



SECRETARY OF STATE TERRI LYNN LAND

Terri Lynn Land has served as Michigan's 41st Secretary of State since January 1, 2003. She earned reelection in November 2006 and began her second 4-year term January 1, 2007.

Ensuring quality customer service through efficiency, innovation, and technology drives Secretary Land's agenda. At her direction, Internet options are continually being expanded, making it more convenient to do business with the Secretary of State's office. The ease of using Web services has spurred an increase of more than 200 percent in online vehicle and watercraft registration renewals since 2003.

Secretary Land also revolutionized the branch office structure, creating PLUS offices and SUPER!Centers that offer enhanced services and expanded hours. Other advancements include the introduction of Self-Service Stations for easy license plate tab renewals and creation of an online Branch Office Locator that lets customers find office locations, hours, and services simply by entering their ZIP code, city, or county.

Secretary Land is guiding Michigan elections into a new era as well. Her leadership paved the way for the state's successful transition to modern optical-scan voting equipment. In November 2008, Land oversaw the successful administration of the U.S. presidential election in Michigan, which featured record voter turnout of more than five million. A vigorous advocate of voting rights, Secretary Land has worked closely with the disability community to implement Michigan's first-ever equipment designed specifically for voters with disabilities. She also partnered with communities and disability groups to ensure that local polling places are accessible to voters. The Michigan Rehabilitation Conference honored Secretary Land with its 2006 Excellence Award for her commitment to voters with disabilities.

Safe families and communities round out Secretary Land's priorities. Michigan's Driver Education Act, which is based on Secretary Land's proposal, strengthens requirements for students and instructors. In addition, she was instrumental in the enactment of a law that expedites the removal of abandoned vehicles from our roads and neighborhoods. To help protect state and national security, Secretary Land proposed the concept of a secure driver's license that also serves as a passport. The idea was eventually adopted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and approved for implementation in Michigan and several other border states.

Prior to her election, Secretary Land served as Kent County clerk from 1992-2000, at a time of tremendous change and growth in Michigan's 4th largest county. In that position, her focus was on making county government more open and convenient for the public.

Secretary Land's political involvement stretches back to her high school years, when she served as a "scatter blitzer" for the Gerald R. Ford for President campaign. As a budding politician, she was one of the youngest attendees at the Republican State Convention in 1978.

Heavy involvement with community organizations is also one of Secretary Land's hallmarks. She is active with several at the local, regional, and state level. In her spare time, Secretary Land enjoys gardening and water-skiing.

Of all her accomplishments, Secretary Land is most proud of her family. She married Dan Hibma in 1983 and they have 2 children together: Jessica, a 2008 graduate of the University of Michigan, and Nicholas, a student at Grand Valley State University. They attend Corinth Reformed Church, where Secretary Land was nursery supervisor for many years. A graduate of Grandville High School, she received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. She was presented with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Davenport University in 2009 and an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree by Central Michigan University in 2007.

Source: http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1640_9105_9107---,00.html