secretary Pate conduct a voter registration drive at the 2019 State Fair.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

VOTING & ELECTIONS DIVISION

Successful 2020 primary election during pandemic

Iowa's June 2020 primary shattered all-time records for voter participation. To reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 and protect Iowa voters and poll workers, the Secretary of State's Office sent absentee ballot request forms to all active registered voters in the state and temporarily extended the deadline to request an absentee ballot in the state to 40 days. The results were record-breaking. More than 530,000 Iowans voted in the June 2020 primary, breaking the previous turnout record by more than 80,000 votes. Almost 80% of those votes were cast through absentee ballots.

Secretary Pate partnered with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Iowa National Guard to deliver masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer for use at all polling places. The Secretary of State's Office also shipped social distancing markers and face shields to all 99 counties for use at the polls. More than \$500,000 in additional funding was provided to the counties to cover the costs of other safety materials. The funds were made possible by federal grants.

Over the course of the fiscal year, the Elections Division certified 267 state and federal candidates for the 2020 primary election ballot. The office also processed 40 absentee ballot

subscriptions, six annual statewide subscriptions of voter registration lists, which require daily updates, 11 statewide voter list and absentee subscriptions, as well as 226 one-time requests.

Enhancing election security

Secretary Pate and his staff take cybersecurity very seriously. Several steps were made to enhance election cybersecurity in FY 2020. The Secretary's Elections Division conducted numerous cybersecurity workshops for county election commissioners and staff. Partnering with the Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), free cybersecurity resources and training were offered throughout the year. The goal was ensuring all 99 counties' systems were protected.

The Secretary of State's Office adopted administrative rules to formalize requirements that county auditors need to take to improve cyber defenses.

National Voter Registration Act/Help America Vote Act

The Secretary of State is designated as the Chief State Election Official for purposes of administering federal election law, such as the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). In that role the Secretary continued implementation and review of the NVRA to ensure that all eligible Iowans are provided the opportunity to register to vote.

Online Voter Registration

A collaboration with the Iowa DOT to develop online voter registration opportunities for Iowa voters was completed and deployed on January 1, 2016. This application is available to Iowa residents who have an Iowa driver's license or non-operators ID and wish to register to vote or to change their registration information. The system resulted in significant savings in processing time for the State of Iowa. More than 54,000 Iowans successfully registered to vote or updated their information using the online system in FY 2020, including more than 11,000 in January. Approximately 200,000 Iowans have utilized Iowa's online voter registration system since its launch.

Statewide Voter Registration System (I-Voters)

The Iowa Secretary of State continues its third-party vendor contract to maintain I-Voters, the statewide voter registration system and the election night reporting program. The office made significant progress in FY 2020 to prepare for replacing I-Voters. This is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar project and remains on schedule. The Secretary of State's Office visited other states during FY 2020 to learn about their processes for making upgrades to their statewide systems in recent years. County auditors were invited to participate in these information gathering sessions.

The Elections Division worked with counties to conduct annual voter list maintenance, including the National Change of Address program. We also provided state and federal court systems a pool of registered voters to potentially serve as jurors in district, state, and federal court.

I-Voters is in a CJIS-compliant facility, giving it top-level protection. CJIS is an FBI standard used to secure sensitive law enforcement information. To remain CJIS-compliant, facilities and staff at those companies must undergo periodic audit and assessment.

I-Voters has, in addition to the Albert Intrusion Detection Sensor from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, its own separate intrusion detection system and intrusion protection system – relevant because it means that the vendor is receiving notifications of malicious activity from both the federal government and private entities.

I-Voters sits behind an access control list (ACL). This means that I-Voters will only accept connections from computers it has been told to expect connections from. There are several years of protection on the system and a multitude of channels someone must go through to gain access.

Safe at Home

Safe at Home (SAH) is an address confidentiality program for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and stalking. Participants of the program receive three services: a legal substitute address, mail-forwarding, and confidential voter registration and absentee voting. Statistics show that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime. This program is a critical safety tool for survivors to live without fear of their abuser finding them through public records.

Since its launch in 2016, the program has continued to grow. During FY 2020, 180 new participants/dependents were approved for participation in SAH. The program includes all genders, ages, ethnicities, and participants are from rural and urban areas. Domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and stalking impact people of all types. During calendar year 2019, there were more than 3,000 convictions for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Iowa. These convictions touched all 99 counties.

The June primary election saw a record setting voter engagement from Safe at Home participants. Safe at Home participants can register to vote and request an absentee ballot through the program. When these steps are taken their information is input and maintained in a separate database from I-Voters. This allows them to exercise their right to vote without their name and address becoming a public record.

The Iowa Safe at Home program is a founding member of the National Association of Address Confidentiality Programs (NACAP). Staff participated in the national conference, held in Seattle, WA in September 2019. Iowa was represented with a member on the NACAP communications committee and the membership committee. This has allowed Iowa to have a voice in the

quarterly newsletter as well as being involved in sponsorships and welcoming new members to the organization. Being an active and contributing member of the association has strengthened our ties and working relationships with address confidentiality programs across the country.

Outreach included meetings, presentations at conferences, and informational mailings. Staff presented program information to nearly 400 professionals across the state at 14 various meetings/conferences. Information and program materials were also sent to all 939 Iowa mayors.

Safe at Home took part in Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). In January, for Human Trafficking Awareness Month, SAH launched a new digital campaign that included two new videos that ran on Facebook and YouTube. Our social media campaign for SAAM reached more than 450,000 people. For DVAM, SAH partnered with laundromat owners across the state.

During this partnership, program materials, including brochures and stickers, were sent to laundromats statewide. Laundromats were chosen to help raise awareness for domestic violence and SAH as it is a location that survivors who are transitioning or who have recently relocated may frequent and see the information. Each of these three campaigns contributed to a significant increase in the traffic on the program website.

Annexations

The Secretary of State's office is the filing office for all city annexations that are not filed with the City Development Board. This includes annexations that are 100 percent voluntary and non-urbanized. This class of annexations is presumed to require simple ministerial approval. The Secretary of State's Office reviewed, approved, and filed 39 annexations in FY 2020.

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

Business Entity Filings

The Business Services Division is the business portal for the state. Among its key responsibilities are the registration and authorization of domestic and foreign entities to transact business in Iowa, filing secured transaction liens under the Iowa Uniform Commercial Code, commissioning Iowa notaries public, and administering the Iowa Mechanic's Notice and Lien Registry. The online business services portal allows business to be conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It provides access to over seven million filed documents and a complete array of forms, applications, and searchable databases for use by businesses, lending institutions, and interested citizens.

Each business day the office’s customer service staff receives over 250 telephone calls and emails with business services-related questions. The Secretary of State’s Office is continually seeking to improve its service delivery to citizens and the business community.

The Business Services Division houses millions of electronic documents. There are over 255,000 active business entities registered in the database. Corporate filings include articles of incorporation, certificates of organization, amendments, miscellaneous filings, and statements of registered agent changes. Most entities are also required to file a biennial report with the Secretary of State. In FY 2020, the office processed more than 140,000 business entity filings. More than 81,000 of those were done utilizing the Fast Track Filing system. Approximately 65,000 of those business entity filings were biennial reports.

The Business Services Division issued 14,848 certificates of good standing on Iowa registered entities, accepted 1,047 original notices for service of process on Iowa registered entities, and processed 237 trademark-related filings.

Online Filings

The Secretary of State’s Office continues to move toward paperless filings, allowing immediate communication between the office and customers.

FY 2020 Filing Transactions

UCC Certified Lien Search Reports	203,099
UCC Filings	124,418
Business Entity Filings	140,882
Original Notices	1,047
Certificates of Existence	14,848
New Notary Commissions	6,291
Notary Commission Renewals	12,782
Apostilles & Notary Certifications	5,718
TOTAL	509,085

Uniform Commercial Code (UCC)

The Business Services Division is responsible for filing and maintaining lien records under section 9501 of Iowa Code chapter 554, the Iowa Uniform Commercial Code. The Secretary of State currently maintains more than one million lien records in the UCC database. The UCC filing system supports commerce by giving lenders a central place to file notices regarding pledges of personal property as collateral for loans.

Examples include liens on farm equipment and machinery, personal property, manufacturing equipment, inventory, crops, and livestock. Additionally, the office files federal tax liens and other federal liens.

In FY 2020, the Business Services Division filed 124,418 UCC documents, provided 203,099 certified lien search reports, and supplied thousands of copies of filed documents to customers. Virtually all certified searches and UCC filings are done online by customers.

Notary Public Commissions

Under Iowa Code chapter 9B, the Secretary of State is responsible for commissioning Iowa notaries. A notary is a person who serves the public as an impartial and unbiased witness by identifying persons who come before the notary to execute documents and make declarations. They are especially critical to the legal, business, financial, and real estate communities of Iowa. The most common function of a notary is to witness and attest that individuals signing documents are who they claim to be.

The Secretary of State's Office maintains a database of approximately 57,000 active notaries, whose commissions most often require renewal at three-year intervals. In FY 2020, the Secretary of State renewed 12,782 notary commissions and commissioned 6,291 new notaries.

The Secretary of State's Business Services Division is responsible for issuing apostilles on documents destined for foreign countries that have been notarized by an Iowa notary. This certification from the Secretary of State confirms that the notary is an Iowa Notary Public. The office issued 5,718 of these in FY 2020.

Mechanic's Liens

The Secretary of State's Office maintains the Mechanic's Notice and Lien Registry (MNL) for Iowa pursuant to Iowa Code section 572.34. To preserve mechanic's lien rights on a residential construction project, a subcontractor must post a preliminary notice on the MNL prior to the date the balance due is paid to the general contractor or the owner-builder.

In accordance with Iowa Code chapter 572.13B, a preliminary notice posted before the balance due is paid to the general contractor or the owner-builder is effective as to all labor, service, equipment, and material furnished to the property by the subcontractor. There are approximately 53,000 MNL filings in the system. 7,897 of these filings were processed in FY 2020.

Miscellaneous Filings

In addition to corporate filings, mechanic's lien filings, UCC filings, trademark registrations, and notary commission records, the office maintains the following:

Agricultural Reports (Iowa Code chapter 10B)
Athlete Agent Registrations (Iowa Code chapter 9A)
Voluntary Annexations (Iowa Code section 368.7)
Land Patents (Iowa Code chapter 9G)
Transient Merchants Registrations (Iowa Code chapter 9C)
Credit Service Organization Registrations (Iowa Code chapter 538A)
Joint Exercise of Governmental Powers Agreements (Iowa Code chapter 28E)
Condemnation Filings (Iowa Code chapter 6B & Iowa Code section 9.2A)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Protect Integrity and security of Iowa's Elections

The Secretary of State's Office continued full-scale government partnerships at local, state, and federal levels to secure Iowa's elections with unprecedented cooperation and information sharing.

The Secretary of State's Office receives election threat intelligence from the Fusion Center, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC). The intelligence comes in many forms. Frequently, they are technical "indicators of compromise." That is, suspicious network activity or IP addresses that we need to have our technical defenses alert to. However, much of the intelligence is descriptive and provides a (mostly) plain-language overview of threats that the intelligence community has identified as important to distribute throughout the election community.

Iowa's election community receives technical support and guidance from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Iowa's Office of Chief Information Officer, and Iowa Counties Information Technology (ICIT). The Secretary of State's Office worked with ICIT to better understand the IT demands and needs of counties. The office has undergone quantitative and qualitative assessments by CISA (and several others) to baseline our security posture. That information is then leveraged to identify training opportunities for county auditors and staff. People are the front of any cybersecurity defensive line.

Expanded cybersecurity team

Secretary Pate continued to strengthen Iowa's election cybersecurity by adding the positions of Election Cybersecurity Adviser and hiring Jeff Franklin as our Chief Cyber Officer (CCO). Franklin served for several years as the State of Iowa's Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). He also served as the state's interim-Chief Information Officer (CIO). At the end of his CIO stint,

Secretary Pate recruited Franklin to the Secretary of State's Office and tasked him with helping us to continue to mature Iowa's election's security posture.

Partnership with DHS to secure systems

The Secretary of State's Office welcomed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to conduct weekly scans on SOS systems. An Albert sensor provided by DHS resides on Iowa's State Voter Registration Database (I-Voters). The sensor is a unique network monitoring solution that provides automated alerts on both traditional and advanced network threats, allowing organizations to respond quickly when their data may be at risk.

Fast Track Filing expansion

The Fast Track Filing (FTF) system was designed by the Secretary of State's Information Technology Division, with assistance from a private vendor and launched in the spring of 2018 for new business filings. Nearly 80% of new business formations in FY 2020 were done through FTF. The Secretary of State added 10 additional business filings to Fast Track Filing so customers could file online. The IT Division continues its work to eventually move all business filings onto the Fast Track system.

Full staff awareness of IT Risks

The Secretary of State's Office has trained 100 percent of staff on Securing the Human Information Technology awareness through the OCIO web-based training. Employee training is a critical component to securing our IT resources, with the goal of developing a culture of information security awareness.

Inter-agency collaborations for FTF

The Secretary of State worked with the Iowa Division of Banking (IDOB) to integrate filings that require both IDOB and SOS approval into a single workflow through FTF. Conversations with at least three other agencies are continuing to identify other opportunities to share workflows or data to improve the efficiency of business filings for Iowans.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2021

- **Provide clean and fair elections statewide**
- **Protect the integrity and security of Iowa's elections and election infrastructure at every level**
- **Continue to promote voter registration and participation to all eligible Iowans**
- **Ensure all county election information is hosted on a more secure .gov website domain**
- **Collaborate with other state agencies to start planning for a universal business portal**
- **Promote Safe at Home program and resources available for survivors of violence**