

John Merrill, Alabama secretary of state



Alabama Secretary of State [John Merrill](#) was first elected to the role of secretary of state in 2014. He was with 65 percent of the vote, winning in 53 of Alabama's 67 counties. He was inaugurated as Alabama's 53rd Secretary of State on Jan. 19, 2015. On Nov. 6, 2018, John was re-elected as Alabama's Secretary of State with 61 percent of the vote, winning in 53 of Alabama's 67 counties. He was inaugurated on Jan. 14, 2019.

Before becoming secretary of state, Merrill served in the Alabama House of Representatives and prior to that worked in a variety of jobs including in publishing, industrial development, business development and public education.

What will you miss most about being secretary of state?

The new, daily challenges that allow me to help Alabamians accomplish the goals that are important to them.

What do you feel was your greatest accomplishment as secretary and why?

Breaking every record in the state for voter registration and voter participation, and increasing the efficiency in the business division that allows us to process all paperwork the date it is received.

What was the most difficult time/issue you faced (electionwise of course) as secretary?

The Roy Moore / Doug Jones Senate campaign of 2017. The concerns began in November 2017 and continued well after the election was certified in January 2018.

As an expert in the field of elections, what do you feel is the most pressing issue facing elections officials?

Inconsistency of the implementation of state and federal laws – this is also the biggest danger to our constitutional republic.

What's next for you, besides being able to sleep in on election days?

January 15, 2023 is my last day as Secretary because I am term limited. On January 16, I will become the Director of Public Policy and Strategic Markets for Waggoner Engineering's Alabama division.

Any parting words of advice for your successor?

Listen to all people, don't speak unless necessary, and always follow established state and federal laws.