

Governor Steve Beshear's appointed me to the Office of Secretary of State on January 7, 2011 and I was sworn in by my friend, Kentucky Chief Justice John Minton. During the ceremony, Governor Beshear stated that "it's imperative that the Secretary of State be someone who is sensitive to the needs of businesses and particularly small businesses in the Commonwealth... My choice is a woman who, as a two time mayor of one of Kentucky's largest cities, has demonstrated progressive leadership, not just in her community, but also on regional, state, and national levels." I take his remarks not only as a compliment but more importantly as a challenge.

It is a challenge to improve the way state government and businesses interact by improving the system my predecessors in this office began, and by creating a true Kentucky One Stop Business Portal. This system would create one website where a business could register, file annual reports, handle their state taxes, sign up for unemployment insurance and eventually even get a professional business license. This portal will create jobs in Kentucky by making our Commonwealth an easier place in which to do business. I am a small business owner and I know how difficult it can currently be to navigate the system to set up a business currently.

I also intend to make it a priority to work with all 120 county clerks to ensure they have the resources needed to promote fair elections. I promise to work with the State Board of Elections, the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, and each of the county clerks to continue to make sure we have fair elections in which everyone who lawfully has the right and privilege to vote has the opportunity to do so.

I will continue to work with teachers, parents, and other community leaders to promote civic education for children and for all citizens. It is vitally important that we each understand our roles and responsibilities in our democracy so that it can continue for many generations to come.

I look forward to the opportunity this job presents me and invite Kentuckians to contact my office with any comments, suggestions or questions you may have about our office and the duties that we carry out. I am proud to serve the Commonwealth!