

# Quarterly Business Report

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## ***Dear Business Leader:***

Record voter registration numbers, a bill draft request proposing increased transparency and accountability, a tour of the Middle East to assess military and overseas voting procedures, and the soft launch of Nevada's Business Portal highlight the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012 in my office.

The expansion and promotion of the online voter registration system, [www.RegisterToVoteNV.gov](http://www.RegisterToVoteNV.gov), allowed for unprecedented growth in the number of registered voters statewide. All 17 Nevada counties gained access to the system during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. By the October 16 deadline to register to vote in the 2012 general election, Nevada reached a record high of 1,257,621 registered voters.

Following the successful passage of our campaign finance reform package in the 2011 Legislature, my office submitted a bill draft request to the 2013 Legislature that aims to increase accountability and transparency among candidates and campaigns. If passed into law, I hope these reforms will incite meaningful changes.

As a guest of the Department of Defense, I toured the Middle East in September with fellow Secretaries of State to assess military and overseas voting issues. We witnessed first-hand how the U.S. Army Post Office processes and transports military ballots. The secretaries and I published a report on what we observed and how the process could be improved for future elections.

Lastly, SilverFlume, Nevada's Business Portal, launched in September to new and existing companies conducting business in the state. We're all very excited that businesses are able to access multiple services and features from one convenient website, [www.NVSilverFlume.gov](http://www.NVSilverFlume.gov).

Thank you for reading our news from the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012 and for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State.

Respectfully,



## Inside This Issue

- ◆ Record Voter Registration
- ◆ Transparency Bill Proposed to 2013 Legislature
- ◆ SilverFlume Open for Business
- ◆ Miller Tours Middle East to Assess Military/Overseas Voting Procedures
- ◆ Commercial Recordings Filings



Secretary Miller toured Nevada Health Centers' Martin Luther King Jr. campus with Director of Nursing Debra Toney and Voting Engagement Coordinator Jason Wadsworth on National Voter Registration Day.

# Voter Registration Education Campaign Closes with Record-Number of Registered Voters

The Secretary of State's Office embarked on a campaign in September to educate Nevadans about online voter registration, resulting in a record number of 1,257,621 registered voters by the October 16 deadline. All remaining Nevada counties were brought online during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, allowing residents access to the online system at [www.RegisterToVoteNV.gov](http://www.RegisterToVoteNV.gov). Registered voters also had the option to update their address or party affiliation through the online system.

TV commercials reminded Nevadans to register to vote online and included an appearance by television and Las Vegas stage star Holly Madison, who donated her time and efforts for the production, and Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval. The videos were part of a multi-media campaign that includes outdoor and online media, and was funded by the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The Secretary of State also made a voter registration toolkit available to business and community groups on its website.

Nevada is only one of 13 states to offer online voter registration. The Secretary of State's office also launched a voter registration Facebook app at [apps.facebook.com/NVSOSNOVA](http://apps.facebook.com/NVSOSNOVA). Secretary Miller toured different sites in Southern Nevada on September 25 to promote National Voter Registration Day.

This is the first election cycle where all 17 counties have had access to the online voter registration system at [www.registertovotenv.gov](http://www.registertovotenv.gov). Since the May 22 registration deadline for the primary election, 41,471 Nevada residents registered to vote online.

Since the launch of online voter registration in Clark Coun-

ty on August 31, 2010, there have been 48,795 new registrations and 26,973 profile updates.

"Our outreach efforts and the statewide availability of online voter registration clearly encouraged and allowed Nevadans to participate in the democratic process," said Miller.



Secretary Miller paid a visit to Veterans Tribute Career and Technical Academy to encourage students to register to vote online if they would be 18 years old by Election Day.

The total number of active registered voters at the close of registration for the 2012 general election is up by 138,045 compared to the 2010 general election close-of-registration figures, and up by 49,860 compared to the 2008 general election close-of-registration figures.

## Transparency, Anti-Corruption and Accountability Are Goals of Sweeping New "Aurora Act" Ethics and Campaign Finance Proposal for 2013 Legislature

The Secretary of State's Office submitted a Bill Draft Request (BDR) for the 2013 Legislature that aspires to increase financial disclosure, greater restrictions on contributions and gifts, and tougher penalties for campaign. The BDR includes language that would mandate near real-time reporting of large-dollar campaign contributions and expenses, further define the prohibition on personal use of campaign funds, and significantly restrict the ability of candidates and public officials to receive "gifts" from donors who may pose a conflict of interest. The proposed legislation also includes provisions to allow the Secretary of State's office to seek injunctive relief to order individuals or groups to file campaign finance reports, and substantially increased penalties for violations.

Miller's Bill Draft Request includes:

- Increased disclosure and transparency into the money being spent in Nevada's elections by defining "electioneering communication" and "independent expenditure" to clarify who is required to disclose and when they are required to disclose money spent on Nevada candidates by third-party groups.
- Clarifying the term "personal use" to prevent campaign contributions from being used by a candidate for personal use.
- Clarifying that any expenditures made from a candidate or public official's campaign account must always be reported.
- Requiring public officials and candidates to report their contributions on hand at the beginning of each year so the

*Aurora: Continued on page 4*

## Secretary of State Tours Middle East for First-Hand View of Military, Overseas Voting Issues

Secretary of State Ross Miller traveled to the Middle East with U.S. Department of Defense officials to gain first-hand knowledge of military and overseas voting issues in September. He and fellow Secretaries of State first stopped in Kuwait to meet with U.S. Ambassador Matthew Tueller and U.S. Embassy staff, where they held extensive meetings to discuss voter outreach efforts for U.S. citizens living abroad and collaboration to resolve barriers to voting.



*Secretary Miller meets with U.S. Army leadership.*

Military leadership briefed the secretaries on the U.S. Army Central voting assistant program at the Third Army war room. The program is in place to ensure successful absentee voting during the election year. The secretaries also met with assigned officer at military installations to resolve any outstanding issues. The stop also included a tour and an extensive presentation at the U.S. Army Post Office to learn how military ballots are processed and transported.

Following Kuwait, the Secretaries of State toured Al Udeid Air Force Base in Qatar, where they received a briefing regarding the Combined Air Operations Center voting assistance program, met with the Qatar Embassy regarding voter outreach, lunched with constituents, and toured the military postal facilities. The Secretaries of State then traveled to Bahrain, where they met with the U.S. Ambassador and Embassy officials; admirals and voting assistance officers on a naval base; and constituents at the Sheik Isa Air Base.

As Nevada's chief elections officer and president of the National Association of Secretaries of State, Miller is strong advocate of changes to the state's military and overseas voting laws to ensure all ballots are received on time and counted in elections. Miller worked with the Nevada Department of Veteran Services and local elections officials during the 2009 legislative session to pass Assembly Bill 41, which allows Nevada voters overseas to register to vote; request and submit absentee ballots electronically; and accepted language from the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act.

The passage of MOVE Act in 2009 placed greater protections for services members and other overseas citizens by requiring elections officials to send absentee ballots to voters who submitted a request at least 45 days before the election.

In July, the Military Voter Protection (MVP) Project named Nevada one of 15 All-Star states for taking significant efforts to promote and protect the voting rights of America's military service members and their families.

Miller was joined by Secretaries of State from Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Michigan. The U.S. Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program sponsored the trip.

### SilverFlume, Nevada's Business Portal, Is Open for Business

SilverFlume, Nevada's Business Portal, opened for business in September. Companies can now file for state business licenses, apply for sales & use tax permits, and conduct other business-related services at SilverFlume, Nevada's Business Portal. The first-of-its-kind, the online system at [www.NVSilverFlume.gov](http://www.NVSilverFlume.gov) streamlines filing and licensing processes to improve the operating environment for companies conducting business in Nevada.

SilverFlume provides data for all business-related needs in one website by merging the disjointed application process among governmental agencies. Users file "common business registration" data once, which is accessible to all participating agencies, saving licensing agents and business owners both time and energy. The

*SilverFlume: Continued on page 4*

**SilverFlume: Continued from page 3**

portal also processes a single payment for a variety of services with multiple governmental offices.

SilverFlume currently offers multiple business-related transactions, including the following:

- Register a new business
- File articles of incorporation
- File list of officers
- File annual or amended list
- Obtain/renew state business license
- Apply for sales & use tax permit/satisfy bond requirements and receive eClearance Letter
- Complete D-25 Workers' Compensation eAffirmation of Compliance
- Access to Secretary of State's Office and Department of Taxation functions

"SilverFlume will transform and modernize the way companies conduct business in Nevada," said Secretary of State Ross Miller. "Too many companies never make it out of the initial stages of inception because they find dealing with government bureaucracy to be too confusing, frustrating or intimidating. SilverFlume streamlines the filing and licensing processes, making it an attractive option for new and current businesses."

City and county government transactions, as well as state regulator agencies, will be added to SilverFlume in later phases. However, all state and local agencies with a business registration and/or economic development function are eligible to share data with SilverFlume to streamline some customer registration steps in the meantime.

**Aurora: Continued from page 2**

public will know how much money public officials and candidates are carrying over from year to year. Currently, only the contribution totals received within a calendar year are reported.

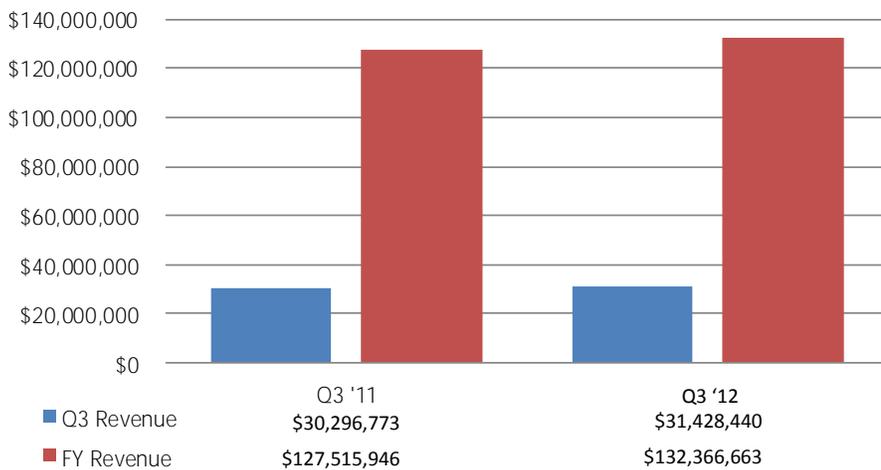
- Reporting within 72 hours contributions received or expenses paid in excess of \$1,000.00 to provide the public with more "real time" reporting through an election cycle.
- Clarifying that the Secretary of State may seek injunctive relief for campaign finance violations to ensure that individuals and groups must not only pay a financial penalty but also actually disclose their activity.
- Allowing the Secretary of State to seek in penalties up to three times the amount of money at issue in a reporting violation. This change will give the SOS more flexibility in seeking penalties that are more in line with the amount of money involved reporting violations.

Restricting and clarifying laws related to the acceptance of gifts by public officials by better defining "gift" and "restricted donor." Changes will set forth from whom it is legal to accept gifts, and provide a clear list of examples of gifts that may or may not be accepted and must be disclosed on public reports.

Miller's campaign finance reform package passed in the 2011 legislative session (AB 81, AB 82, & AB 452) was the most comprehensive set of campaign reforms in Nevada history. "We've made progress in increasing transparency and accountability in recent sessions, but we can clearly do more and do better," he said. "I believe that we will have an initial coalition of lawmakers that can make this happen. If we want meaningful reform to occur, we need to call on all candidates and elected officials to support the 'Aurora Act.' With the public's help, we can get enough support from both sides of the aisle to bring sunshine to this state."

The bills will be heard by the 77th Session of the Nevada State Legislature which will commence on February 4, 2013. The complete Bill Draft Request is available online by clicking [here](#).

Commercial Recordings Revenue - Q3 '11 vs. Q3 '12



*New and renewing business licenses generate an increase in revenue during the third quarter and fiscal year-to-date of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011.*

**Upcoming Notary Training Classes**

Las Vegas  
Gold Coast Casino  
California Ballroom  
4000 W. Flamingo Road  
December 5, 2012  
1 to 5 p.m.

Carson City  
Carson City Nugget  
507 N. Carson Street  
January 10, 2013  
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Pre-registration required at [www.nvsos.gov](http://www.nvsos.gov)