

ANNUAL REPORT

IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

FISCAL YEAR 2023

ANNUAL REPORT



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Securing Elections, Supporting Iowa Business



Election integrity, business creation, and consistent civic education were once again key components of Fiscal Year 2023.

Iowans have made it clear: the safety and security of Iowa's elections is a top priority. We have employed a layered approach to ensuring election integrity and are proud to maintain a top three ranking nationally for our election administration efforts. We have not done this alone, and partnerships at the local, state, and federal levels have allowed us to take an innovative, integrated, and adaptive approach to cyber and protective security measures.

As Iowa Secretary of State and the state's Chief Commissioner of Elections, it's of the utmost importance to me to encourage eligible Iowans in all 99 counties to participate in Iowa's election process. We led several civic education campaigns to increase Iowa voter registration and participation at all ages. Programs like Iowa High School Voter Registration Day and the Carrie Chapman Catt Award help us put an even stronger focus on educating our youth on the voting process and helping register 17- and 18-year-olds to vote.

I am also proud to report that Iowa's business community is thriving. Once again, my staff processed a record amount of new business registrations during Fiscal Year 2023. That's the seventh time in eight years Iowans have set a record for new business entities. Despite the uptick in new business filings, our Business Services Division provides service at the speed of business, not at the speed of government. Fast and efficient service is made possible through the Fast Track Filing system, and we continue to innovate and update the system to provide the business community with the service it deserves.

We hit another milestone this year, working with nearly 700 businesses and associations across the state on the Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking initiative. This program encourages Iowa businesses and their staff, customers, and other partners to "Learn Something" and "Do Something" about human trafficking. Human trafficking is a serious problem across the globe and unfortunately, it's happening right here in Iowa too. By partnering with Iowa's business community, we are raising awareness and building a statewide army to combat this form of modern-day slavery. Our Safe at Home program is an address confidentiality program that provides victim of this crime and other crimes a legal substitute address, mail-forwarding service and confidential voter registration and voting by absentee ballot.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serving as Iowa's Secretary of State. We live in the greatest state in the greatest nation on this planet. I believe we have a lot to be proud of, and I'm looking forward to continuing to serve the great state of Iowa.


PAUL D. PATE
Iowa Secretary of State

FY 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE



VOTER REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION

1.2M

participating voters in 2022 General Election

2022 GENERAL ELECTION

The first general election following district boundary changes for state legislative seats and many county supervisor districts saw over 1.2 million voters participate, which equates to more than a 55% turnout. Secretary Pate credited the success of the election to Iowa voters, poll workers, and county auditors.

1.9M

registered voters

IOWA SETS NEW RECORDS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

Iowa had 1,908,972 active registered voters on January 3, 2023. Iowa is consistently ranked one of the best states in the country for voter registration and participation. More than 90% of Iowa's eligible population was registered to vote.

Secretary Pate continued the partnership with Disability Rights Iowa to continue to ensure voting is open and accessible to everyone. He continued to work with auditors statewide to ensure polling places met American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and to quickly recognize and fix any accessibility issues that may arise on Election Day.

5,000

new registered voters

REGISTERING MORE ELIGIBLE IOWANS TO VOTE

Two of Secretary Pate's top goals are increasing voter registration and participation. By the end of FY 2023, more than 618,000 Iowans had registered to vote in the state since Secretary Pate first took office on January 1, 2015. In fiscal year 2023 alone, nearly 5,000 new voters registered, and over 35,000 submitted updates using Iowa's online registration system. Secretary Pate worked with the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop the online voter registration system. It launched on January 1, 2016. Iowa consistently ranks among the top states in the country in both voter registration and participation.

More than 2,600 students aged 17-18 registered to vote as part of our Carrie Chapman Catt initiative.

ELECTION INTEGRITY

ELECTION SECURITY

SOFTWARE PROTECTS IOWA ELECTION INTEGRITY

Secretary Pate's alliance with VoteShield and BallotShield to protect the integrity of Iowa's elections continues to be a valuable tool to analyze, monitor voter registration and voting activity and would serve as an early alert to any suspicious registration or absentee balloting activity for further investigation.

Originally, Secretary Pate worked with Protect Democracy to launch two secure web applications that accomplished the shared goal of improving voter confidence and securing the integrity of the 2020 election. Software known as VoteShield and BallotShield, which have since been combined to a single user-friendly experience, provided reassurance and documentation which election officials at the county and state levels in Iowa utilized to inform the public about steps they were taking to maintain election integrity.

A TRUSTED SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Secretary Pate continued efforts to be a source of trusted voting information and a constant voice both locally and nationally on the integrity with which Iowa's election are run. Separating myths from facts surrounding the administration of elections is necessary as much now as ever before in order to ensure conversations about any additional regulations and guidelines are well founded and necessary for continued access to and trust in voting system.

**MYTH
VS
FACT**

TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS FOR 2022 ELECTIONS

The Iowa Secretary of State's Office conducted a series of workshops, trainings, and exercises to help counties prepare for the 2022 elections. The Incident Response Plan seminars took county auditors and staff, IT administrators, and emergency management coordinators through a variety of scenarios that could disrupt elections. Scenarios included natural disasters, power outages, and cyberattacks.

Additional trainings provided both newer and longer serving county administrators the information and tools needed to run elections in accordance with Iowa laws, and consistently from county to county. The Secretary of State's Office, state agencies, and county officials also participated in nationwide preparedness exercises that were organized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Cooperation between government agencies is crucial for protecting elections.

BUSINESS SERVICES

IOWA'S BUSINESS PORTAL

88%

**of business filings
completed via
FAST TRACK FILING**

FAST TRACK FILING INCREASES EFFICIENCY

Secretary Pate launched the Fast Track Filing 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 2023, approximately 88% of filings were completed using the Fast Track Filing system. Under normal conditions, new business filings done through Fast Track Filing are processed within a maximum of two business days, some in as few as five minutes. The system is accessible online 24 hours a day at filings.sos.iowa.gov.

34,239

new entities registered

IOWA SETS RECORDS FOR NEW BUSINESS FILINGS

The Business Services Division processed 34,239 new entity registrations in FY 2023, setting a new state record for the seventh time in eight years. The previous high of 33,331 was set in FY 2022.

New filing types added to the Fast Track system in Fiscal Year 2023 included Resignation of Registered Agent, Certificate of Limited Partnership, Appointment of Agent, and bulk Change of Registered Office.

157,525

**business entity documents
processed**

EFFICIENT PROCESSING

The Secretary of State's Office processed more than 157,525 business entity documents in calendar year 2022.

PROGRAMS

VOTER ENGAGEMENT



IOWANS SHOULD FEEL SAFE AT HOME

The Iowa Safe at Home (SAH) program has continued to grow in FY 2023. SAH is an address confidentiality program for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, assault, human trafficking, and stalking. Participants within the program are provided with a legal substitute address, mail-forwarding service and confidential voter registration and voting by absentee ballot.

To date, SAH has served more than 2,100 Iowans across the state in nearly every county. Fiscal Year 2023 saw 343 new participants in the program.

SECRETARY PATE HONORS VETERANS WITH HY-VEE PARTNERSHIP

Secretary Pate continued to promote the Honor a Veteran program by partnering with Hy-Vee for their annual Veterans Day free breakfast. Honor a Veteran is a way to pay tribute to those who served in the military and fought for our sacred right to vote. Secretary Pate partnered with Hy-Vee to distribute 30,000 Honor a Veteran tribute cards at all their Iowa stores during their 2022 breakfast for military veterans and active-duty personnel.



VOTER READY WEBSITE PROVIDES NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR IOWA VOTERS

Secretary Pate's website VoterReady.iowa.gov continued to serve as a one stop shop for Iowans preparing to vote in Iowa elections. Voting Iowans are empowered Iowans. The Voter Ready website ensures Iowans make their plan to vote in advance of Election Day.

Voters can register to vote online or get information on registering to vote through the mail or at the polls on Election Day. The website provides resources for Iowans who wish to vote absentee by mail, absentee in person, or at the polls on Election Day. Important dates and deadlines are available, as well as information on required identification to bring when voting in person. Iowans who vote by mail are also able to track their absentee ballot.

PROGRAMS

CIVIC EDUCATION

2,632

high school students registered to vote

125

registered high schools

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD HELPS HIGH SCHOOLS INCREASE VOTER REGISTRATION

A total of 19 schools qualified for the Carrie Chapman Catt Award during the 2022-23 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, granting women access to the ballot box 102 years ago. Among the 19 recognized schools, 9 schools registered at least 70 percent of eligible students and 10 schools registered at least 50 percent of eligible students.

125 Iowa high schools signed up across the state. A total of 2,632 students registered to vote through the initiative. In three years, over 12,000+ students have registered to vote through the initiative.

16,629

participating students

145

participating high schools

ELECTIONS 101 AND IOWA YOUTH STRAW POLL ENGAGE IOWA STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

Secretary Pate, along with Iowa teachers, developed an online curriculum for Iowa high school students. This curriculum is designed to civically engage students while educating them about Iowa’s unique role in the political process. It also includes an Iowa Youth Straw Poll during even numbered years.

In FY23, students casted their vote for their preferred candidate for the following offices: Governor, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives. A total of 16,629 students participated representing 145 schools/organizations.

PROGRAMS

CIVIC EDUCATION

679

member businesses



IDEAS award finalist

IOWA BUSINESSES AGAINST TRAFFICKING

On January 13, 2022, Secretary Pate launched, Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking (IBAT). The mission is to raise awareness about human trafficking and unite Iowa’s business community to combat it.

Within the first month of launching over 400 businesses/organizations/associations had joined the fight and grew to 679 members across 92 counties by the end of FY 2023. Each entity that joins is committed to “Learn Something” and “Do Something” to help eliminate this horrific crime.

IBAT received national recognition as a finalist for the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) IDEAS Award.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS DIVISION

ENSURING THE SAFETY
AND SECURITY OF
IOWA'S ELECTIONS



DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

VOTING & ELECTIONS

2022 GENERAL ELECTION

Over the course of the fiscal year, the Elections Division certified 252 state and federal candidates and 66 judges to stand for retention for the 2022 general election ballot. The office also processed 39 daily absentee ballot voter list subscriptions, five annual statewide subscriptions of voter registration lists, and eight statewide voter list and absentee subscriptions. Voter registration lists were updated daily. The office also received 178 one-time requests for voter registration lists.

252

state and federal ballots

protecting all

99

counties

ENHANCING ELECTION SECURITY

Secretary Pate and his staff take cybersecurity very seriously. Several steps were made to enhance election cybersecurity in FY 2023. 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.

INFORMATION SHARING WITH COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL PARTNERS

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.

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.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

VOTING & ELECTIONS DIVISION

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 review of the NVRA to ensure that all eligible Iowans are provided the opportunity to register to vote.



360K

Iowans registered to vote online

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 360,000 Iowans registered to vote utilizing our online system since it launched.

CITY 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 68 annexations in FY 2023.

68

ANNEXATIONS FILED

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

VOTING & ELECTIONS DIVISION

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 for an upgrade to a new system.

The Secretary of State's Office visited other states during FY 2021 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. Based on the information gathered, a request for proposal was issued. With review and assessment of the bids received ongoing at the end of the fiscal year. This is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar project and remains on schedule with planning for development and beginning implementation plans looking forward to the next fiscal year.

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. This 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 DIVISION

ADDRESS

CONFIDENTIALITY

PROGRAM ENSURES

IOWANS FEEL SAFE

AT HOME



SAFE AT HOME DIVISION

ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM



309

new Safe at Home participants

2,100

total Safe at Home participants

ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM ALLOWS IOWANS TO FEEL SAFE AT HOME

Safe at Home (SAH) is an address confidentiality program for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, assault, human trafficking, and stalking. This program allows participants to live active lives within their communities without the fear of their address becoming a public record. Safe at Home provides each member a legal substitute address, mail-forwarding and confidential voter registration and voting by absentee ballot.

Safe at Home includes all genders, ages, ethnicities, and participants are from rural and urban areas. These violent crimes that have impacted those in SAH impact people of all types. Iowa averages more than 3,000 convictions for domestic violence, sexual assault, and talking in Iowa. These convictions touched all of Iowa’s 99 counties. In FY23 we saw 309 new participants in Safe at Home. There are participants in nearly all the 99 counties and the growth continues. As of the end of FY23 the program had served over 2,100 Iowans across the state.



PROGRAM EXPANDS WITH PROTECT OUR PROTECTORS ADDITION

During FY 2022, the program expanded with Protect Our Protectors (POP). Starting July 1, 2023, judges, prosecuting attorneys, members of law enforcement and civilians working for a law enforcement agency became eligible to participate in the address confidentiality program. After launching we quickly accepted over 600 to participate in POP and during FY23 there were nearly 40 new members of POP.

Voter engagement within SAH continues to increase among participants. There were a record number of participants who voted in the 2022 general election than any other election since the program was established in 2016.

Iowa Safe at Home is a founding member of the National Association of Confidential Address Programs (NACAP) and remains a leader among the other states. During FY23 a member of Iowa has remained on the Executive Board of Directors. It was also decided that Iowa will host NACAP for the annual conference in 2024. Iowa remains to be a leader among other programs across the country.

SAFE AT HOME DIVISION

IOWA BUSINESSES AGAINST TRAFFICKING

679

member businesses

**LEARN
SOMETHING
DO
SOMETHING**

IOWA BUSINESSES TAKE ACTION TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Secretary Pate announced a new initiative January 13, 2022: Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking (IBAT). Businesses who join are asked to “Learn Something” and “Do Something” to fight against human trafficking.

During FY23 IBAT reached 679 businesses who had made the commitment to join the fight against human trafficking. Awareness of human trafficking is increasing, and the steps businesses have taken are making a difference! This last year we have seen businesses place awareness signs at local festivals, host social media campaigns, distribute newsletter articles, host lunch and learns, and more.

IBAT was also recognized nationally as a finalist for the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) IDEAS Award. Several other states have also recognized the importance of raising awareness and have begun to implement very similar programs in their respective states.



BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

**SERVICE AT THE SPEED
OF BUSINESS**



DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

BUSINESS SERVICES

IOWA'S BUSINESS PORTAL

The Business Services Division is the business portal for the state. Its key responsibilities are the registration and authorization of domestic and foreign entities to transact business in Iowa, administering the Iowa Mechanic's Notice and Lien Registry, and registering Iowa trademarks. The online portal allows business to be conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It provides access to over 3 million filed documents and a complete array of forms, applications, and searchable databases for use by businesses, lending institutions, and interested citizens.



**accessible documents
and forms available on
Fast Track Filing**



**active business entities
registered with our office**

EFFICIENT PROCESSES FOR BUSINESS FILINGS

The Business Services Division houses millions of electronic documents. There are over 272,500 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 2023, the office processed 282,237 business entity filings. 177,375 of those were biennial reports, overwhelmingly filed online.

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

ONGOING, PERSONALIZED SERVICE WITH BUSINESS OWNERS

Each business day the customer service phone line receives an average of over 175 telephone calls and many 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.



**phone calls to the
business services
line per day on
average**

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

BUSINESS SERVICES

UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE (UCC)

The Business Services Division is responsible for filing and maintaining lien records under Article 9 of the Iowa Uniform Commercial Code. The Secretary of State currently maintains more than 1 million lien records in the UCC database. The UCC filing system supports commerce by giving lenders a central place to file notices regarding personal property pledges 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 2023, the Business Services Division filed 115,136 UCC documents, and supplied thousands of copies of filed documents to customers. Almost all certified searches and UCC filings are done online by customers.

BY THE NUMBERS

115,136

UCC FILINGS

177,375

BUSINESS ENTITY FILINGS

983

ORIGINAL NOTICES

3,174

APOSTILLES

17,240

CERTIFICATES OF EXISTENCE

11,975

NOTARY COMMISSION RENEWALS

8,657

NEW NOTARY COMMISSIONS

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

In addition to corporate filings, mechanic's lien filings, UCC filings, trademark registrations, and notary commissions, the Office maintains the following, with relevant Iowa Code sections in parentheses:

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

NOTARY PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

The Business Services Division 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. 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 a person signing a document is who they claim to be.

The Secretary of State's Office maintains a database of thousands of active notaries, which most often require renewal at three-year intervals. In FY 2023, the Secretary of State renewed nearly 12,000 notaries and commissioned 8,657 new notaries.

The Secretary of State's Business Services Division is responsible for issuing apostilles and notary certifications on documents destined for foreign countries that have been notarized by an Iowa notary. These certifications from the Secretary of State confirm that the notary is an Iowa Notary Public. The office issued 17,240 of these in FY 2023.

PROJECTS

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOTER EDUCATION INITIATIVES



PROJECTS OVERVIEW

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD ENCOURAGES VOTER REGISTRATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Carrie Chapman Catt Award is aimed at helping high schools increase voter registration and prepare to vote by the time they are eligible. The objective of the project is to increase voter registration among newly eligible, first-time voters across the state of Iowa. The purpose of this project derives from changes made to 48A.23 Registration at educational institutions.

1. At least twice during each school year, the board of directors of each school district operating a high school and the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall offer the opportunity to register to vote to each student who is at least seventeen years of age.
2. All postsecondary schools, including but not limited to colleges, universities, and trade and technical schools which receive state funding, shall offer the opportunity to register to vote to each student at least once each year. Students shall be provided with the federal voter registration form or the Iowa voter registration form, as applicable.



The Carrie Chapman Catt award was named after Carrie Chapman Catt – an Iowan who was a national leader in the women’s suffrage movement. This initiative is enacted through a voter registration drive put on at Iowa high schools and or a trip to the Capitol. Any school that registers 90% of its eligible students will receive the prestigious award presented by the secretary. Schools finishing with 70% of their eligible senior class registered to vote will receive a custom commemorative banner. Schools finishing in the 50% tier receive a custom certificate of recognition.

All participating schools will be commended via media release and social media. Please note that the pool of eligible students for this initiative would be members of the senior class who are 17 years of age, and a U.S citizen.

For the 2022-2023 school year, 126 Iowa high schools signed up to participate. We saw 2,632 students register/pledge to vote, and 19 schools were recognized as trophy winners for registering 90% of their eligible senior class. An additional 10 schools were recognized with banners for registering 70% of eligible students and 11 schools with a certificate for registering 50% of their eligible senior class.

PROJECTS OVERVIEW

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

HONOR A VETERAN WITH YOUR VOTE

Honor a Veteran is a program that honors the sacrifices that Veterans have made throughout history to protect our freedoms and our sacred right to vote. Our Office provides a space for families and friends to leave a personal message for a military member at sos.iowa.gov.

In return they will receive an Honor a Veteran pin which we ask them to wear on Election Day to Honor a Veteran with their vote. Veterans who are honored also receive a pin if they are still with us.

To promote this program Secretary Pate partners with a number of organizations statewide to hand out Honor a Veteran Cards, speak about the program, and host tables at events, including:

- Hy-Vee Homefront Veterans Day Breakfast
- Iowa State Fair Veterans Parade
- Iowa Wolves
- Iowa Barnstormers
- I-Cubs



PROJECTS OVERVIEW

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

ELECTIONS 101

Elections 101 is an online curriculum developed by Iowa teachers for Iowa teachers to educate students on the importance of elections, civic duty, and Iowa's unique role in the political process.



The online curriculum is FREE and customizable to best suit their classroom. The Elections 101 curriculum is easy to use and implement in the classroom. It is a ten-day curriculum with each lesson plan having three different options to accommodate the amount of instruction time teachers have to present the material and for their students to complete the activities.

IOWA YOUTH STRAW POLL

The Iowa Youth Straw Poll is a statewide civics event in which students cast a ballot for their preferred candidate. The results are reported by schools and tallied with other schools across the state. During the Fall 2022 Iowa Youth Straw Poll, students cast ballots for their preferred candidates for Governor, U.S. Senate, and U.S. Congress (each school cast ballots for their corresponding congressional district).



More than 16,000 students from more than 140 schools participated in the Fall 2022 Iowa Youth Straw Poll. Students in every K-12 school across the state were invited to participate.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CORE SYSTEMS MOVED TO THE CLOUD


Most core Iowa SOS systems migrated to Cloud Services in cooperation with a local vendor with Cloud architecture, operations, security, and migration expertise. Key services supported by our Cloud implementation include: data and network security, storage, back-up, disaster recovery, active threat monitoring including DDOS and firewall protection.


CYBERSECURITY PARTNERSHIPS PAY DIVIDENDS

Cybersecurity partnerships continue to be a focus. Here's a synopsis of on-going cyber partnerships:


- Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO): Through OCIO, our office has access to endpoint protection, web application firewalls, network monitoring, multi-factor authentication, vulnerability scanning, risk assessment and “on demand” cybersecurity support.
- EI-ISAC: Through the EI-ISAC, our office has access to endpoint protection software, network protection (web browsing), intrusion detection, malware analysis and access to their Security Operations Center (SOC) for reporting malicious events.
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA): Through this relationship, our office uses automated vulnerability scanning services, received guidance for physical security and we participated in their pilot program called “Crossfeed” that provides attack surface risk data. Our office will also be participating in a pilot for threat intel data.
- Iowa National Guard (168th Cyber Operations Squadron): The Iowa National Guard cyber unit assists our agency through such services as vulnerability scanning, penetration testing, threat hunting, and incident response readiness.
- Private vendors: Iowa SOS works with local and national vendors for a variety of services, including security incident and event management, system redundancy and failover, firewalls, networking, vulnerability scanning, penetration testing, and incident response.

The SOS office also maintains in-house cybersecurity staff to operate vulnerability management, patch management, log management, endpoint protection, network defense, incident response and more.

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