



Submitted by John C. Wobensmith, Secretary of State

Chairman Guzzone and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present the budget of the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) for Fiscal Year 2020.

Under the Maryland Constitution and State statutes, the Office of the Secretary of State is charged with a variety of responsibilities. Our mission in meeting these responsibilities is to provide the citizens of Maryland with superior service and assistance and to promote Maryland's expanding role in international affairs.

Significant accomplishments have been made by the OSOS in fulfilling our key performance goals. From the certification of international documents to the production of official publications containing Maryland regulations, to the registration of charitable organizations and the processing of applications for Notary Publics, the OSOS handled a broad scope of constitutional, statutory, and regulatory duties. To meet our performance goals agency staff are cross-trained to assume a variety of duties and responsibilities.

Division of State Documents (DSD):

- The DSD offers electronic subscriptions to COMAR in addition to the print subscriptions.

- Supplements for print are offered twice per year and electronic versions of COMAR are now offered four times per year rather than the previous once-per-year supplements.
- Maryland Register and COMAR are online for free.

Charities and Legal Services:

Notary of Public

- There are approximately 82,000 Notaries Public in the State of Maryland
- The Division conducts full in-house background checks for new applicants
 - The result - dozens of candidates with criminal or civil judgment backgrounds have been noted and denied commissions
- More than twenty Senators have opted-out of conducting background checks for new notary applicants
- Engaged in an information exchange program with the Department of Human Services.
 - The information, such as social security numbers, are used to track and locate persons delinquent on their child support obligations and other legally bound duties.
- During FY 18 nearly 20,000 new and renewing applicants registered using the on-line Notary application system.

Charity Division

- There are currently more than 13,500 registered charitable organizations in the State of Maryland
- The addition of a charity investigator and an AAG have resulted in 6,000 enforcement actions in FY 18 resulting in 1,641 delinquencies resolved.

Address Confidentiality Program (ACP):

- At the end of FY18 there were more than 1,200 active participants statewide using the ACP service.
- With the award of Federal grants through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) the ACP has successfully expanded its outreach efforts to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Led a task force that resulted in the passing of SB0578 Secretary of State – Address Confidentiality Programs – Shielding of Real Property Records

-

International Affairs:

- The Office continues to work with various embassies, the Governor's Office and other state agencies on a number of different programs, including hosting international delegations and promoting business, educational, professional and cultural exchanges between Maryland and foreign countries through the Sister States Program.

STATE OF MARYLAND

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR.
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE HOUSE

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

(410) 974-5521

TOLL FREE 888-874-0013

FAX (410) 974-5190

TDD: 800-735-2258

JOHN C. WOBENSMITH
SECRETARY OF STATE

Office of the Secretary of State

Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis and Recommended Actions

Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Hearing

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee (B&T)
Health and Human Services Subcommittee
February 8, 2019**

Operating Budget Recommended Actions

1. Concur with Governor's allowance

Office of the Secretary of State response:

The Office of the Secretary of State concurs with the Governor's allowance.